



Christianity without love is paganism.

The fear of God frees us from the fear of men.

A nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope.

Right is right if nobody is right, wrong is wrong if everybody is wrong.

Once abolish the God, and the government becomes the god.

Abortion is the assassination of hope. It's the murder of a society's future.

Our public lives should be a witness to the justice and mercy of God.

The truth is that we do not judge the truth, the truth judges us.

We sadly need to speak about traditional marriage, as if it were ...



**Quotes
for
SUNDAY BULLETINS**

Our lives change when our habits change.

Without God all things are permitted.

Loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage. God.

Knowing yourself is the beginning of wisdom.

FOREWORD

Quotes for Sunday Bulletins

General Information

Thank you for participating in the program to offer quotes of wisdom, spirituality, and occasional humor to the readers of your Sunday Bulletins.

One of the first questions you might ask is why go through the extra effort to insert quotes into your Sunday Bulletins? The answer; to get more parishoners to read your bulletins and to reveal the truths of our Catholic faith.

While it's true that many who take a Sunday Bulletin will not be affected by its format, but a small percent will be positively affected, and these people can make a huge difference in your parish. Studies by the Dynamic Catholic Institute (Matthew Kelly) show that about 7% of the active parishoners sustain each parish. Reaching this group can reap many benefits.

Another factor to consider is your bulletins are one of the few pieces of Catholic literature that most of your parishoners will read. Studies show that on average, only 1% of Catholics have read a Catholic book in the past year. Reading an interesting quote could lead that person to obtain and read the entire book, perhaps the Bible, or My Imitation of Christ, deepening his/her faith.

Quote Use

We recommend that you try to average about two quotes each week. Occasionally add a humorous quote to your bulletin. Also, from time-to-time use a statistic and/or thought from Reflections found at the end of each chapter.

In addition to the quotes found in this booklet, you can inform your readers to submit their favorite quotes. Each time you print a parishoner's quote, you are drawing that person closer to your parish community along with their family and friends.

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2. Paste it into your bulletin. That's it.

You can select your material by author or topic, or both. For example: Charles Chaput or voting. To select both, key-in Charles Chaput, voting. In the first two cases, you will get all of the material by the author specified, or the topic by all authors. The third case will be more selective.

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When modifying the material, always be sure to keep the integrity of the original message intact. Never change words, or wording of the original message. In all cases, never revise the author's statements.

FOREWORD

Quotes for Sunday Bulletins

Space Requirements

In Sections 1 through 4, quotes are grouped by line length to assist in determining space requirements. The line groups are 1 – 3, 4 – 5 and 6 -9 lines. Assume a line length of about 3.5 inches with 11 point font in all sections.

Permission Statement

To save space, the permission statement is kept as short as possible within the limits specified by the related publisher/group. We have tried to limit this statement to one or two lines. However, this is not always possible.

In some cases the www. of the website is not shown and is assumed. It is not shown in an attempt to shorten line length.

Also, the publisher/group may be identified by their web address, or by their name only; such as: www.dynamiccatholic.com, or Dynamic Catholic. In all cases, keep the permission statement intact where the copyright symbol, ©, is shown.

Sections, Overview

Here is a brief description of the seven Sections found in this book.

Section S-1:

Notable past Catholic authors within recent memory: With the exception of Pope Benedict, the others are no longer living. Pope Benedict was included because of his close association with St. John Paul II. On the other hand, Mother Teresa was not included due to difficulties in obtaining permission from her publishers. However, some of her quotes are found under other authors who gave us permission to reprint and public statements.

Section S-2

Notable current Catholic authors including Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals. The common threads between these authors is strong emphasis on life, faith and family. Also, most of them have been vilified, or taken to task in the media.

Section S-3

Similar in content to S-2 with a mixture of past and present authors. The total content by each author is typically shorter than in S-2. It includes important figures from our church, our nations history, international historical figures, Catholic bloggers and excerpts from on-line magazines.

Section S-4

Quotes from saints, popes, Bible and the Didache, and theological figures of Catholic thought. These quotes range from recent memory to ancient. See Section 1, for popes Benedict XVI and John Paul II.

Section S-5

Collection of quotes and essays of more than nine lines. No attempt was made to group by lines, subject, or author. Subjects covered were taken from the Catechism, Bible and items that Catholics should be familiar with and know. It also contains exhortations by our priests/bishops/cardinals, past and present, notable figures in our nations history plus current/past authors.

Section S-6.

The light side, or humor. Subject length ranges from 1 -3 lines to 10+ lines – all in good taste.

Section S-7

Statistics on life – family and individual, voting patterns and cultural issues – abortion, marriage, etc. No attempt was made to group by lines, subject, or author. Information was obtained from prominent polling groups and respected authors.

Index Notes

An Index for each section shows the author, number of lines (1-3, 4-5, 6-9, 10+) and a key to the subject(s) covered. The subjects are people issues (a), morality (b), political (c), religion (d), passions (e) and virtues (f). Be aware that the key shown is a subjective choice intended as a rough guide when selecting the desired quote. Look at the key as an aid and not a substitute for the phrase when using your “find” feature.

Special Occasion Suggestions:

Holidays

NOTE

The following is a compiled list of quotes that should be useful for the indicated special occasions. Be aware that this list is not all inclusive and is subjective. It should help when you are pressed for time; However, it is not a substitute for a detailed personal search. Only a small fraction of the total quotes are found in this selection

New Years Day

- 1.33 The future starts ... St. John Paul II
- 2.11 Yesterday, today and ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.51 How would your life ... Matthew Kelly
- 2.57 Stop trying to put ... Matthew Kelly
- 2.59 Get in touch ... Mattheew Kelly
- 2.59 God has a plan ... Matthew Kelly
- 2.60 Our lives change ... Matthew Kelly
- 3.34 Each morning of life ... Alaska Radio
- 4.2 Yesterday is gone ... Mother Teresa
- 4.6 Do not put off ... St. John Bosco
- 4.19 Always remember thy ... Thomas a Kempis
- 4.34 Remember you have only ... St. Teresa of Avila

Lent

- 1.6 He who takes up his cross ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.11 Every man is on a cross ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.14 Our Lord was crucified ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.18 During lent, let us ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 1.24 Lent stimulates us ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 1.27 When we see a crucifix ... Pope John Paul II
- 1.48 Lent is meant to ... Fr. Hardon
- 2.35 The best way to begin our Lent ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.35 The blood of Christ ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.38 During these 40 days ... Bishop Thomas Paprocki
- 2.40 The season of Lent ... Bishop Thomas Paprocki
- 2.48 As we prepare for Lent ... Sam Guzman
- 2.49 We must not hide ... Sam Guzman
- 3.10 This is a time (Lent) to ... Zenit.org

Easter

- 1.32 The secret of pastoral ... Pope John Paul II
- 2.29 This Holy Week, consider ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.34 Eastertide has always been ... Bishop James Conley

Mother's Day

- 1.34 If Mary is our mother ... Pope John Paul II
- 2.26 We need to lcelebrate ... Bishop James Conley
- 3.6 The choice to be ... Fr. Frank Pavone
- 3.10 Of all the rights of women ... Lin Yutang
- 4.31 Fathers and mothers of ... St. Philip Ner
- 5.8 The Most Important Person ... Cardinal Mindszenty

Fathers Day

- 2.34 As we remember St. Joseph ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.40 .While you [sons] look to ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.49 Men, celebrate your children ... Sam Guzman
- 2.49 Many men coast through ... Sam Guzman
- 2.50 Now, more than ever ... Sam Guzman
- 2.63 Father's Day Thoughts ... Unknown
- 3.5 You have a lifetime to ... Polish Proverb
- 3.21 Is this not a time ... Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted
- 3.26 Today,s attack on Fatherhood ... Bishop Thomas Olmsted
- 3.33 The father should be ... Fr. Ed Broom
- 4.13 Fathers, do not provole ... St. Paul
- 4.31 Fathers and mothers of ... St. Philip Neri
- 5.7 Fatherhood Guide ... Unknown
- 7.10 Fatherless Homes ... Alana Newman
- 7.10 Fathers Influence ... Editorial – Catholic Citizen

Blessed Virgin/Mary/Mother of God

- 1.7 Every child is given ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.18 Mary's poem ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 1.23 She (Mary) is the ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 1.25 This something we ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 1.27 Mary is the ... Pope John Paul ii
- 1.31 Our primary model for ... St. John Paul II
- 1.35 You have sheltered ... Pope John Paul II
- 1.47 Ask our Lady ... Fr. Hardon
- 2.25 Let us ask the Blessed ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.28 If we wish to be ... Bishop James conley
- 2.29 The Holy Spirit ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.31 Blessed John Paul ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.31 The poets understood ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.38 Le us pray the ... Bishop Thomas Paprocki
- 2.42 Our Lady of America calls ... Cardianal Raymond Burke
- 3.15 With and through Mary ... Fr. Nnamdi Moneme
- 3.16 When our patience ... Fr. Ed Broom
- 3.16 As the spouse of the ... Tyler Blanski
- 3.16 St. Louis de Montfort ... Sr. Joseph Mary Maximilian

Special Occasion Suggestions:

Holidays

Blessed Virgin/Mary/Mother of God (cont.)

- 3.30 Mary would be the ... Fredrick Marks
- 3.31 Mary's intercession for ... Fr. Nnamdi Moneme
- 3.32 Mary's life shows us ... Fr. Nnamde Moneme
- 3.33 St. Louis de Montfort states ... Fr. Med Broom
- 3.33 In Fatima Our Lady ... Fr. Ed Broom
- 3.34 In our relationship with Mary ... Mark Miravalle
- 3.34 Only by giving us ... Stephen Beale
- 3.36 Marian Consecration is ... Tyler Blanski
- 3.36 It's strange how Christians ... Tyler Blanski
- 3.44 Contraception mocks our ... J.M. Royal
- 3.46 The Spiritual Exercises ... Fr. Ed Broom
- 3.46 May Our Lady who is ... Fr. Ed Broom
- 3.47 Maybe devotion to Mary ... Fr. Nnamdi Moneme
- 3.47 At La Salette, France, Mary ... Sarah Reinhard
- 3.51 **Mary**, our mother ... Reflections, Pope John Paul II
- 4.4 "Men do not fear ... St. Bonaventure
- 4.4 As sailors are guided ... St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
- 4.6 Devotion to the Blessed ... Bl. John Henry Newman
- 4.9 In dangers, in doubts ... St. Bernard of Clairvaux
- 4.9 Happy is he who ... St. John Vianney
- 4.9 Let us humble ... St. John Vianney
- 4.9 Let us live as ... St. John Vianney
- 4.9 The Blessed Virgin is like ... St. John Vianney
- 4.9 The Blessed Virgin's life ... St. John Vianney
- 4.9 "The Blessed Virgin is ... St. John Vianney
- 4.9 The surest way of ... St. John Vianney
- 4.12 Never be afraid of ... St. Maximilian Kolbe
- 4.14 Mary is the supreme ... St. Louis de Montfort
- 4.14 Those who love Mary ... St. Louis de Montfort
- 4.14 We never give more ... St. Louis de Montfort
- 4.18 Though still a virgin ... St. Ephraim of Syria
- 4.26 "Imitate her [Mary], holy mothers ... St. Ambrose
- 4.30 Go to the Madonna ... St. Padre Pio
- 4.31 Let us let ourselves ... St. Maximilian Kolbe
- 4.31 Let us give every difficulty ... St. Maximilian Kolbe
- 4.32 Above all, never let ... Maximilian Kolbe
- 4.32 In the end, My Immaculate ... Our Lady of Fatima
- 4.32 I am always awaiting ... Our Lady of Fatima
- 4.38 The Most Holy Virgin ... Sister Lucia dos Santos
- 4.38 Hail, you who held ... St. Cyril of Alexandria
- 5.5 Entrustment to Mary ... St. John Paul II
- 5.11 Miracle of the Doves ... Fr. Gerard Ryan
- 5.11 Marian Devotion ... Bl. John Henry Newman
- 5.17 Our Lady of Czestochowa ... Fr. William Saunders

- 5.19 Love and Devotion to Our Lady ... Sam Guzman
- 5.20 Reasons to Love Mary ... Sam Guzman
- 5.26 Reason for Five First ... Our Lord to Sr. Lucia

July 4th

- 1.2 A country is ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.5 Freedom is a burden ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.6 The state exists... Fulton Sheen
- 1.6 Men in the free world ... Fulton SheenC
- 1.12 Democracy makes progress ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.15 A democracy flirts with ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.34 In a democratic society ... Pope John Paul II
- 2.12 We need to realize that ... Charles Chaput
- 2.21 The founding fathers believed ... Bishop James Conley
- 3.2 I tremble for my country ... Thomas Jefferson
- 3.3 Mr. President, let us pray ... Abraham Lincoln
- 3.6 Let no man claim ... George Washington
- 3.8 A country cannot subsist ... Jean J. Rousseau
- 3.21 We have no government of ... James Madison
- 3.22 United we stand ... Patrick Henry
- 3.23 Is life so dear or peace ... Patrick Henry
- 3.24 A nation of well informed ... Benjamin Franklin
- 3.26 Let us with caution indulge ... George Washington
- 3.29 We have the constitution ... Fr. Charles E. Rice
- 3.37 Without morals a republic ... Charles Carroll
- 3.40 Bad men cannot make ... Patrick Henry
- 3.41 God who gave us life, gave... Thomas Jefferson
- 3.46 If in a republic ... Anthony Esolen
- 5.8 A nation can survive... Cicero
- 5.9 A democracy cannot exist ... Alexander Tyler

Labor Day

- 1.14 The political health ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.26 It is a pity these days ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 1.27 We should imitate God not only ... St. John Paul II
- 2.10 American culture is a ... Charles Chaput
- 2.11 As Catholics, like so ... Charles Chaput
- 2.12 Our economy runs ... Charles Chaput
- 2.24 The more our economy ... Charles Chaput
- 2.50 With all the busyness, it's hard ... Sam Guzman
- 2.61 For the most part ... Matthew Kelly
- 3.5 You have a lifetime to work ... Polish Proverb
- 4.34 The bread which you ... St. Basil the Great
- 5.19 God is there in these moments of rest ... Edith Stein

Special Occasion Suggestions:

Holidays

All Souls/All Saints

- 1.1 We can lose our souls ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.3 Nothing in this world ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.4 Unless souls are saved ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.4 Peace of soul comes ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.7 It is a few saints ... AFulton Sheen
- 1.8 There has been many a soul ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.18 Take courage! Fix your gaze ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 1.23 Even among saints ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 133 Against the spirit of the world ... Pope John Paul
- 1.43 The great saint may ... G.K. Chesterton
- 1.45 The transition of the good ... G.K. Chesterton
- 1.48 Worldly attachments weaken ... Fr. Hardon
- 2.20 As [Eric] Voeglin says, ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.26 There are many souls ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.34 We're made with a deep ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.48 In a very real sense ... Sam Guzman
- 2.51 The more we learn ... Matthew Kelly
- 2.55 Man is created ... Matthew Kelly
- 2.57 Nothing ignites the soul Matthew Kelly
- 2.58 Are you ready to let ... Matthew Kelly
- 2.59 The saints have lost ... Matthew Kelly
- 2.59 Within each of us ... Matthew Kelly
- 2.60 Both, knowledge of God ... Matthew Kelly
- 2.61 We all have spiritual disease ... Matthew Kelly
- 3.2 The task of constructing ... Fr. John Courtney Murray
- 3.8 All are called to be ... Dorothy Day
- 3.11 When all is said and done ... Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- 3.15 Like St. Paul, we can ... Fr. Nnamdi Moneme
- 3.18 Our critical day is not ... John Donne
- 3.34 In our rrelationship with ... Mark Miravalle
- 3.34 The effort of the soul ... Fr. Basil W. Maturin
- 3.49 The church teaches ... Editor, FMA Focus
- 4.1 Today we live in a time ... Edith Stein
- 4.12 Each man goes ... St. Justin Martyr
- 4.16 It is true, Whoever said ... St. Josemaria Escriva
- 4.18 There are many things, ... Thomas a Kempis
- 4.19 All things pass away ... Thomas a Kempis
- 4.20 Blessed is that soul ... Thomas a Kempis
- 4.21 If thou seek rest in this life ... Thomas a Kempis
- 4.24 Let the enemy rage ... St. Francis de Sales
- 4.25 The stuff of saints ... St. Josemaria Escriva
- 4.25 All the sins of your life ... St. Josemaria Escriva
- 4.28 Remember every morning ... St. Augustine
- 4.29 These saints, before ... St. Gregory the Great

- 1.2 4.30 O souls! Seek a refuge ... St. Paul of the Cross
- 4.34 Remember you have only one soul ... St. Teresa of Avila
- 4.37 Through temporal poverty ... St. Angela of Foligno
- 5.27 Our Soul ... Fr. Robert Goedert

Vote/Politics

- 1.22 Not all moral issues have ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 1.24 Politics must be a ... Pope Benedict XVI
- 1.35 In the case of an intrinsically ... Pope John Paul II
- 1.39 When a politician is in ... G.K. Chesterton
- 1.42 We do not need to get ... G. K. Chesterton
- 1.47 To make a decision ... Fr. Hardo
- 2.2 You will know them by ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.4 We get the elected officials ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.5 Dishonest language leads ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.7 Politics is a ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.10 There is no such thing ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.12 The separation of ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.15 We owe no leader ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.15 The "separation of ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.16 Politicians who say ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.16 If we withhold ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.18 When we divorce our ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.19 Politics is never ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.31 Voting is a means ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.33 Whenever possible, Catholics ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.40 Religious liberty is more ... Bishop Paprocki
- 2.43 One cannot justify ... Cardinal Raymond Burke
- 3.11 When there is a lack of honor ... Herbert Hoover
- 3.13 If we fail in our moral ... Bishop Jose H. Gomez
- 3.24 Voting for a candidate ... Bishop Paprocki
- 3.26 Talk about the obligation ... Ross Douthat
- 3.38 The "ruling class," those who ... Cardinal George
- 3.40 If Christians would vote ... Mark Twain
- 3.40 Those who are directly .. Vatican, 11/24/2002
- 3.43 For too many, politics ... Cardinal Francis George
- 3.48 When parliamentarians lose ... Brian Roone
- 7.8 Catholic Presidential Vote ... CARA

Special Occasion Suggestions: Holidays

Thanksgiving

- 1.5 One of the practical ways ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.11 An act of thanksgiving ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.13 The difference between ... Fulton Sheen
- 2.50 For the simple truth ... Sam Guzman
- 4.3 Give something, however ... St. Gregory of Nazianus
- 4.29 Lord, teach me to be generous ... St. Ignatius
- 5.6 I Am Thankful For ...Unknown

Christmas

- 1.12 Christmas is the most ... Fulton Sheen
- 1.45 Anyone thinking of ... G.K. Chesterton
- 2.5 Being in the United ... Archbishop Charles Chaput
- 2.25 We need to put aside ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.31 The poets understood ... Bishop James Conley
- 2.51 Christmas is the best chance ... Matthew Kelly
- 3.34 Only by giving us ... Stephen Beale
- 5.18 In order to penetrate ... St. Benedicta of the Cross

Timeless Wisdom; S-1.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

If you don't behave as you believe, you will end by believing as you behave.

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Life is Worth Living when we live it each day to become closer to God.

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Nothing ever happens in the world that does not happen first inside human hearts.

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Sin brings adversity, and adversity is the expression of God's condemnation of evil, the registering of Divine Judgment.

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Humility is the virtue that tells us the truth about ourselves, that is, how we stand, not in the eyes of men, but before God.

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Knowing belongs to man's intellect or reason; loving belongs to his will.

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A man may stand for the Justice of God, but a woman stands for His Mercy.

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Many things happen to us, but what is more important is what we make happen to ourselves.

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Love does not fail; we fail to understand love.

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Conscience not only lays down laws, not only witnesses my obedience or disobedience to them, but it also judges me accordingly.

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When love is breathed out to another human heart, it is never meant to be taken back. If it is taken back, it suffocates and poisons us.

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The difference between a child and teenager is that a child wants to be loved, a teenager wants to love.

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The character each one of us creates depends on whether we give the primacy to the body or to the soul. "No man can serve two masters."

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We can lose our souls, not only by doing evil, but also by neglecting the good. "I was hungry and you gave Me not to eat."

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No character ever develops without a certain amount of punishment and resistance and mortification to that which is evil.

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Toleratio est permissio negativa mali (Latin).

Literally, it means that tolerance is a negative permission of evil, either real evil or imaginary.

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The erring person we receive into the treasury of our souls, but never the error into the treasury of our wisdom.

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

The pleasures of the body are not always the delights of the soul; sometimes they are contrary to one another.

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Scripture praises the man who suffers temptations. When we resist temptations, we strengthen our character.

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To occupy yourself with love of God and neighbor is never to be idle.

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There is a world of difference between willing and wanting. Most people want to be good, but they do not will to be good.

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Character is like chiseling a statue; one has to knock off huge chunks of selfishness, which requires self-discipline.

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A country is strong when it has faith in right, it is weak when it loses faith.

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Our tragedy today is due basically to the human will opposing the Divine Will.

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What makes our age sad is not that our joys have ceased, but our hopes have ceased.

Fulton J. Sheen, *From The Angel's Blackboard*. Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

The secret of joy is following God first, others next, self last.

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Happiness is conditioned on two things: an overall purpose in life and second, the crushing of egoism and selfishness.

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Before attempting to alter the world, we must first begin to alter ourselves.

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Character building should not be based solely on the eradication of evil, for it should stress even more the cultivation of virtue.

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Of all the things man knows, the thing he knows least about is himself.

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If mercy meant the forgiveness of all faults without retribution and without justice, it would end in the multiplication of wrongs.

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Of all the erroneous zones of thinking, none is worse than the one which identifies freedom with the absence of responsibility.

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The parent is the best teacher who has God as his teacher.

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SELECTED WISDOM OF: S-1.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

Right is right if nobody is right, wrong is wrong if everybody is wrong.

Fulton J. Sheen, Life is Worth Living, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

The worst thing in the world is not sin, it is in denying that we are sinners.

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Mercy is the perfection of justice. Mercy does not come first, and then justice; but rather justice first, then mercy.

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The proud man counts his newspaper clippings -- the humble man his blessings.

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It has been said that happiness is a twin, which means that we are really never happy unless we share.

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The humble person makes room for progress; the proud person believes he is already there.

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One question is never asked by Love, and that is "Why?" That word is used only by the three d's of doubt, deceit and the devil.

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The more conscious we are of the passing of time, the less we enjoy ourselves.

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Good manners are the shadows cast by virtues.

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People today do not come to God through the order of the universe; they come to God through disorder within their own selves.

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God willed to make a moral universe, and the only condition upon which morality is possible is freedom.

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There are ultimately only two possible adjustments (moral) to life: One is to suit our lives to principles; the other is to suit principles to our lives.

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Retirement has many advantages. It becomes a time to remake one's soul, to interiorize, to meditate and begin a cram course for the final exam.

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Nothing in this world is to be taken up seriously -- nothing except the salvation of a soul.

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We lose the sense of the hour in studying history, and we forget the rolling scroll of history in the problem of the hour.

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There is much more wisdom acquired from patiently bearing suffering than there is from books.

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

Love is triune or it dies, It requires three virtues, faith, hope and charity which intertwine, purify, and regenerate each other.

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The more intensely we love, the less we think of a sacrifice involved to secure what we love.

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Only those who practice their convictions are believable.

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Courtesy is love in action; not the love that seeks to be loved in return, the love that puts affection in others, and finds them lovable.

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Charity is a quality of the soul, rather than an isolated good deed.

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Unless souls are saved, nothing is saved; there can be no world peace unless there is soul peace.

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Peace of soul comes to those who have the right kind of anxiety about attaining perfect happiness, which is God.

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Character is nothing more or less than the reconciling of opposite virtues.

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The holy hour in our modern rat race is necessary for authentic prayer.

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When you find people that are not lovable, you must realize that all of them are loved by God.

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No one is ever safe against the tyranny of the ego except through the power and love of God. The only way to keep evil out is to let God in.

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Our thoughts make our desires, and our desires are the sculptors of our days.

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It is never true to say that we have no time to meditate; the less one thinks of God, the less time there will be for God.

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When we judge others, we also judge ourselves.

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Those who tell us that they deny the existence of God are merely substituting one god for another.

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Pride is the child of ignorance, humility the offspring of knowledge.

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If we go on answering hate with hate, how will hate will ever end?

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

The increased number of television programs about homosexuality is to destroy in the public domain any reproach for this perversity.

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We can never become like to God in our goodness, our nature, or our power, but we can be like to Him in our sufferings, which become a purification.

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Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee; trust Him when trust is small. Trust Him when simply to trust Him is the hardest thing of all.

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The world has lost its respect for authority, since it was first lost in the home, and as the home loses its authority, then the state begins to be tyrannical.

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Help someone in distress and you lighten your own burden; the very joy of alleviating the sorrow of another is lessening of one's own.

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Freedom is a burden and a responsibility because it means we have to answer for our choices and decisions.

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The breakup of the family is the beginning of the breakup of the community, and therefore of the nation itself.

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You can quickly become tired of pleasures, but you never tire of joys.

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The foundation of our rights and liberties as given in the Declaration of Independence is that they are given by God.

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Christianity teaches that no man can save himself alone; he must save himself with others or be lost.

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A civilization can be forgiven for seeing the dark side of evil, but should it not examine its conscience when it begins to fear the dark side of the good?

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Where there is equality, there is justice; but there is no love. If man is the equal of woman, then she has rights – but no heart ever lived on rights.

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We would all like to make our own crosses; but since our Lord did not make his own, neither do we make ours.

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To leave God out of a university curriculum is to leave out the First Cause and the intelligibility of all that is.

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The greatest error of nice people in all ages is the denial of sin.

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One of the most practical ways of assuring that we shall always have enough is to give and give and give in the name of the Lord.

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

One moves out of the realm of rights, law, civic equality, as soon as one is governed by love. It changes not only ourselves; it changes others.

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The greatest things in life are free, and the greatest among these is divine Life – if we but seek it.

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Men in the free world invite slavery when they ask the government to provide complete security, when they surrender their freedom to the “welfare state.”

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Sin is never the worst thing that can happen to man. The worst thing is the refusal to recognize his sins.

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Every man has his weakness; it is in struggling against it that he becomes strong.

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The difference between men is not in the adversity which comes to them, but rather how they meet the adversity.

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Sanctity is not mere morality. No man can be holy who is not moral, but a moral man is not necessarily holy.

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The humble man makes room for progress, the proud man believes he is already there.

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Pleasure is built on self-seeking; joy is built on self sacrifice

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The state exists for the person, and not the person for the state.

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The basic reason why there is so much anxiety, fear, depression, and neurosis in mortals is because of this identification of love with lust.

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A character is great, not by the ferocity of its hatred of evil, but by the intensity of its love of God.

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He who takes up his cross daily is already conditioned to speak to others on how to bear a cross.

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He who does not love does not share. The need to give is born of the need to love.

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Everything evil in the world is a perversion of something good.

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Hell is eternal suicide for hating love.

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Men talk most about freedom when they are losing it, as they talk about Depression when they have lost their money.

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SELECTED WISDOM OF: S-1.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

Honors generally have a bad effect on character, unless they are tempered by humility in their possession and adversity as their precursor.

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Every child is given to the parents by God as so much wax or clay to be molded into the image and resemblance of Life and Truth and Love.

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No one can ever expect to be without trials and crosses, for these are the very condition of victory and incorporation with Him.

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Goodness in the face of evil must suffer, for when love meets sin it will be crucified.

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Self-knowledge is never despairing to those who acknowledge the power of God.

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Justice without love could become tyranny, and love without justice could become toleration of evil.

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Other ages went to God by reason, still others by faith; our age will go to Him through trial and error.

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It is a few saints rather than social crusaders that we need.

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He who keeps everything he has for himself must lose it all at death; he who has given it away will get it back in the coin of immorality.

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Religion must not be a cloak covering the dagger of hate.

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He who does not fight his ego fights his neighbor.

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The secret of a happy life is the moderation of our pleasures in exchange for an increase in joy.

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It is not hard to put with others' foibles when one realizes how much God has to put up with us.

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The purpose of the will is to eradicate the desire of evil in virtue of the ideal.

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Character is not in the intellect; character is in the will.

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Life is monotonous if it is meaningless; it is not monotonous if it has a purpose.

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If we do not live as we think, we will soon begin to think as we live.

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SELECTED WISDOM OF: S-1.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

It is part of our fallen nature to despise the trouble we do not understand.

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When one is looking for counsel, it is always well to seek out those who themselves suffered.

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Much of modern education is merely a rationalization of evil. It makes clever devils instead of stupid devils.

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The world is not in a muddle because of stupidity of the intellect, but because of perversity of the will.

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One's defect, overcome, may become one's greatest strength.

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Millions and millions of favors are hanging from heaven on silken cords, and prayer is the sword that cuts them.

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Every man and woman in love promise one another something that only God can give.

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Never before in the history of the world was there so much education, and never before was there so little coming to the knowledge of the truth.

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There is no such thing as a nonreligious individual; one is either religious or anti-religious.

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The Lord hears us more readily than we suspect; it is our listening to God that needs to be improved.

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There has been many a soul brought to God through the offered sufferings of others.

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If beliefs and ideals are wrong, all our actions will be wrong.

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There is really nothing new happening in the world; there are only the old problems happening to new people.

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We fit a creed to the way we live, rather than fit the way we live to a creed; we suit religion to our actions, rather than our actions to religion.

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One of the greatest deceptions of today is the belief that leisure and money are two essentials of happiness.

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The grace of God comes to us in just the degree that we open our souls to it; the only limit to our capacity to receive Him is our willingness to do so.

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1- 3 Lines)

Persons who say, "I will serve God my way, and you serve God your way," ought to inquire whether it would be advisable to serve God in God's way.

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When a soul in sin, under the impetus of grace turns to God, there is penance; but when a soul in sin refuses to change, God sends chastisement.

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No one who denies personal guilt is happy, but there is not a person who has admitted it, and lives in the love of God, who is unhappy.

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The examination of conscience is primarily a concentration upon the goodness and love of God.

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Anxiety increases in direct ratio and proportion as man departs from God.

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Sex has become one of the most discussed subjects of modern time. Victorians pretended it did not exist, moderns pretend nothing else exists.

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We of today can be united against a common enemy through hate; it takes spirit and a common purpose to bind us together when peace comes.

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It is not the wrong things one has already done that keep one from God; it is present persistence in that wrong.

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The modern pagan, in refusing to continue life by the procreation of birth, becomes the sower of death.

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Never before has it (the world) had so much learning and so little knowledge of the truth.

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The increase of faultfinding is in direct ratio and proportion to the denial of sin.

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It has been said, "In time of peace, prepare for war." But we had better revise this to say, "In times of turmoil and dissolution, prepare to meet God!"

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The acceptance of grace is not a passive thing; it demands a surrender of something, even if it only our pride.

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The tormented minds of today are not the products of our tormented world. Rather, it is our upset minds that have upset the world.

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Everyone wants the things that only a love of God will bring, but most people today seek them in wrong places.

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The modern world is geared to increase our desires and wants by its advertising, but it can never satisfy them.

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

What I am living for today is that which I shall die for tomorrow.

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If we fly from God, it is because His Goodness is our reproach and because union with Him demands disunion and divorce from evil.

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The greatest tragedies in life are not altogether in what happens to people, but how they react to what happens to them.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Knowledge comes from the outside; it is learned and absorbed. Wisdom is infused, and comes to us as an illumination.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

When a man throws out the little god of self and admits the True God, then the only character he judges is his own.

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Many in Heaven once were alcoholics, adulterers, thieves, racketeers, but there is no one in Heaven who did not become humble.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

We are what we are, not by our emotions, feelings, likes or dislikes, but by our choices or decisions.

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The spirit of confession is not one of fact finding, but of mercy.

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Hell begins here; so does Heaven, and neither ends here.

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Pain is a sacrifice without the love of God. Sacrifice is pain combined with the love of God.

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Supernatural remorse leads to an abiding and salutary change of heart, whereas the world's remorse leads to death.

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The misers may fill their wallets but never their hearts, for they can never obtain all the wealth they can imagine or desire.

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As a man in love with a noble woman will give up all that displeases her, so a soul in love with God gives up all that might wound that love.

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Politeness is a way of showing externally the internal regard we have of others.

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We do have to fear a "population explosion," but it will come from fumbling with a bomb because we have thwarted a womb.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

God offers to forgive us before we repent. It is the sorrow on our part that makes forgiveness possible.

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 - 3 Lines)

No person is ever made better by having someone tell him how rotten he is; but many are made better by avowing the guilt themselves.

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“Heaven is a city on a hill, hence we cannot coast into it; we have to climb.”

Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, Into the Deep, Apr.. 2015, stonesswillshout.com/wp

Morality implies responsibility and duty, but these can only exist on condition of freedom.

Fulton J. Sheen, From The Angel's Blackboard, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

“Being in love,” is the spark that moves a person to make a promise. Love is the keeping of the promise: for better or worse until death does the parting.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Humility which gives preference to others is not popular today, principally because men have forgotten the greatness of God.

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There is no obedience worth anything which is not the child of love.

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If you want to know about God, there is only one way to do it: get down on your knees.

Fulton J. Sheen, book “You,” The Catholic Citizen of Illinois, Fall 2010

When people complain that their prayers are not heard by God, what often has happened is that they did not wait to hear God's answer.

Fulton J. Sheen, Your Life is Worth Living, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Dryness, either in spiritual life or married life, can be for salvation or damnation depending on how it is used.

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It is easy to find the truth; it is hard to face it, and harder still to follow it.

Fulton Sheen, cited by Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

The modern atheist does not disbelieve because of his intellect, but because of his will; it is not knowledge that makes him an atheist, but perversity.

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“An act of thanksgiving when things go against our will means more than a thousand acts of thanksgiving when things go according to our will.”

Fulton J. Sheen, ITD Jan. 2011, Reprinted by permission of stonesswillshout.com/wp

“Jesus left men free to be irreligious, but the irreligious will not leave men free to be religious.”

Archbishop Fulton Sheen, Freedom Under God, Into the Deep, July 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stonesswillshout.com/wp

The truly happy person really does not care what others may think of him, for true glory consists in the judgment of God rather than the judgment of men.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

The long arm of Providence is reaching out in America, saying, “Take up thy cross! The cross of all the starving people of the world. Carry it.”

Fulton J. Sheen, The Quotable Fulton Sheen, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Every man is on a cross. Some ask to be taken down like the thief on the left; others as to be taken up like the thief on the right.

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1 – 3 & 4 - 5 Lines)

Christianity, because it is outside the civilizations of the East and West, is alone capable of uniting both

Fulton J. Sheen, The Quotable Fulton Sheen, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Only in a limited sense is it true that circumstances make a man; they make a man only to the extent that a man permits circumstances to make him.

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One of the most universal spiritual practices of every saintly soul has been what is known as the nightly examination of conscience.

Fulton J. Sheen, The Quotable Fulton Sheen, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Crisis does not create character; it reveals it.

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No one dies even an hour before God says it is time to go.

Bishop Fulton Sheen, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

One of the marks of decadence in society is the exaltation of little insignificant codes at the expense of great and eternal moral principles.

Fulton J. Sheen, The Quotable Fulton Sheen, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

As pure water becomes loathsome to the drunkard, so do justice and virtue to the depraved conscience.

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When a child is given to his parents, a crown is made for that child in Heaven, and woe to the parents who raise a child without consciousness of that eternal crown!

Fulton J. Sheen, Life is Worth Living, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Christmas is the most popular season in the Western world. But it is also one in which almost everyone celebrates the feast without knowing the meaning of the festival.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

The alternative before men is either to live under the love of God, or else live under His justice or His judgment. It is under the latter that the world is at the present evil hour.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Democracy makes progress only by realizing that while there is a social problem, its solution must proceed from the individual, first through sacrifice and then through political institutions.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Everyone wants to be happy. But few find happiness because they fail to distinguish whether it will consist in pleasure or in joy. The latter alone gives true happiness.

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Once we are caught in the clutches of an evil habit and travel in the direction of vice, it takes a divine power to turn us round and make us go in another direction.

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SELECTED WISDOM OF: S-1.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (4 - 5 Lines)

Broadmindedness, which sacrifices principles to whims, dissolves entities into environment, and reduces truth to opinion, is an unmistakable decay of the logical facility.

Fulton J. Sheen, From The Angel's Blackboard, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Tolerance applies only to persons, but never to truth. Intolerance applies only to truth, but never to persons. Tolerance applies to the erring, intolerance to the error.

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Modern man would be far happier if he would take a little time off to mediate. As the Old Testament prophet said, "Peace, peace and there is no peace, but no man considereth it in his heart."

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Those who keep everything they have for themselves must lose it all at death; those who have given it away will get it back in the coin of immortality and joy.

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The basic error of humankind has been to assume that only two are needed for love; you and me, or society and me, or humanity and me. Really it takes three: self, other selves, and God; you, me and God

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Christianity differs from other religions because it begins with defeat, catastrophe, and crisis.

Sunshine religions make God your partner in a successful business or a happy marriage, but they cannot stand up in darkness, storm and defeat.

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Prayer, then, is not just informing God of our needs, for God already knows them. Rather, the purpose of prayer is to give God the opportunity to bestow the gifts He will give us when we are ready to accept them.

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The difference between people who never get the breaks and those who make every Now an occasion for thanking God is this: The latter live in an area of love greater than their desire to "have their way."

Fulton J. Sheen, From The Angel's Blackboard, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

The modern soul which cannot live with itself cannot live with its fellow men. A man who is not at peace with himself will not be at peace with his fellow human beings.

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The secret of peace of soul is to combine detachment from evil with attachment to God, to abandon egotism as the ruling, determining element in living and substitute Our Divine Lord as the regent of our actions.

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Why are those who are notoriously undisciplined and unmoral also most contemptuous of religion and morality? They are trying to solace their own unhappy lives by pulling the happy down to their own abysmal depths.

Fulton J. Sheen, Seven Words of Jesus and Mary: Lessons From Cana to Calvary, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

The tragedy of the world is that there are so many escapists who run from the condition of happiness; the joy of the world is that there are so many who see the glory through discipline.

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SELECTED WISDOM OF: S-1.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (4 - 5 Lines)

Almost all people count the money in their pockets daily to determine whether the current expense of the day can be met; but how few of us ever balance our conscience to see if we are in debt morally and spiritually.

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Our Lord was crucified by the nice people who held that religion was all right in its place so long as its place was not here, where it might demand of them a change of heart.

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The two great characteristics of our days are secularity and sensuality; secularity is the exile of the Divine from education, international law, politics, economics and the social life; sensuality is the reduction of love to glands and epidermic contact.

Fulton J. Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Freedom is not an heirloom or an antique; it is a life that must fight against the corrosive powers of death and nourish itself on the daily bread of goodness and virtue.

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America it is said is suffering from intolerance. It is not. It is suffering from tolerance: tolerance of right and wrong, truth and error, virtue and evil, Christ and chaos.

Fulton J. Sheen, OSV/11/06/2010, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

The political health of any nation can be measured by how much the people expect the state to give them and how much they expect to do for themselves, or how much they believe the world owes them a living.

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The modern man who is not living accordance to his conscience wants a religion without a cross, a Christ without Calvary, a Kingdom without justice, and in his church a soft dean who never mentions hell to polite ears.

Fulton J. Sheen, Your Life is Worth Living, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

One reason why we do not find peace is that we want to be saved but not from our vices, or because we want to be saved but not at too great a cost, or because we want to be saved in our way and not in God's way.

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The refusal to love is hell. Though love is not returned, this is no reason for not loving. Rather it is reason for loving: "You love those who love you, What reward is there in this?"

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There has been no single influence that has done more to prevent man from finding God and rebuilding his character, has done more to lower the moral tone of society than the denial of personal guilt.

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Most of the restlessness of souls today comes from not knowing why they are here, or where they are going, and they refuse to take time out to solve that problem.

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Each of us comes into life with fists closed, set for aggressiveness and acquisition, but when we abandon life, our hands are open; there is nothing on earth that we need, nothing the soul can take with it.

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (4 - 5 Lines)

Pleasures of the flesh are always greater in anticipation than in realization, but the joys of the spirit are always greater in realization than in anticipation.

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The worldly are willing to let anyone believe in God if he or she pleases, but only on condition that a belief in God will mean no more than belief in anything else. They will allow God, provided that God does not matter.

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Christianity says that man in his human nature is neither a saint or a devil; he is neither intrinsically corrupt nor immaculately conceived. He needs divine assistance to perfect his nature.

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The principal reason for sex defecation is loss of belief in God. Once people lose God, they lose the purpose of life; and when the purpose of living is forgotten, the universe becomes meaningless

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If our Blessed Lord had been tolerant and broad-minded, He never would have been crucified; it was the perfection of His virtue that constituted a judgment of the wicked.

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In other religions, one must be purified before one can knock at the door; in Christianity, one knocks at the door as a sinner, and He who answers to us heals.

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A democracy flirts with the danger of becoming a slave state in direct ratio to the numbers of its citizens that work, but do not own; or who own, but do not work; or who distribute, as politicians do, but do not produce.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Apart from an outside assistance, society goes from bad to worse until deterioration is universal. Not evolution, but devolution is the law of man without God, just as it is the law of the sunflower without sun.

Venerable Fulton Sheen, The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2014, Reprinted by Permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

The root principle of birth-control is unsound. It is a glorification of the means and contempt of the end; it says that the pleasure which is the means to the procreation of children is good, but the children themselves are no good.

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Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (6 - 9 Lines)

All nations and all peoples must learn, in sorrow and tears and blood and sweat, that wrong attitudes toward the natural law and the moral law are simultaneously and necessarily a wrong attitude toward God, and therefore bring inevitable doom, which is the Judgment of God.

Fulton J. Sheen, *Life is Worth Living*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

We live in what might be called the Age of Bad Conscience. We cover it up by denying responsibility; we find scapegoats; we attack religion and all who have to do with conscience as if their extinction might give us immunity from that distinction between right and wrong.

Fulton J. Sheen, *From The Angel's Blackboard*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

In dealing with ourselves, we should look for what is worst and make it, with God's grace, the occasion of spiritual growth. But in dealing with others, we should look for what is best, in order that, as we show mercy to others, God may show the grace of His mercy to us.

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"If my own eternal salvation were conditioned upon saving the soul of one self-wise man who prided himself on his learning, or one hundred of the most morally corrupt men and women of the streets, I would choose the easier task of converting the hundred. Nothing is more difficult to conquer in all the world than intellectual pride.

Fulton J. Sheen, *The Catholic Citizen*, Spring 2008, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Law has broken down today. Obligations are no longer sacred. The choice, therefore, before women in this day in the collapse of justice is whether to continue equating themselves with men in rigid exactness, or to affirm equity, mercy and love, thus giving a cruel and lawless world something equality can never give.

Fulton J. Sheen, *On Being Human*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Modern man has become passive in the face of evil. He has so long preached a doctrine of false tolerance, has so long believed that right and wrong were only differences in a point of view, that now when evil works itself out in practice he is paralyzed to do anything against it.

Fulton J. Sheen, *On Being Human*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Those who possess that Spirit of Christ today, manifesting His humility, compassion, sacrifice, and love as He did, are the ones who are really celebrating the Christmas.

Fulton J. Sheen, *On Being Human*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Our modern life seems to be geared to a discontinuity. Life is snuffed out in birth control; love dies in the refusal of sacrifice. But in the meantime there will always be the remnant of true lovers, who will see that as gold is purified by fire, so love is enriched by sacrifice.

Fulton J. Sheen, *On Being Human*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Only one experiment in living has not been attempted by modern man: the experiment of love, directed not toward Jesus the Teacher nor Jesus the Social reformer nor Jesus the Humanitarian, but toward Him Who is True God and True Man, Our Resurrected Lord who alone can show us how to live by conquering death upon our Cross.

Fulton J. Sheen, *On Being Human*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

The world has not just made a few mistakes in bookkeeping that any expert accountant or economic adviser can correct; rather the world has swindled the treasury of faith and morality. It is not that the world's arithmetic is incorrect; it is our morals that are bad.

Fulton J. Sheen, *From The Angel's Blackboard*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Archbishop Fulton Sheen (6 - 9 Lines)

Each human heart is a garden, a secret garden which God has kept uniquely for Himself. That garden is locked like a safety vault – it has two keys. God has one key; hence He can keep anyone out but Himself. The human heart has the other key; hence not even God can get in without man's consent.

Fulton J. Sheen, *On Being Human*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

You can love the lovable without being religious; you can respect those who respect you without religion; you can pay debts without being religious, but you cannot love those who hate you without being religious; you cannot atone for your guilty conscience without being religious.

Fulton J. Sheen, *From The Angel's Blackboard*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

In this world most of us mind pain more than we do sin; in fact we often believe pain to be the greater evil. Penance helps us to set these disorders in their right perspective; when a man finds joy in penance, he realizes that no other evil can affect him more than sin.

Fulton J. Sheen, *Peace of Soul*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

“The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description.”

Archbishop Fulton Sheen, cited by Sam Guzman, *A Powerful Weapon: 15 Quotes* ..., 10-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Because the development of character requires constant vigilance, our occasional failures must not be mistaken for the desertion of God. Two attitudes are possible in sin – two attitudes can be taken toward our lapses into sin: We can fall down or get up; or we can fall down and stay there.

Fulton J. Sheen, *The Angel's Blackboard*, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyinmission.org

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Pope Benedict XVI (1 - 3 Lines)

Allow Christ to exercise his purifying action on society. Do not crucify him anew.

Pope Benedict XVI, Message to politicians, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 10-28-2012 Reprint by permission of OSV.com

If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful, and great.

Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Take courage! Fix your gaze on our saints.

Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Mary's poem – the Magnificat – is quite original; yet at the same time, it is a “fabric” woven throughout of “threads” from the Old Testament, of words of God.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Even when one rejects God, the thirst for the infinite that inhabits man does not melt away.

Pope Benedict XVI, Welcome Letter, 33rd Rimini Meeting, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing 9-2-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

Silence is an integral part of communication, it is a privileged place of encounter with the word of God and our brothers and sisters.

Pope Benedict XVI, Welcome Letter, 33rd Rimini Meeting, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing 06-03-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

When God is set aside, the world becomes an inhospitable place for man. Apart from God, we are alienated from ourselves and are hurled into the void.

Pope Benedict XVI, Welcome Letter, 33rd Rimini Meeting, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing 05-08-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

Only a society that respects and unconditionally defends the dignity of every person from conception to natural death can call itself a humane society.

Pope Benedict XVI, Welcome Letter, 33rd Rimini Meeting, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing 11-20-2011, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

Faith is not a theory that can be personalized or even set aside. It is something very concrete: it is the criteria that determines our lifestyle.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Without God, man ultimately chooses selfishness over solidarity and love, material things over values, having over being.

Pope Benedict XVI, Marian shrine of Loretto, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing 10-27-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

If the love of God has planted deep roots in a person, then he is able to love even those who do not deserve it.

Pope Benedict XVI, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 11-18-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

The miracles of Christ are not a display of power, but signs of the love of God.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to pilgrims, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 07-22-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

Showing solidarity with the poor means recognizing the plan of God the Creator, who made us all one family.

Pope Benedict XVI, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 05-27-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

Education in the faith must first of all consist in developing all that is good in the human being.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

This is the great marvel of the liturgy: God acts, while we are caught up in his action.

Pope Benedict XVI, General audience, 09-26-2012, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing 10-14-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com,

God knows us, and he loves us. If we let the love of Christ change our heart, then we can change the world.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to young people – Mexico, National Catholic Register, 12-30-2012, Reprint by permission of NCRRegister.com,

During lent, let us give the right time to prayer, both personal and community prayer, which breathes air into our spiritual life.

Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican.va, Angelus of (last) 3-01-2013

Justice and charity are not opposed, but both are necessary and complement each other.

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus prayer, 12-16-2012, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing 12-30-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com,

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Pope Benedict XVI (1 - 3 Lines)

Building a just social and civil order, wherein each person receives his or her due, is an essential task which every generation must take up anew.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

It is time to reaffirm the importance of prayer in the face of the activism and growing secularism of many Christians engaged in charitable work.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

The proclamation of the Gospel is at the origin of the Church and her development throughout the world and also of the growth of faith in the faithful.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

In the Eucharist the Lord gives himself to us in his body, soul and divinity, and we become one with him and with others.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

The Eucharist means God has answered: The Eucharist is God as an answer, as an answering presence.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Benedictus: Writings of the Holy Father*, part IV, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

The saint is the person who is so fascinated by the beauty of God and by his perfect truth as to be progressively transformed by it.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Today the word "love" is so spoiled, worn out and abused that one almost fears to pronounce it.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

The disquieting process of secularization is occurring in many parts of the world.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Commitment to truth opens the way to forgiveness and reconciliation.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Evangelization is not the work of some specialists, but of the entire People of God.

Pope Benedict XVI, to newly consecrated bishops, *Our Sunday Visitor Publishing*, 10-7-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

God's words and his will are the only things "that are truly urgent for our lives."

Pope Benedict XVI, Mass – Assumption of Mary, *Our Sunday Visitor Publishing*, 08-28-2011, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

History is centered on Christ, who guarantees novelty and renewal in every age.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Our Sunday Visitor Publishing*, 07-29-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

People live as if God didn't exist. But this way of life ends up being even more destructive, as it leads to indifference toward faith and toward God.

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, *Our Sunday Visitor Publishing*, 12-02-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

The fear of God frees us from the fear of men.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Our Sunday Visitor Publishing*, 01-20-2013, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

The happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy, has a name and a face: Jesus of Nazareth.

Pope Benedict XVI, *FMA Focus*, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

To serve and to live this Faith is the noblest vocation in the renewal of the Church.

Pope Benedict XVI, Cited by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*

A culture and a nation that cuts itself off from the great ethical and religious forces of its own history, commits suicide.

Cardinal Ratzinger, cited by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Law and Morality in Public Discourse*, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

"Christ does not win victory over anyone who does not wish it. He conquers only by convincing, for he is the *Word of God*."

Cardinal Ratzinger quoting Origen, cited by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Law and Morality in Public Discourse*, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Pope Benedict XVI (1 – 3 Lines)

When our hearts listen, and we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, then God can begin to conform us to his likeness and will.

Pope Benedict XVI, cited by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Law and Morality in Public Discourse, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Believers are conditioned by a culture of images that imposes contradictory models and impulses, with the effective negation of God.

Pope Benedict XVI, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 12-9-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

“Charity cannot take the place of justice that has been denied; nor can justice, on the other hand, replace charity that has been refused.”

Pope Benedict XVI, 07-01-2013, ITD, Feb. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Reason always stands in need of being purified by faith: this also holds true for political reason, which must not consider itself omnipotent.

Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate Encyclical, 06-29-2009

Without God man neither knows which way to go, nor even understands who he is.

Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate Encyclical, 06-29-2009

Only in truth does charity shine forth, only in truth can charity be authentically lived. Truth is the light that gives meaning and value to charity.

Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate Encyclical, 06-29-2009

To desire the *common good* and strive towards it is a *requirement of justice and charity.*

Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate Encyclical, 06-29-2009

In the face of present difficulties, may Christ's followers not lose heart, for witnessing the Gospel is, and always will be, a sign of contradiction.

Pope Benedict XVI, Message for 44th World Day of Peace, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2011, Reprint by permission of www.catholiccitizens.org

In fact, adoration must precede our every activity and programme, that it may render us truly free and that we may be given the criteria for our action.

Pope Benedict XVI, Speech Oct. 16, 2006, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Let us encourage one another to walk joyfully, our hearts filled with wonder, Towards our encounter with the Holy Eucharist.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

The Church's true treasure is the permanent presence of the Lord in His Sacrament

Pope Benedict XVI, Vespers at Basilica of Saint Anne, Altotting, Bavaria 09-11-2006, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

“As Christians, we are convinced that the most precious contribution we can make to the cause of peace is that of prayer.”

Pope Benedict XVI, 10-26-2011, ITD Nov. 2011, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

“Ultimately, in the battle against lies and violence, truth and love have no other weapon than the witness of suffering.

Pope Benedict XVI, Into the Deep, Oct. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

He does not really fast who does not know how to nourish himself on the Word of God.

Pope Benedict XVI, Into the Deep, Feb./Mar. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Relativism which considers all opinions true even if they are contradictory, is the greatest problem of our time.

Pope Benedict XVI, cited by Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

“Truth is stronger than lies; love is stronger than hatred, God is stronger than all adverse forces.”

Pope Benedict XVI, 03-11-2011, Apr. 2011, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

Joy does not consist in having many things, but in feeling loved by the Lord, in becoming a gift for others and loving one another.

Pope Benedict XIV, ITD, Apr. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Unless we desire him we will never know the Lord, unless we expect him, we will never meet him, unless we seek him, we will never find him

Pope Benedict XVI, Seek the Lord , 23-12-2012, Into the Deep, Jan. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Pope Benedict XVI (1 – 3 Lines)

The first step toward eternal life is always the observance of the commandments.

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus address 16-12-2012, Into the Deep, Feb. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Truth is not determined by a majority vote.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Into the Deep, July 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Friends, do not be afraid of silence or stillness. Listen to God. Adore Him in the Eucharist.

Pope Benedict XVI, Catholicreligionteacher.com

It is our responsibility to pass on what, by God's grace, we ourselves have received.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, FMA Focus, 9-2013, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Holiness never goes out of fashion.

Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Evil draws its power from indecision and concern for what other people think.

Pope Benedict XVI, Into the Deep, Mar. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

We will not be able to win mankind to the Gospel unless we ourselves first return to a profound experience of God.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholiccitizens.org

“Christianity begins not with a revolutionary, but with a martyr.”

Archbishop Joseph Ratzinger, 1972, ITD May 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Today's world needs persons who speak to God to be able to speak of God.”

Pope Benedict XVI, ITD Dec. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/w

“Christ does not win victory over anyone who does not wish it. He conquers only by convincing, for he is the *Word of God*.”

Cardinal Ratzinger quoting Origen, cited by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Law and Morality in Public Discourse, 08-06-2014, Reprint by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Pope Benedict XVI (4 – 5 Lines)

We ourselves must have a renewed certainty: he is the Truth; only by walking in his footsteps do we go in the right direction, and it is in this direction that we must walk and lead others.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Is it consistent to profess our beliefs in church on Sunday and then during the week to promote business practices or medical procedures contrary to those beliefs?

Pope Benedict XVI, National Catholic Register, 12-16-2012, Reprint by permission of NCRRegister.com

The modern age is often seen as an awakening of reason from its slumbers, humanity's enlightenment after an age of darkness. Yet without the light of Christ, the light of reason is not sufficient to enlighten humanity and the world.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

In the end, in fact, love alone enables us to live, and love is always suffering: it matures in suffering and provides the strength to suffer for good without taking oneself in account at the actual moment.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

In fact, as John Paul II often repeated, the young are the hope of the Church, but in today's world, they are also particularly vulnerable to being tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

It is necessary to understand that building life and the future also requires patience and suffering. Nor can the Cross be lacking in young peoples' lives, and getting them to understand this is far from easy.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

“Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia. There may be a legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not however with regard to abortion and euthanasia.”

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2008, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

Is it consistent for practicing Catholics to ignore or exploit the poor and marginalized, to promote sexual behavior contrary to Catholic moral teaching or adopt positions that contradict the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death?

Pope Benedict XVI, National Catholic Register, 12-16-2012, Reprint by permission of NCRRegister.com

Any tendency to treat religion as a private matter must be resisted. Only when their faith permeates every aspect of their lives do Christians become truly open to the transforming power of the Gospel.

Pope Benedict XVI, National Catholic Register, 12-16-2012, Reprint by permission of NCRRegister.com

Though time may pass, the teaching proclaimed by the Church remains unchanged: human life is beautiful and must be lived to the full even when it is weak and enveloped by the mystery of suffering.

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2009, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2010, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

Love is the only force capable of changing the heart of the human person and of all humanity, by making fruitful the relations between men and women, between rich and poor, between cultures and civilizations.

Pope Benedict XVI, Palm Sunday, 4-1-2007

A democracy without values, in fact, turns into a tyranny of relativism with the loss of its own identity, and in the long run can degenerate into open or insidious totalitarianism, as history has frequently shown.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

If even in the Church there is no lack of unworthy and false Christians, it is up to each of us to counterbalance the evil they commit with our own clear witness of Jesus Christ.”

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2007, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Pope Benedict XVI (4 - 5 Lines)

“Even among saints differences, discord and controversies arise. And I find this a consolation because we see saints have not come down from heaven. They are people like us, with problems, even complicated problems.

Pope Benedict XVI., *The Catholic Citizen*, Spring 2007, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

“You must propagate veneration of the Most Blessed Sacrament with all your might, for the devotion to the Holy Eucharist is the queen of all devotions.”

Pope Benedict XVI, *Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament*, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Time spent in prayer is never wasted, however urgent the duties that press upon us from every side. Contemplation of the mysteries of the Rosary releases all their saving power, and it conforms, unites and consecrates us to Jesus Christ.

Pope Benedict XVI, *National Catholic Register*, 12-16-2012, Reprint by permission of NCRRegister.com

The teaching of religion at school, carried out by clerical and lay teachers and sustained by the testimony of believing teachers, must keep its authentic evangelical dimension of the transmission and witness of faith.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, *Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI*, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Economic and political instability, a readiness on the part of some to manipulate others, and a defective understanding of religion help open the door to religious fundamentalism.

Pope Benedict XVI, Editorial, *Our Sunday Visitor Publishing*, 11-04-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

The tempter is sneaky: he does not go directly to evil, but to a false good, making one believe that the true reality is power and that this meets one's basic needs.

Pope Benedict XVI, second-to-last Angelus, 3-03-2013

When the fulfillment of one's life is geared solely to social success and to physical and financial well-being, one no longer reasons according to God but according to men.

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus 8-28-2011

The temptation to remove God, to arrange things within us and in the world by ourselves, relying on our own abilities, has always been present in human history.

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus 2-26-2012

She (Mary) is the shoot which sprouts from the stump of David in the dark winter night of history. In her, the words of the Psalm are fulfilled: “The earth has yielded its fruits” (Ps 67:7).

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, *Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI*, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

In our difficulties, problems, temptations, we must not simply make a theoretical reflection – where do they come from? – but must react positively; we must call on the Lord, we must keep our contact with the Lord.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, *Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI*, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Before being a command – love is not a command – it is a gift, a reality that God allows us to know and experience, so that like a seed, it can germinate within us and develop throughout our life.

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus 11-04-2012

When a society moves towards the denial or suppression of life, it ends up no longer finding the necessary motivation and energy to strive for man's true good.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate Encyclical*, 06-29-2009

Entranced by an exclusive reliance on technology, reason without faith is doomed to flounder in an illusion of its own omnipotence. Faith without reason risks being cut off from everyday life.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate Encyclical*, 06-29-2009

Technological development can give rise to the idea that technology is self-sufficient when too much attention is given to the “*how*” questions, and not enough to the many “*why*” questions underlying human activity.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate Encyclical*, 06-29-2009

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Pope Benedict XVI (4 – 5 Lines)

Development needs Christians with their arms raised towards God in prayer, Christians moved by the knowledge that truth-filled love, *caritas in veritate*, from which authentic development proceeds, is not produced by us, but given to us.
Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate Encyclical, 06-29-2009

There cannot be holistic development and universal common good unless people's spiritual and moral welfare is taken into account, considered in their totality as body and soul.
Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate Encyclical, 06-29-2009

The development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family working together in true communion, not simply a group of subjects who happen to live side by side.
Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate Encyclical, 06-29-2009

Defending the institution of marriage as a social reality is ultimately a question of justice, since it entails safeguarding the good of the entire human community and the rights of parents and children alike.
Pope Benedict XVI, Marriage and Family, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2012, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

Lent stimulates us to let the word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth; who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life.
Pope Benedict XVI, Into the Deep, Feb./Mar.. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Each family, through its children, gives society its own experience of human richness. We can well say that the health and value of relationships within a society depend upon the health and value of relationships within families.
Pope Benedict XVI, Ecuadorian National Family Congress 10-11-2011, Healthy Family, Healthy Society, Into the Deep, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

“Whoever has discovered in Christ the love of God, infused by the Holy Spirit in our hearts, wishes to know better the one who loves him and whom he loves. Knowledge and love sustain one another in turn.”
Pope Benedict XVI, 03-12-2010, ITD Feb. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“Whoever participates in the Holy Mass stands almost on the threshold of the heavenly sphere, from which he contemplates the worship carried out by the angels and the saints.”
Pope Benedict XVI, 10-25-2010, ITD Mar. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

We can all open ourselves to God's action, to his love; with our evangelical witness, we Christians must be a living message, in fact, in many cases we are the only Gospel that the men of today still read.
Pope Benedict XVI, Ash Wednesday 2011, ITD June 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“Redemption means that God, acting as God truly does, gives us nothing less than himself. The gift of God is God—he who as the Holy Spirit is communion with us.”
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI cited by Sam Guzman, What is the Goal of the Catholic Church? 06-02-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“Man is a relational being. And if his first, fundamental relationship is disturbed—his relationship with God—then nothing else can be truly in order.”
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, cited by Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Red Mass, 10-23-2013, Reprint by permission of Dio. of Springfield, IL

Politics must be a striving for justice, and hence it has to establish the fundamental preconditions for peace.... To serve right and to fight against the dominion of wrong is and remains the fundamental task of the politician.
Pope Benedict XVI, cited by Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family & Freedom, 08-30-2014

Regarding the very foundations of the life of society, positive civil law must respect “nature and reason as the true sources of law.” In other words, one must have recourse to the natural moral law which God has inscribed upon every human heart.
Pope Benedict XVI, cited by Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family & Freedom, 08-30-2014

Making the sign of the Cross – as we do during the Blessing – means saying a visible and public “yes” to the One who died and rose for us, to God who in humility and weakness of his love is the Almighty, stronger than all the power and intelligence of the world.
Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Book

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Pope Benedict XVI (6 - 9 Lines)

“When we participate regularly and with devotion in Holy Mass, when we spend a sustained time of adoration in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, it is easier to understand the length, breadth, height and depth of his love that goes beyond all knowledge.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Message for WYD 2007, ITD Nov. 2011, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

Today, it is necessary to proclaim with renewed enthusiasm that the Gospel of the family is a process of human and spiritual fulfillment in the certainty the the Lord is always present with his grace. This proclamation is often distorted by false concepts of marriage and family that do not respect God's original plan.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Whenever applause breaks out in the liturgy because of some human achievement, it is a sure sign that the essence of the liturgy has totally disappeared and been replaced by a kind of religious entertainment. Such attraction fades quickly -- it cannot compete in the market of leisure pursuits, incorporating as it increasingly does various religious titillation.

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2010, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

This is something we should indeed learn on the day of the Immaculate Conception: the person who abandons himself totally in God's hands does not become God's puppet, a boring “yes” man; he does not lose his freedom. Only the person who entrusts himself totally to God finds true freedom, the great, creative immensity of the freedom of good.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

Marriage and the family are not in fact a chance sociological construction, the product of particular historical and financial situations. On the other hand, the question of the right relationship between the man and the woman is rooted in the essential core of the human being and it is only by starting from here that its response can be found.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

“A society where Christian conscience is no longer alive loses its bearings, it no longer knows where to go, what is, what it can do, what it cannot do, and ends up in emptiness, it fails. Only if a living awareness of the faith illuminates our hearts can we build a just society.

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2008, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

We all need a *centre* to our lives, a source of truth and goodness from which to draw in the various situations and exertions of daily life. Each of us when we pause in silence, needs to feel not only the beating of our own heart but, deeper down, the pulsing of a reliable presence, perceptible with the senses of faith, yet real: the presence of Christ, heart of the world.

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2008, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

The challenges confronting us requires a comprehensive and sound instruction in the truths of Faith. But they also call for cultivating a mindset, an intellectual “culture”, which is genuinely Catholic, confident in the profound harmony of faith and reason, and prepared to bring the richness of faith's vision to bear on the urgent issues which affect the future of American society.

Pope Benedict XVI, Nationals stadium, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 12-9-2012, Reprint by permission of OSV.com

God's gift does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother's womb and the child or young person, or the adult or elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because He sees an impression of His own image and likeness (Gn 1:26) in each one.

Pope Benedict XVI, Pontifical Academy for Life and Congress on “The Human Embryo in the Pre-Implantation Phase, 02-27-2006, Reprint by permission of rcda.org

In life today, often noisy and dispersive, it is more important than ever to recover the capacity for inner silence and recollection. Eucharistic adoration permits this not only centered on the “I” but more so in the company of that “You” full of love who is Jesus Christ, “the God who is near to us”.

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus 06.10.2007, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Pope Benedict XVI (6 - 9 Lines)

A university or school's Catholic identity is not simply a question of the number of Catholic students. It is a question of conviction – do we really believe that only in the mystery of the Word made flesh does the mystery of man truly become clear? Are we ready to commit our entire self – intellect and will, mind and heart – to God?

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2010, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

Moral relativism (an evil) is the notion that something may be true for one person but not for another. It asserts that your opinion about what is right and wrong is simply that, an opinion, and you have no right to impose that opinion on others. It is the denial of any objective moral standard.

Pope Benedict XVI, cited in Sunday Bulletin of St. Isaac Jogues, Hinsdale, Ill., The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2012, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

States are called to *enact policies promoting the centrality and the integrity of the family* founded on marriage between a man and a woman, the primary vital cell of society^[112], and to assume responsibility for its economic and fiscal needs, while respecting its essentially relational character.

Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate Encyclical, 06-29-2009

“Only within the breathing space of adoration can the Eucharistic celebration indeed be alive; only if the Church and thus the whole congregation is constantly imbued with the waiting presence of the Lord, and with our silent readiness to respond, can the invitation to come together bring us into the hospitality of Jesus Christ and of the Church.”

Pope Benedict XVI, therealpresence.org

It is a pity that these days Sunday has been transformed into the weekend, although it is actually the first day, it is the beginning; we must remind ourselves of this: it is the beginning, the beginning of Creation and the beginning of re-Creation in the Church, it is an encounter with the Creator and with the Risen Christ.

Pope Benedict XVI, 14-02-2013 Zenit.org 20-02-2013, Into the Deep, Mar. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

A faith that we ourselves create is of no value; true unity is rather a gift from the Lord, who prayed and who always prays for the unity of His disciples. Only Christ can give us this unity, and we ourselves will be ever more united in the measure that we turn to Him and allow ourselves to be transformed by Him.

Pope Benedict XVI, 09-28-2011, ITD Oct. 2011, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

We all need God as the Divine Sculptor Who removes the accumulation of dust and debris covering the image of God inscribed within us. We need forgiveness, which is the nucleus of all true reform. It rebuilds individuals from the depths of their hearts and is the core of the renewal of the community.

Pope Benedict XVI, 09-25-2010, Vatican Information Service, Into the Deep Feb. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Fasting means abstinence from food but it includes other forms of privation for the sake of a more sober life. [But] all of this does not yet constitute the full reality of fasting: It is the external sign of an interior reality, of our commitment, with God's help, to abstain from evil and to live the Gospel. He does not really fast who does not know how to nourish himself

Pope Benedict XVI, Ash Wednesday 2011, Into The Deep, Feb/Mar 2014, stoneswillshout.com/wp

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (1 - 3 Lines)

A nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope.

Pope John Paul II, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

This day, son, you have lived your motto, “Totus Tuus (all yours, Mary).

Pope John Paul II, When raising Maximilian Kolbe to sainthood.

Excluding God from the world leads to destruction.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Redemptor Hominis, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The mission of the Church is to reveal Christ to the world, helping each person to find himself in Christ.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Redemptor Hominis, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Human advancement is not so much a matter of “having more” but rather of “being more.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Redemptor Hominis, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

A materialistic, consumerist society condemns man to being a slave to his own products.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Redemptor Hominis, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

When we see a crucifix, we should recall the words of St. John's Gospel, “God so loved the world that he sent his only Son...” (Jn.3: 16).

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Dives in Misericordia, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

As the result of materialism, the present day mentality tends to exclude the idea of mercy from the human heart.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Dives in Misericordia, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

We should imitate God not only by working, but also be resting on the seventh day.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Laborem Exercens, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Work by a woman outside the home is wrong when it contradicts or hinders the primary goals and responsibilities of the mission of a wife/mother.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Laborem Exercens, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

“The Christian finds in human work a small part of the cross of Christ and accepts it in the spirit of redemption in which Christ accepted his cross for us.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Laborem Exercens, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

“The [Holy] Spirit dwells in the Church and in the hearts of the faithful as in a temple.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Dominum et Vivificantem, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The primary gifts the faithful receive from the Holy Spirit through the Church are *truth, grace and fellowship*.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Dominum et Vivificantem, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author .

Man must purify his conscience so that he can recognize sin.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Dominum et Vivificantem, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author .

Today, the greatest sin is the loss of the “sense of sin.” There is a widespread inability to know the difference between good and evil.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Dominum et Vivificantem, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Mary is the first witness of the marvelous truth that “God so loved the world that He sent his only Son.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Redemptoris Mater, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The principle obstacle to be overcome on the way to authentic liberation is sin and the structures produced by sin as it multiplies and spreads.

John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (1 - 3 Lines)

We serve man when we make Christ known to him because faith in Christ is the greatest gift any man can receive.

John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Redemptoris Missio, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

“We cannot bear witness to Christ without reflecting his image.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Redemptoris Missio, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Just as the first disciples Christianized the Roman world, the Holy Father encourages the faithful to Christianize the modern world.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Redemptoris Missio, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

A threat to both Western and post-Communist societies is materialistic consumerism.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Centesimus Annus, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

“Authentic democracy is possible only in a State ruled by law, and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Centesimus Annus, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

“As history demonstrates, a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Centesimus Annus, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

At the root of today's moral confusion is the separation of human freedom from objective moral truth.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Veritatis Splendor The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author .

Self-gift is at the root of the true freedom to which man is called.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Veritatis Splendor The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

We must take care to form our conscience in accordance with the truth taught by the Church.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Veritatis Splendor The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

There is no conflict between freedom and natural law because such law has God as its author.

John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Veritatis Splendor, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Everything we do has an impact on our character for good or bad.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Veritatis Splendor, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author

A Christian must be willing to carry the cross if he is to live a morally upright life.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Veritatis Splendor, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Evil done with a good intention cannot be excused. You cannot do evil with the hope that good will come from it.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan Excerpt from: Veritatis Splendor, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Precisely because of man's supernatural calling, human life is sacred from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Evangelium Vitae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

There is a “conspiracy against life” involving governments, international organizations, and the mass media.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Evangelium Vitae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

In this dramatic clash between good and evil, between the “culture of life” and the “culture of death,” each of us must be unconditionally pro-life.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Evangelium Vitae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (1 – 3 Lines)

“The moral gravity of a procured abortion is apparent if we recognize that we are dealing with murder.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, *Evangelium Vitae*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.

St. John Paul II, FMA Focus, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Christian unity is not only an ideal to strive for, Catholics must have the conviction that it can be achieved.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Ut Unum Sint*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Truth is known through a combination of faith and reason. The absence of either one will diminish man's ability to know himself, the world and God.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Fides et Ratio*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Reason lays the foundation for Faith and makes revelation “credible.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from *Fides et Ratio*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Faith without reason withers into myth or superstition.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Excerpt from *Fides et Ratio*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

As the result of increasing nihilism, a culture of death is replacing a culture of life.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Fides et Ratio*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The Eucharist is a “mystery of faith” that surpasses our understanding and can only be received in faith.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Catholics must be known as “the people of life and for life.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Evangelium Vitae*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Daily prayer in silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament is an inexhaustible source of holiness.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author

Access to sacramental communion also presupposes the *visible unity of the person with the Church*.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

“The future of humanity passes by way of the family.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, *Familiaris Consortio*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Marriage is an institution of divine origin. God's design for marriage has been “imprinted on the humanity of man and woman since their creation.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Familiaris Consortio*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The Church has always taught that marriage has four unchangeable characteristics: *indissolubility, exclusivity, fidelity, and fecundity*.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Familiaris Consortio*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author

“The family is the first and vital cell of society.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Familiaris Consortio*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author

The family should be a “domestic church” which communicates Christ's love in word and deed.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Familiaris Consortio*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Man will not have a “sense of sin” unless his moral conscience is linked to a sense of God.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (1 – 3 Lines)

The restoration of a sense of sin is the first way of facing the grave spiritual crisis looming over man today.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

We must evangelize popular culture which is becoming disassociated not only from the Christian faith but also from human values.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Christifideles Laici*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The mission of the family is above all to guard, reveal and communicate love.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Redemptoris Custos*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprint by permission of author.

If a person lacks love of God and seeks from his or her spouse the happiness that can only come from God, he or she will be frustrated and disappointed.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Redemptoris Custos*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The present crisis of priestly vocations is rooted in a general crisis of faith.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprint by permission of author

The worship of God [today] has to a great extent been replaced by various types of idolatry, including what amounts to self-worship.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Vita Consecrata*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Taking time out for prayer will make believers more conscious of the Gospel's demands and of their duties toward others.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Ecclesia in America*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

In caring for the poor we must not deal exclusively with their material needs, leaving them with an unsatisfied hunger for God.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Ecclesia in America*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The Eucharist is the greatest gift of Christ to the Church.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Dominicae Cena*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Suffering contributes to our salvation and to the salvation of all men if it is united to the cross.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Salvifici Doloris*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Through Christ the riddle of suffering and death grow meaningful.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Salvifici Doloris*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

If reference to God is removed from a society, the standards of morality will be lost. Evil will be put forward as a good, and good itself will be rejected.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Dilecti Amici*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

When a Christian's life is guided by the moral law of the Gospel, he will experience true freedom.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Dilecti Amici*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

An authentic marital union requires the husband and wife to be treated as equal subjects in accordance with their status as spiritual persons.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Mulieris Dignitatem*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

“Be subject to one another out of reverence to Christ” (Eph. 5:21).

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Mulieris Dignitatem*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

It is a Christian's duty to keep Sunday holy. “Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ,” he [Pope John Paul II] says, “Time given to Christ is never lost.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Dies Domini*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The obligation to keep Sunday holy extends beyond attending Mass. On Sunday the whole day must be an active remembrance of God's saving work.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Dies Domini*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Devotion to Mary helps us to be conformed to Christ because her life is deeply joined to His. “Mary lives only in Christ and for Christ.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (1 – 3 Lines)

Our primary model for contemplating Christ is Mary.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Rosarium Virginis Mariae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary awakens in the soul a thirst for a greater knowledge of Christ and thus leads one to the Gospel.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Rosarium Virginis Mariae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Faith demands that we approach the Eucharist fully aware that we are approaching Christ Himself.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Mane Nobiscum Domine, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Upon leaving Mass we must take up our divine mandate to spread the Gospel and imbue society with Christian values.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Mane Nobiscum Domine, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

If they are to be used ethically and responsibly, the media must be “founded upon the supreme criteria of truth and justice.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Letter – The Rapid Development, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

A man and woman united in marriage are called to live as images of God in both body and spirit.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Letter to Families, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The alternative to a culture of love is a destructive anti-civilization dominated by utilitarianism – a civilization of *things* and not of *persons*.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt Letter to Families, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

A true expression of nuptial love, whether in apostolic celibacy or in marriage, “fulfills the very meaning of [a person's] being and existence.”
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Letter to Families, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Today's lack of vocations is a consequence of the breakdown of the family.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Chastity is the virtue that permits man's sexuality to be an expression of God's life-giving love.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The service of the Gospel has nothing to do with age!
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Letter to the Elderly The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The future of the world and the Church pass through the family (Familiaris Consortio, #79)
St. John Paul II, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2014, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

If we do not keep Sunday holy, we risk working with an egotistical motive rather than for love of God and neighbor.
St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, The Teachings of John Paul II, Reprint by permission of author

To attain the goal of peace there must be a clear conscious acknowledgment that violence is an unacceptable evil and that it never solves problems.
St. Pope John Paul II, World Peace Day 2005

The very experience of communion and sharing that should characterize the family's daily life represents its first and fundamental contribution to society.
St. Pope John Paul II, *On the Family*, rcda.org

The gospel contains a fundamental paradox: to find life, one must lose life; to be born, one must die; to save oneself, one must take up the cross.
Pope John Paul II, Crossing The Threshold of Hope

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (1 – 3 Lines)

The power to decide what is good and evil does not belong to man, but to God alone

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Centesimus Annus of Rerum Novarum, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

This fear of God is the saving power of the Gospel. It is a constructive, never destructive, fear.

Pope John Paul II, Crossing The Threshold of Hope

The great task that has to be faced today for the renewal of society is that of recapturing the ultimate meaning of life and its fundamental values.

St. Pope John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, On the Role of the Family in The Modern World, 11-22-1981

There is nothing so personal and untransferable in each individual as merit for virtue or responsibility for sin.

John Paul II, Reconciliatio et Paenitentia, Preparation for Total Consecration

Children are the future of the Church. They play an active role in the evangelization of the world and, with their prayers, help to save and improve it.

Pope John Paul II, Angelus, January 6, 2005

We need to bring the Gospel of life to the heart of every man and woman and to make it penetrate every part of society.

St. Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae (#80)

With humility and gratitude we know that we are the people of life and for life, and this is how we present ourselves to everyone.

St. Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae (# 78)

Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person's life.

St. Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae (#81),

The family itself is the great mystery of God. As the "domestic church" it is the bride of Christ.

St. Pope John Paul II, *Letter to Families*, rcda.org

"Parents are through the witness of their lives are the first heralds of the Gospel for their children."

St. Pope John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, On the Role of the Family in The Modern World, 11-22-1981, rcda.org

We must never forget those who pay for their faithfulness to the Kingdom of God with condemnation, discrimination, sufferings and death.

St. Pope John Paul II, Angelus, 11-26-1978, rcda.org

The right of parents to choose an education in conformity with their religious faith must be absolutely guaranteed.

St. Pope John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, On the Role of the Family in The Modern World, 11-22-1981,

Each Christian vocation comes from God and is God's gift. However, it is never bestowed outside of or independently of the Church.

St. Pope John Paul II, Pastores Dabo Vobis, 03-25-1992

In the newborn is realized the common good of the family.

St. Pope John Paul II,, Letter to families

"To proclaim Jesus is itself to proclaim life."

St. Pope John Paul II, cited by Allison LeDoux, Life is a Place Where God..., Reprint by permission of Truth and Charity Forum, 05-11-2015

Evangelization calls us to teach, celebrate and live our Catholic faith as if for the first time.

Pope John Paul II, therealpresence.org

The secret of pastoral success is the crucified and risen Lord, Whom we adore in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

St. John Paul II, Lenten Message, 02-19-2005 , therealpresence.org

No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.

St. John Paul II, Redemptorius Misso, Into the Deep, Oct. 2011, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (1 – 3 Lines)

The Mass is Heaven on earth.

St. Pope John Paul II, Into the Deep, Nov. 2013,
www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Prayer increases the strength and spiritual unity of the family, helping the family to partake of God's own "strength"

St. Pope John Paul II, Letter to Families, 02-02-1994

The saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult moments in the Church's history.

Pope John Paul II, Into the Deep, Jan. 2013, Reprint by permission of
www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Faced with the sacredness of life and of the human person, and before the marvels of the universe, wonder is the only appropriate attitude.

St. Pope John Paul II, Into the Deep, Mar. 2013, Reprint by permission of
www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

A faith that does not become culture is not fully accepted, not entirely thought out, not faithfully lived"

St. John Paul II, cited by R. Jared Staudt, Does Faith Need Culture? Answers From Scripture & the Church, 04-01-2014, Reprint by permission of
www.catholicexchange.com

"From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others."

St. John Paul II, cited by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Ten Ways to Fall in Love with the Eucharist, 06-24-2014, Reprint by permission of
www.catholicexchange.com

Place your talents and enthusiasm at the service of life.

St. John Paul II, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

In comparison to the love of Jesus, everything else is secondary. And, without the love of Jesus, everything else is useless.

St. John Paul II, cited by Matthew Kelly, Holiness is Possible, Decision Point, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Do not be afraid, do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.

St. John Paul II, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Holy Spirit, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

It is Christ you seek when you dream of happiness.

St. John Paul II, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

The truth is not always the same as the majority decision.

St. John Paul II, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

If you want peace, work for justice. If you want justice, defend life. If you want life, embrace the truth – the truth revealed by God.

St. John Paul II, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Don't be afraid of the radicalness of His demands... If He asks much of you it is because He knows you can give much.

St. John Paul II, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

"The truth has its own "splendor" and will be recognized as such if only we can open our eyes to see it."

St. John Paul II, Donald DeMarco Speaking about Archbishop Fulton Sheen, Cited by, Reprint by permission of Truth and Charity Forum.org

As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.

St. John Paul II, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

The future starts today, not tomorrow.

Saint John Paul II, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

The saints do not ask us to applaud them; they ask us to imitate them.

St. Pope John Paul II, Into the Deep, May 2014, Reprint by permission of
www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Against the spirit of the world, the Church takes up anew each day a struggle that is none other than the struggle for the world's soul.

St. Pope John Paul II, cited by Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by Permission of Franciscan Media

What really matters in life is that we are loved by Christ and that we love Him in return.

St. John Paul II, cited by Matthew Kelly, Holiness is Possible, Decision Point, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (

4 – 5 Lines)

There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us.

St. John Paul II, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.TheCatholicGentlemen.com

And on the far side of every cross we find the newness of life in the Holy Spirit, that new life which will reach its fulfillment in the resurrection. This is our faith. This is our witness before the world.

St. John Paul II, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.TheCatholicGentlemen.com

If Mary is our mother, we should maintain a loving dialogue with her by living some Marian devotions each day. Mary has made it known that praying the Rosary is especially pleasing to her.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Redemptoris Mater, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author

In today's society we hear more than ever about the value and dignity of every individual. At the same time, however, these noble proclamations are repudiated in practice.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Evangelium Vitae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The modernist view of freedom has implications for society, especially in a democracy. It causes society to lose a sense of the common good and to become a mass of individuals, each seeking his or her interest.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Evangelium Vitae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

This sacrament [Penance/Confession] "gives to every Christian and the whole community of believers the certainty of forgiveness through the power of the redeeming blood of Christ."

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt from: Reconciliatio et Paenitentia, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

Learning Catholic doctrine and growing in spiritual life must go hand in hand. Sacramental life will turn into hollow ritualism if it is not based on knowledge of the meaning of the sacraments.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Catechesi Tradendae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprint by permission of author.

In a democratic society a politician cannot separate his private conscience from his public conduct. (one cannot be personally opposed to abortion and still vote for it).

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Evangelium Vitae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprint by permission of author.

The origin of the culture of death is the loss of the sense of God. This results in a practical materialism which breeds individualism, utilitarianism and hedonism.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Evangelium Vitae, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author

When conscience, this bright lamp of the soul calls "evil good and good evil," it is already on the path to the most alarming corruption and the darkest moral blindness.

Pope John Paul II, (Evangelium Vitae, n 24), Confusion between Good and Evil, Cited by Cardinal Raymond Burke, Zenit.org, Into the Deep, July 2014, Reprint by permission of stonesswillshout.com/wp

This [consumerist society] can result in an inability to make a commitment to marriage and can cause children to be viewed as "things" that one can have or not have according to taste.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Centesimus Annus, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

The temporal world alone does not answer the mystery of man. It does not explain the meaning of life, the meaning of death, or the meaning of suffering.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: Centesimus Annus, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author.

What is urgently called for is a general mobilization of consciences and a united ethical effort to activate a great campaign in support of life. All together, we must build a new culture of life" (no. 95).

Pope John Paul II, cited by John P. Hittinger, Celebrating the Gospel of Life, 06-13-2013, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

Christians, like all people of good will, are called upon under grave obligation of conscience not to cooperate formally in practices which, even if permitted by civil legislation, are contrary to God's law.

Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae (#74)

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (4 – 5 Lines)

“In the case of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is therefore never licit to obey it, or take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law, or vote for it.”

Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* (#73)

Human life cannot be seen as an object to do with as we please, but as the most sacred and inviolate earthly reality. There can be no peace when this most basic good is not protected. It is not possible to invoke peace and despise life.

Pope John Paul II, *Message for World Day of Peace*

We cannot afford forms of permissiveness that would lead directly to the trampling of human rights, and also to the complete destruction of values which are fundamental not only for the lives of individuals and families but for society itself.

Pope John Paul II, *Crossing The Threshold of Hope*

The Rosary has always been “a prayer of and for the family.” We need to increase family prayer because the “family that prays together stays together.”

Pope John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, *The Teachings of Pope John Paul II*, Reprinted by permission of author.

Materialism ignores man's spiritual and moral dimension which gives him a capacity for transcendence, that is, an ability to have a spiritual relationship with God and others.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Centesimus Annus*, *The Teachings of Pope John Paul II*, Reprinted by permission of author

You have sheltered human beings within yourself in a unique experience of joy and travail. This experience makes you become God's own smile upon the newborn child ... to be the anchor as the child makes its way along the journey of life.

Pope John Paul II, *On Dignity and Vocation of Women*, 1995

Euthanasia has appeared as a misguided solution to difficult problems. Understood as directly causing death, euthanasia “is an intrinsically evil act, a violation of God's law and an offense against the dignity of the human person.”

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Letter to the Elderly*, *The Teachings of Pope John Paul II*, Reprinted by permission of author

When the moral fiber of a nation is weakened, when the sense of personal responsibility is diminished, then the door is open for the justification of injustices, for violence in all its forms.

Pope John Paul II, *Universal Father*

We must fight against a culture of death and the emergence of a society dominated by the powerful over the powerless including the unborn, the elderly and the incurably ill.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Ecclesia in America*, *The Teachings of Pope John Paul II*, Reprinted by permission of author

For man, the right to life is the fundamental right. And yet, a part of contemporary culture has wanted to deny that right, turning it into an “uncomfortable” right, one that has to be defended.

Pope John Paul II, *Crossing The Threshold of Hope*

To fulfill their function as educators, parents must find time to be with their children and talk with them. Their children are their most important task, more important than work, entertainment and social position.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, *Pontifical Council for Family*, Excerpt: *The Teachings of John Paul II*. Reprint permission by author

The requirement of forgiveness does not cancel out the objective requirements of justice. Forgiveness does not mean indulgence toward evil, scandals, injury or insult.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Dives in Misericordia*, *The Teachings of Pope John Paul II*, Reprinted by permission of author.

Freedom can ... never be construed without relation to the truth as revealed by Jesus Christ, and proposed by his Church, nor can it be seen as a pretext for moral anarchy, for every moral order must remain linked to the truth.

Pope John Paul II, *Universal Father*

Where acceptance of God is lacking, the law of “might makes right” prevails. Anything can be justified including abortion and euthanasia. Human life becomes just another commodity.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Evangelium Vitae* *The Teachings of Pope John Paul II*, Reprint by permission of author

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (4 – 5 Lines)

“The dignity of this life is linked not only to its beginning, to the fact that it comes from God, but also to its final end, to its destiny of fellowship with God in knowledge and love of him” (*Evangelium vitae*, 37).

Pope John Paul II, cited by Fr. C.J. McCloskey, Decline in Morality Leads... 05-08-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

With ever-living ardor, contemplate Christ in the mystery of the Eucharist. Following His example, be ready in all circumstances to make yourselves instruments of mercy and communion.

St. John Paul II, Lenten Message, 02-19-2005, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Cardinal Mindszenty] left behind a shining testimony of devotion to Christ and the Church, as well of patriotism. We will always remember his name with a blessing.

Pope John Paul II, cited by Ronald J. Rychlak, Mindszenty: A Portrait of Courage, New Oxford Review, April 2014

In the name of God, respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!

St. Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2015, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

The family has the mission to guard, reveal, and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God's love for humanity and the love of Christ the Lord for the church, his bride.

St. Pope John Paul II, *On the Family*, rcda.org

Modern rationalism *does not tolerate mystery*. It does not accept the mystery of man as male and female, nor is it willing to admit that the full truth about man has been revealed in Jesus Christ.

St. Pope John Paul II, Letter to Families, 02-02-1994

By its very nature the gift of the person must be lasting and irrevocable. The indissolubility of marriage flows in the first place from the very essence of that gift: *the gift of one person to another person*.

St. Pope John Paul II, Letter to Families, 02-02-1994

To bear witness to the inestimable value of the indissolubility and fidelity of marriage is one of the most precious and most urgent tasks of Christian couples in our time.

St. Pope John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, On the Role of the Family in The Modern World, 11-22-1981, vatican.va

The splendor of truth shines forth in all the works of the Creator and, in a special way, in man, created in the image and likeness of God. Truth enlightens man's intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord.

St. Pope John Paul II, cited by Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic. Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Conscience is today subjected, also as a result of the penetrating influence of the media, to an extremely serious and mortal danger: that of confusion between good and evil, precisely in relation to the fundamental right to life.

Pope John Paul II, (*Evangelium Vitae*, n 24), Confusion between Good and Evil, Cited by Cardinal Raymond Burke, Into the Deep, July 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The attempt to set freedom in opposition to truth, and indeed to separate them radically, is the consequence, manifestation and consummation of another more serious and destructive dichotomy, that which separates faith from morality.

St. Pope John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor* (# 88), Into the Deep, May 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“Enclosed in the narrow horizon of his physical nature, [man] is somehow reduced to being ‘a thing,’ and no longer grasps the transcendent character of his existence as man.”

St. John Paul II, cited by Benjamin Mann, Building A Culture of Openness to God, 04-11-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Prayer gives us strength for great ideals, for keeping up our faith, charity, purity, generosity; prayer gives us strength to rise up from indifference and guilt, if we have had the misfortune to give in to temptation and weakness.

St. John Paul II, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Prayer Process, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (4 – 5 & 6 - 9 Lines)

The great danger for family life, in the midst of any society whose idols are pleasure, comfort and independence, lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become selfish.

St. John Paul II, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.

St. John Paul II, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

Because the trivialization of sexuality is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for a new life, children must be trained in chastity as a virtue which fosters personal maturity and makes one capable of respecting the “spousal” meaning of the body.

St. John Paul II, cited by John E. Fagan, Excerpt: *Evangelium Vitae*, The Teachings of Pope John Paul II, Reprinted by permission of author

Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights -- for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture -- is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition of all other personal rights, is not defended with the maximum determination.

Pope John Paul II, *The Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World*.

Allow me, dear young people to consign this hope of mine to you; you must be those “builders.” You are men and women of tomorrow. The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of civilization of love.

Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day, Toronto, 7/28/2002

When the sense of God is lost, there is also a tendency to lose the sense of man, of his dignity and his life; in turn, the systematic violation of the moral law, especially in the serious matter of respect for human life and its dignity, produces a kind of progressive darkening of the capacity to discern God's living and saving presence (21).

Pope John Paul II, cited by Fr. C.J. McCloskey, *Decline in Morality Leads...* Reprint by permission of Truth and Charity Forum, 05-08-2015

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

St. Pope John Paul II (6 - 9 Lines)

When freedom is made absolute in an individualistic way, it is emptied of its original content, and its very meaning and dignity are contradicted...freedom negates and destroys itself, and becomes a factor leading to the destruction of others, when it no longer recognizes and respects its essential link with the truth

Pope John Paul II, cited by Allison LeDoux, Life is a Place Where God :... 05-11-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

No human society can run the risk of permissiveness in fundamental issues regarding the nature of marriage and the family! Such moral permissiveness cannot fail to damage the authentic requirements of peace and communion among people.

St. Pope John Paul II, Letter to Families, 02-02-1994

The restoration of a proper sense of sin is the first way of facing the grave spiritual crisis looming over man today. But the sense of sin can only be restored through a clear reminder of the unchangeable principles of reason and faith which the moral teaching of the church has always upheld.

St. Pope John Paul II, Reconciliation and Penance, 12-02-1984, vatican.va

“When we contemplate him present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar, Christ draws near to us and becomes more intimate to us than we are to ourselves. He grants us a share in his divine life in a transforming union and, in the Spirit, he gives us access to the Father.”

St. John Paul II, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Nebraska, The Source of Our Blessings, Into the Deep, May 2014, Reprinted by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

And yet all the conditioning and efforts to enforce silence fail to stifle the voice of the Lord echoing in the conscience of every individual: it is always from this intimate sanctuary of the conscience that a new journey of love, openness and service to human life can begin.” (Evangelium Vitae, n.24)

Pope John Paul II, cited by Cardinal Raymond Burke, Confusion between Good and Evil, Zenit.org, Into the Deep, July 2014, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Human progress planned as alternatives (to God's plan) introduce injustice, evil and violence rising against the divine plan of justice and salvation. And despite transitory and apparent successes, they are reduced to simple machinations destined to dissolution and failure.

Pope St. John Paul II, Into the Deep, May 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

It is urgent to rediscover and to set forth once more the authentic reality of the Christian faith, which is not simply a set of propositions to be accepted with intellectual assent. Rather, faith is a lived knowledge of Christ, a living remembrance of his commandments, and a truth to be lived out.

St. Pope John Paul II, Veritatis Splendor (# 88), Into the Deep, May 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Faced with problems and disappointments, many people will try to escape from their responsibility: escape in selfishness, escape in sexual pleasure, escape in drugs, escape in violence, escape in indifference and cynical attitudes. But today, I propose to you the option of love, which is the opposite of escape.

St. John Paul II, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.

St. John Paul II, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

G. K. Chesterton (1 - 3 Lines)

The act of defending any of the cardinal virtues has today all the exhilaration of a vice.”

G.K. Chesterton, In Defense of Humilites, The Defendant, 1901, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it.”

G.K. Chesterton, The Everlasting Man, 1925, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“Fallacies do not cease to be fallacies because they become fashions.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, 4/19/30, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“What embitters the world is not an excess of criticism, but an absence of self-criticism.”

G.K. Chesterton, Sidelights on a New London And a Newer New York, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“The simplification of anything is always sensational.”

G.K. Chesterton, Varied Types, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

To have a right to do a thing is not at all the same as to be right in doing it.

G.K. Chesterton, A Short History of England, 1917, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

“The comedy of man survives the tragedy of man.”

G.K. Chesterton, Chesterton.org, ILN 2-10-06, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“The reformer is always right about what is wrong. He is generally wrong about what is right.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN 10-28-22, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“Progress should mean that we are always changing the world to fit the vision, instead we are always changing the vision.”

G.K. Chesterton, Orthodoxy., Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

When learned men begin to use their reason, then I generally discover that they haven't got any.

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, 11-07-1908, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“The modern world, or at any rate the whole modern press, has a consuming terror of plain morals.

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, 5-29-26, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Love means loving the unlovable – or it is no virtue at all.

G.K. Chesterton, Heretics, 1905, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

None of the modern machines, none of the modern paraphernalia... have any power except over the people who choose to use them.”

G.K. Chesterton, Daily News 7-21-06, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“This is the age in which thin and theoretic minorities can cover and conquer unconscious and untheoretic majorities.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN 12-20-19, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“Once abolish the God, and the government becomes the god.”

G.K. Chesterton, Christendom in Dublin, 1933, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and left untried.

G.K. Chesterton, Chapter 5, What's Wrong With The World, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“When a politician is in opposition he is an expert on the means to some end; and when he is in office he is an expert on the obstacles to it.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN 4-6-18, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

It is terrible to contemplate how few politicians are hanged.

G.K. Chesterton, The Cleveland Press, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“It's not that we don't have enough scoundrels to curse; it's that we don't have enough good men to curse them.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN 3-14-08, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

G. K. Chesterton (1 - 3 Lines)

“The whole truth is generally the ally of virtue; a half-truth is always the ally of some vice.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN 6-11-10, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Marriage is a duel to the death which no man of honor should decline.

G.K. Chesterton, Manalive, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people,”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, 7-16-10, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“There are those who hate Christianity and call their hatred an all embracing love for all religions.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, 1-13-06, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“These are the days when the Christian is expected to praise every creed except his own.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, -11-28, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“There would be a lot less scandal if people didn't idealize sin and pose as sinners.”

G.K. Chesterton, The Father Brown Omnibus, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“Men do not differ much about what things they will call evils; they differ enormously about what evils they will call excusable.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN 10-23-09, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“I say that a man has to be certain of his morality for the simple reason that he has to suffer for it.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, 8-4-06, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Theology is only thought applied to religion.

G.K. Chesterton, The New Jerusalem, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“A strange fanaticism fills our time: the fanatical hatred of morality, especially Christian morality.”

G.K. Chesterton, The Moral Philosophy of Merideth, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of a readiness to die.”

G.K. Chesterton, Orthodoxy, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“What is called matriarchy is simply moral anarchy, in which the mother alone remains fixed because all the fathers are fugitive and irresponsible.”

G.K. Chesterton, The Everlasting Man Reprinted by Permission of American Chesterton Society

If we wish to preserve the family, we must revolutionize the nation.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

It is still bad taste to be an avowed atheist. But now it is equally bad taste to be an avowed Christian.

G.K. Chesterton., Introductory Remarks, Heretics, 1905, catholicquotations.com

When a man stops believing in God he doesn't then believe in nothing, he believes in anything.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

Men invent new ideals because they dare not, attempt old ideals. They look forward with enthusiasm, because they are afraid to look back.

G.K. Chesterton, What's Wrong With the World, 1910, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

The modern world is a crowd of very rapid racing cars all brought to a standstill and stuck in a block of traffic.

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, 1926, Reprinted by Permission of American Chesterton Society

We do not need a censorship of the press. We have a censorship by the press ... It is not we who silence the press. It is the press who silences us.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

Whoever marries the spirit of the times soon becomes a widower.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

“My country right or wrong,” is a thing that no patriot would think of saying. It is like saying, “My mother, drunk or sober.”

G.K. Chesterton, The Defendant, 1901, catholicquotations.com

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

G. K. Chesterton (1 - 3 Lines)

Of a sane man there is only one safe definition. He is a man who can have tragedy in his heart and comedy in his head.

G.K. Chesterton, Tremendous Trifles, 1909, Reprinted by Permission of American Chesterton Society

The difficulty explaining why I am Catholic is that there are 10,000 reasons all amounting to one reason: that Catholicism is true.

G.K. Chesterton., Twelve Modern Apostles and Their Creeds, 1926

We are like the penny, because we have the image of the king stamped on us, the divine king.

G.K. Chesterton, Charles Dickens, 1906, catholicquotations.com

Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair

G.K. Chesterton., St. Francis of Assisi, 1923, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“We do not really want a religion that is right where we are right. We want a religion that is right where we are wrong.

G.K. Chesterton – cited by David Mills, Rhetoric, Genius, & Holiness, 04-23-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

For the worst and most dangerous hypocrite is not he who affects unpopular virtue, but he who affects popular vice.

G.K. Chesterton, The Quotable Chesterton

We do not want, as the newspapers say, a church that will move with the world. We want a church that will move the world.

G.K. Chesterton, The Catholic Church and Conversion, 1926, catholicquotations.com

Moderate strength is shown in violence, supreme strength is shown in levity.

G.K. Chesterton, The Man Who Was Thursday, 1908, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Progress has been merely the persecution of the Common Man.

G.K. Chesterton, The Common Man, 07-16-1932, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“The riddles of God are more satisfying than the solutions of man.”

G.K. Chesterton, Introduction to the Book of Job, 1907, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

It has been left to the very latest Modernists to proclaim an erotic religion which at once exalts lust and forbids fertility.

G.K. Chesterton, Sex and Property, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“A new philosophy generally means in practice the praise of some old vice.”

G.K. Chesterton, Illustrated London News, 01-06-1906

The world may learn. by its mistakes; but they are mostly the mistakes of the learned.

G.K. Chesterton, The Common Man, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“Religious liberty might be supposed to mean that everybody is free to discuss religion. In practice it means that hardly anybody is allowed to mention it,”

G.K. Chesterton, Autobiography, 1937

The only good case against Christianity is Christians.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

It is because we are standing on our heads that Christ's philosophy seems upside-down.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Great truths can only be forgotten and never can be falsified.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Merely having an open mind is nothing; the object (goal) of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

A Catholic is a person who has plucked up courage to face the incredible and inconceivable idea that something else may be wiser than he is.

G.K. Chesterton, The Surrender on Sex, 1934, Reprinted permission by American Chesterton Society

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

G. K. Chesterton (1 – 3 Lines)

The complexity of commercial society has become intolerable, because that society is commercial and nothing else.

G.K. Chesterton, *Sex and Property*, Reprinted by Permission of American Chesterton Society

The truth is that the curtness of the Commandments is an evidence, not of the gloom and narrowness of a religion but of its liberality and humanity.

G.K. Chesterton, *Negative and Positive Morality*, Reprinted by Permission of American Chesterton Society

Nothing is negative except nothing. It is not our rescue that was negative, but only the nothingness and annihilation from which we were rescued.

G.K. Chesterton, *Negative and Positive Morality*, Reprinted by Permission of American Chesterton Society

The modern multiplication of wonder does not always lead to the increase of wonder.

G.K. Chesterton, *ILN*, 03-19-1927, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

We adore things most when we love them most. And we love them most when we have nearly lost them.

G.K. Chesterton, *Negative and Positive Morality*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

When we look upon lives so human and yet so small... we feel the same kind of obligation to these creatures that [God] might feel...

G.K. Chesterton, *Babies*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

History is simply humanity. And history will humanize all studies, even anthropology.

G.K. Chesterton, *History Versus the Historians*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Neither reason nor faith will ever die; for men would die if deprived of either.

G.K. Chesterton, *Anti-Religious Thought in The Eighteenth Century*,“

We do not need to get good laws to restrain bad people. We need to get good people to restrain bad laws.”

G.K. Chesterton, *The Quotable Chesterton* p 140 Reprinted by Permission of American Chesterton Society

Everywhere there is the persistent and insane attempt to obtain pleasure without paying for it.

G.K. Chesterton, *A Defense of Rash Vows*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

It is the new orthodoxy that a man may be certain of everything, so long as he is not certain of anything.

G.K. Chesterton, *ILN*, 08-19-1933, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

The journalist, having grown accustomed to talking down to the public, commonly talks too low at last, and becomes merely barbaric and unintelligible.

G.K. Chesterton, cited by Editor, *The Fallacy of Faulty Analogy*, *New Oxford Review*, Oct. 2014

Any truth that a man fears will be good for his soul.

G.K. Chesterton, *Daily News*, 05-06-1905, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

If modern man can be induced (or forced by justifiable violence) to do nothing for ten minutes, his soul will look out of his eyes.

G.K. Chesterton, *The Bookman*, Jan. 1901, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

I believe in the universal extension of rights, but not in the universal extension of privileges.

G.K. Chesterton, *Daily News*, 03-12-1910, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

The scientific machine is now in the hands of men who dare not criticize it and do not know how to control it.

G.K. Chesterton, *NY Times*, 10-05-1930, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

A man can believe in himself so much that he cannot believe in anybody or in anything else.

G.K. Chesterton, *Essay, On Believing in Oneself* Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Psychoanalysis is confession without absolution.

G.K. Chesterton, *Fads and Public Opinion, What I Saw in America*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

The student of Freud is forbidden to forget sex.

G.K. Chesterton, *Introduction to Fancies vs Fads*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

G. K. Chesterton (1 – 3 Lines)

There will be no future for the modern psychology until it again studies the old moral theology.

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, Mar. 30, 1929, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

We are learning to do a great many clever things... The next great task will be to learn not to do them.

G.K. Chesterton, "Queen Victoria", Varied Types, 1903, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

The paper tends more and more to be a record of rare and unrepresentative things, or even of cracked and crazy things.

G.K. Chesterton, ILN, Jan 14, 1933, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

The effect of studying the recommendations of a student of child psychology is generally to make us wonder wildly whether he has even seen a child.

G.K. Chesterton, Columbia, Jan. 1925, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

"The next great heresy will be an attack on morality, especially sexual morality." (warning in 1926)

G.K. Chesterton – cited by Dale Ahlquist, It's Not Gay and It's Not Marriage 09-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"Men may keep a sort of level of good, but no man has ever been able to keep on one level of evil.

G.K. Chesterton – cited by Dale Ahlquist, It's Not Gay and It's Not Marriage 09-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The great saint may be said to mix all his thoughts with thanks. All goods look better when they look like gifts.

G.K. Chesterton, St. Francis of Assisi, 1923, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

We're all in the same boat, and we're all seasick.

G.K. Chesterton, What's Wrong with the World, 1910, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

Christianity got over the difficulty of combining furious opposites by keeping them both and keeping them both furious.

G.K. Chesterton, Orthodoxy, 1908, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

The issue is now clear. It is between light and darkness and every one must choose his side.

G.K. Chesterton, (Chesterton's last words), Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

G. K. Chesterton (4 – 5 Lines)

All men thirst to confess their crimes more than tired beasts thirst for water; but they naturally object to confessing them while other people, who have also committed the same crimes, sit by and laugh at them.

G.K. Chesterton, Illustrated London News, 3/14/1908, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

Christendom has had a series of revolutions and in each one of them Christianity has died. Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.

G.K. Chesterton, cited by Sam Guzman, Chesterton: Youth Will Save the World, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

The obvious effect of frivolous divorce will be frivolous marriage. If people can be separated for no reason they will find it easier to be united for no reason.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

When it (civilization) wishes anything done which is really serious, it collects twelve of the ordinary men standing round. The same thing was done, if I remember right, by the Founder of Christianity.

G.K. Chesterton, The Twelve Men, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

To be everlastingly passing through dangers which we know cannot scare us, to be taking oaths which we know cannot bind us, to defying enemies who we know cannot conquer us — this is the grinning tyranny of decadence which is called freedom.

G.K. Chesterton, A Defense of Rash Vows, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Most modern freedom is at root fear. It is not so much that we are too bold to endure rules; it is rather that we are too timid to endure responsibilities.

G.K. Chesterton, What's Wrong With the World, 1910, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

They have invented a phrase, a phrase that is a black and white contradiction in two words — 'free-love' — as if a lover ever had been, or ever could be, free.

G.K. Chesterton, A Defense of Rash Vows, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Mercy does not mean not being cruel, or sparing people revenge or punishment; it means a plain and positive thing like the sun, which one has either seen or not seen.

G.K. Chesterton, A Piece of Chalk, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

The chief practical things of today, like finance and political corruption, are frightfully complicated. We are content to tolerate them because we are content to misunderstand them, not to understand them.

G.K. Chesterton, The Revival of Philosophy, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Most human experience goes to show that the more a family is really a family the better it is — that is, the more it really consists of father, mother, and children.”

G.K. Chesterton, The Boat on a Stormy Sea, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

It will be noted that it is not true, as many suppose, that the rational attack on Christianity came from the modern discoveries in material science. It had already come, in a sense it had already come and gone, before these discoveries really began.

G.K. Chesterton, Anti-Religious Thought in The Eighteenth Century, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Idolatry is committed, not merely by setting up false gods, but also by setting up false devils; by making men afraid of war or alcohol, or economic law, when they should be afraid of spiritual corruption and cowardice.

G.K. Chesterton, Illustrated London News, 9/11/09, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

The trouble with democracy is not democracy. It is certain artificial anti-democratic things that have, in fact, thrust themselves into the modern world to thwart and destroy democracy.

G.K. Chesterton, Democracy and Industrialization, 07-16-1932, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

All things are from God; and above all reason and imagination and the great gifts of the mind.. They are good in themselves; and we must not altogether forget their origin even in their perversion.

G.K. Chesterton, The Quotable Chesterton

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

G. K. Chesterton (4 – 5 Lines)

It was not for any pompous proclamation, it was not for any elaborate output of printed volumes; it was for a few splendid and idle words that the cross was set up on Calvary, and the earth gaped, and the sun was darkened at noonday.

G.K. Chesterton, *Varied Types*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

The intellectuals in this epoch taught definitely and dogmatically that if only men would buy and sell freely, lend or borrow freely, sweat or sack freely, and in practice, steal or swindle freely, humanity would be happy.

G.K. Chesterton, *The Common Man*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

It is easy enough to say the cultured man should be the crowd's guide, philosopher and friend. Unfortunately, he has nearly always been a misguiding guide, a false friend and a very shallow philosopher.

G.K. Chesterton, *The Common Man*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

"Anyone thinking of the Holy Child as born in December would mean by it exactly what we mean by it; that Christ is not merely a summer sun of the prosperous but a winter fire for the unfortunate.

G.K. Chesterton, *The New Jerusalem*, Reprinted by Permission of American Chesterton Society

The modern world as part of a vast and subtle scheme of suggestion, always suggests, directly or indirectly, that Christian morals have been a mistake.

G.K. Chesterton, *G.K.'s Weekly*, 01-05-1929, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Unfortunately, the simplification of laws is rather like the simplification of religions. Few can give an impartial version of the essential elements, because men are divided about what elements are essential.

G.K. Chesterton, *G.K.'s Weekly*, 07-09-1927, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

Liberty is valuable that man may testify to his faith, not that he may turn away from it; liberty is to be preserved that we may preserve our convictions, not that we may lose them.

G.K. Chesterton, *New Witness*, 12-20-1917, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

The worst fallacy of realism ... is the idea that we come nearer to the soul of a human being by climbing over walls and listening at keyholes, whereas the soul is only to be opened with the key of reverence.

G.K. Chesterton, *Daily News*, 03-03-1901, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

It is significant that in recent days every sort of public entertainment has been called "a show," with the implication that as much as possible must be shown.

G.K. Chesterton, *ILN Dec. 31, 1933*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

The transition from the good man to the saint is a sort of revolution; by which one for whom all things illustrate and illuminate God becomes one for whom God illustrates and illuminates all things.

G.K. Chesterton, *St. Francis, Tumbler of Our Lady* 10-04-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"The whole modern world has divided itself into Conservatives and Progressives. The business of Progressives is to go on making mistakes. The business of Conservatives is to prevent the mistakes from being corrected."

G.K. Chesterton, *ILN 4-19-24*, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

It is absurd for the Evolutionist to complain that it is unthinkable for an admittedly unthinkable God to make everything out of nothing, and then pretend that it is *more* thinkable that nothing should turn itself into everything.

G.K. Chesterton, *St. Thomas Aquinas: The Dumb Ox*, 1933, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

G. K. Chesterton (6 – 9 Lines)

The truth is, of course, that the curtness of the Ten Commandments is an evidence, not of gloom and narrowness of religion, but, on the contrary, of its liberality and humanity. It is far shorter to state the things forbidden than the things permitted: precisely because most things are permitted, and only a few things are forbidden.”

G.K. Chesterton, ILN 1-3-20, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

An imbecile habit has risen in modern controversy of saying that such and such a creed can be held in one age but cannot be held in another. Some dogma was credible in the 12th century, but is not credible in the 20th. You might as well say that a certain philosophy can be believed on Mondays, but cannot be believed on Tuesdays.

G.K. Chesterton, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

“The center of every man’s existence is a dream. Death, disease, insanity, are merely material accidents, like a toothache, or a twisted ankle. That these brutal forces always besiege and often capture the citadel does not prove that they are the citadel.”

G.K. Chesterton, Sir Walter Scott, Twelve Types, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

“Though the academic authorities are actually proud of conducting everything by means of examinations, they seldom indulge in what religious people used to describe as Self-Examination. The consequence is that the modern state has educated its citizens in series of ephemeral fads.”

G.K. Chesterton., Nash's Pall Mall Magazine, April 1935, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

If we treated all grown-up persons with precisely that dark affection and dazed respect with which we treat [the limitations of an infant, accepting their blunders, delighted at all their faltering attempts, marveling at their small accomplishments], we should be in a far more wise and tolerant temper.

G.K. Chesterton, Babies, Reprinted by Permission of American Chesterton Society

St. Francis [was] a Lover. He was a Lover of God and he was really and truly a Lover of men . . . [And] as St. Francis did not love humanity but men, so he did not love Christianity but Christ . . . [To Francis] his religion was not a thing like a theory, but a thing like a love affair.”

G.K. Chesterton cited by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Without Gloss: St. Francis & the West, 05-22-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Father Hardon (1 – 3 Lines)

Only those who clearly and profoundly understand their Catholic Faith will survive in today's paganized America.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Unless we have hope and trust in God, we shall be infallibly unhappy.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The price of happiness is the acceptance of God's will in our lives.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

To make a decision: *Reflect, Consult, Pray, Decide*. Now the matter is closed.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The heart of the true Faith is belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

It is most important for us to see the hand of God in the trials in our life.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

One condition for salvation is that we remain little children in the eyes of God throughout our lives on earth. This is not easy.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The secret to happiness is to see everything in our lives as a gift from God.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss/compiled by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Ask our Lady to obtain from Jesus the grace we need to do whatever He tells us.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Christianity without love is paganism.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Love would not be love, love would not exist, unless Jesus Christ came and taught us the meaning of love.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

God will use us to teach the Faith only in the measure we love.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss Dorie Gruss

We are to ask ourselves, "Am I living a true Christian life?"

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

There is nothing that the Catholic Church in our nation needs more than a deeper and clearer understanding of the Catholic Faith.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Nothing less than *the survival of the Catholic Church in our country* is at stake.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

In the Eucharist Christ is present with the fullness of His divinity; in His humanity, present with everything that makes Him Man.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Everything in our life is planned by God to lead us. We are to see everyone who enters our life as a channel of grace, no matter how painful.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The hard, unpleasant, or difficult – use them as sources of grace.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The difference between reason and faith is *prayer*.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Prayerful people ask God, "God what do You want me to do?"

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss, Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Father Hardon (1 – 3 Lines)

It would be a good idea to pray for some one person every day, one who is most likely in Purgatory.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

There has never been such a thing as an ordinary priest.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

To have humility, we need humiliations. God gives us the opportunity to become humble; God allows us to be humiliated.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

We like to talk to other human beings. We should always speak to and be in conversation with God.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Ask, "What do I have in my home to remind me of God?" and "What are the things of God?"

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

It is a constant struggle for each person to restrain or reign in our will so that we can do God's will.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Many can easily study, learn and regurgitate the doctrines of the Church, but it is all too few who live their lives in imitation of Christ.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Lent is meant to provide us the opportunity to grow closer to God by drawing away from ourselves.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Worldly attachments weaken the soul and make us lukewarm in the practice of virtue.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Ask our Lord, "Where have I failed to do that which You would have me do today? And what should I do to make up for it?"

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

We serve God more generously by serving everyone that God puts into our lives.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Live in the presence of God, and ask, "Is this from God?"

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Pleasure comes from the world, happiness from God.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The *fear of God* is the beginning of wisdom.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The secret for us Catholics to re-convert America to Jesus Christ is to be stronger than ever in professing our Faith.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

When you speak, examine your conscience and choose your speech carefully.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Reading is indispensable if we want to grow in the life of God.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

When you read or when you write the will is used, and the will shapes the mind.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The spoken word flies away. The written word remains.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The soul needs to be nourished with good spiritual reading of the Faith. Without spiritual reading the Faith weakens, withers and dies.

Fr. Hardon, The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Father Hardon (1 – 3 Lines)

Make sure to know what the Catholic Church teaches. Not everyone who writes about the Church is a friend of the Church.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

***Self* is the worst enemy we have.**

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

No one gets to Heaven alone; we either help others get to Heaven or we will not get there.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

“We beg You, dear God, to deepen our faith in the Real Presence, for we need the miracle of *believing* in You *without seeing* You.”

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

We are to *pray* and to *labor* and *struggle* to bring God back to the millions who have given up their faith in God.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

We have a temptation and urge to think nice thoughts of ourselves. Self-praise is a temptation. Break any thoughts of just how good we are. Put it aside.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

When discussing the rights of man, know that God has rights. And we must assert the rights of God.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

A good moral life is the practice of the virtue of honesty, of chastity, of meekness and patience, of humility and diligence.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Advertising is that which makes people buy what they don't need with money they don't have.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

The process of secularization has gone so far that evangelization has to begin again in nations that were once professedly Christian and even Catholic.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

If you do not believe that the Eucharist is Christ, His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, you are not a Catholic.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Science is our human effort to understand the world in which we live. Religion provides the foundation for this understanding.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Those who deny the validity of the Bible should logically deny all recorded history because the Bible is the most historically provable book in the world.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

When we accept the cross as a proof of our love for our Lord, even the hardest trials of life become bearable.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Timeless Wisdom; S-1

Father Hardon (4 – 5 & 6 – 9 Lines)

There is one truth that is absolutely fundamental to all the rest, which synthesized the whole of Christianity. Christ gives the answer, "*By this all men know that you are my disciples: if you have love for one another.*"

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Give our citizens the courage to choose leaders of our nation who respect the sanctity of unborn human life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of the family and the sanctity of marital relations.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Unless we recover the zeal and the spirit of the first-century Christians, unless we are willing to do what they did and to pay the price they paid, the future of our country, the days of America are numbered.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

Never before in the history of mankind have we more needed our faith in God Incarnate. It is our faith that keeps us sane in a world that has literally lost its mind in pride.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

A good norm for discovering what God wants of you is to prayerfully give yourself the advice you would give to someone else whom you know as well as you know yourself

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

When we make a decision we have only two questions to ask ourselves:

One: Do I love and believe in God and want to save my immortal soul?

Two: All our decisions are to be based on the first. Will this decision enable me to love God more and save my soul.

Fr. Hardon, *The Words and Wisdom of Father Hardon* by Dorie Gruss,
Reprint by permission of Dorie Gruss

REFLECTIONS; S-1

Crabby Old Woman

What do you see nurses? What do you see?
What are you thinking when you look at me?
A crabby old woman, not very wise, uncertain of habit,
with faraway eyes.
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice, "I do wish you'd try!"
Who seems not to notice the things that you do, and
forever is losing a stocking or shoe?
Who, resisting or not, lets you do as you will,
with bathing and feeding, the long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes nurse, nurse, you're not
looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,
brothers and sisters who love one another.
A young girl of sixteen with wings at her feet,
dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.
A bride soon at twenty, my heart give a lap,
remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
At twenty-five now, I have young of my own,
Who need me to guide and a secure happy home.
A woman of thirty, my young now grown fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.
At forty, my young sons have grown and are gone.
But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn.
At fifty once more, babies play round my knee,
Again we know children, my loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,
I look to the future, I shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own,
And I think of the years and the love that I've known.
I'm now an old woman and nature is cruel,
Tis just to make old age look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles, grace and vigor depart, and
There is now a stone where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass, a young girl still dwells,
And now and again, my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years all too, gone too fast,
And accept the stark fact, that nothing can last.
So open your eyes people, open and see,
Not a crabby old woman; look close ... and see ME!!!
Written by an old lady in the geriatric ward of a small hospital near
Dundee, Scotland. The staff believed she had nothing of value. As the
nurses were going through her possessions they found this poem.
They were so impressed, that copies were made and distributed.

Seasons of The Heart

Don't think it strange, this trial you bear
This mood of darker hue
For the joys you knew just yesterday
Will soon return to you.
Nature has her changing seasons
So, too, the heart of man;
The key is getting through it, though,
Lies right there in your hand ...
Stretch forth that hand to someone else
Yes, pass the key to them;
For in helping someone else you'll find
That's where your joy will stem.
And that one you've helped to find the sun
Now holds the precious key,
And someone else in prison darkness ...
Is soon set free!

Denise A. DeWald

Holiness

Holiness is not something that comes from doing
good; we do good because we are holy.
Holiness is not something we acquire by avoiding
evil; we avoid evil because we are holy.
Holiness is not something that follows from prayer;
we pray because we are holy.
Holiness is not the result of kindness; we are kind
because we are holy.
Holiness is not something that blossoms when we
are courageous; we are courageous because we
are holy.
Holiness is not the result of character building; we
build character because we are holy.
Holiness is not a gift we obtain after a lifetime of
service; we give service because we are holy.
Our holiness is God with us, Emmanuel. And while
it is true that holiness carries with it both the Cross
and Resurrection, it is more a gift than a reward.

Father John Catoir, former Director, The Christophers

REFLECTIONS; S-1

Life

I counted dollars while God counted crosses,
I counted gains while he counted losses,
I counted my worth by things gained in store,
But he sized me up by the scars that I bore.
I coveted honors and sought for degrees;
He wept as He counted the hours on my knees.
I never knew till one day by a grave,
How vain are the things we spend life to save.
I did not know till a friend went above,
That richest is he who is rich in God's love
Unknown.

True Sight

May the Lord Jesus touch our eyes,
As he did those of the blind.
Then we shall begin to see
in visible things those which are invisible.
May He open our eyes to gaze,
Not on present realities,
But on the blessings to come.
May He open the eyes of our heart
To contemplate God in spirit,
Through Jesus Christ the Lord, to whom
Belong power and glory through all eternity.
Adamantius Origen (185-254)

My Angel Walks With Me

Some people say God's angels
Walk on earth with us.
They bring into our lives
God's gifts of joy and love.
It's funny how God knows,
The perfect angel to send.
Because He sent me you -- an angel --
In the package of a friend.
For this I am grateful,
I feel I was truly blessed,
God not only sent an angel,
But He sent the very best.
So they who say that in the heavens
Is where the angels fly,
I say, "Well mine walks with me on earth --
As a friend right by my side.

Lisa DeGennaro

Serving the Lord

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou
deservest;
To give and not count the cost;
To fight and not heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labor and not to ask for any reward
Save of knowing that we do thy will.
St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556

Through Peace to Light

I do not ask O Lord, that Thou shouldst shed
full radiance here,
Give but a ray of peace that I might tread
Without a fear;
I do not ask my cross to understand,
My way to see --
Better in darkness just to feel Thy hand
and follow Thee.
Joy is like a restless day; but peace divine
Like quiet night;
Lead me on, O Lord -- till perfect day shall shine
Through peace to Light
Unknown

Seeds of Joy

If I can sprinkle seeds of joy
On someone's barren plot
And bring to light some cause for hope
That he long forgot;
If I can lighten someone's load
That seems too great to bear,
Assuring him his fellow man
Is not too rushed to care;
If I can help renew one faith --
Restoring someone's smile,
My life will be enriched to seem
A little more worthwhile.
Dorothy Bettencourt Elfstrom

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (1 - 3 Lines)

“Sin” is a bad word these days. Not because we don't believe in it, but because we don't want to believe in it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Our crisis in vocations results from the deeper crisis of Faith in the Church.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

At the heart of the American model of public life is an essentially religious vision of man, government, and God.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Our First Right: Religious Liberty, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse

Put wisdom first in the hearts of your children, so that knowledge serves humanity, and not the other way around.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

If we really believe that the Gospel is true, we need to embody it in our private lives and in our public choices.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Render Unto Caesar,

When we fail to share our love of Jesus Christ with others, it diminishes it in our own hearts.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Heresy is rarely the denial of truth. Heresy is almost always the emphasis of one truth over others at the expense of the others.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Freedom means that our choices matter. It also means that our mistakes have consequences.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Religion, Journalism, and the New American Orthodoxy, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Christian faith requires from us a habit of connecting the gospel to daily life, and anchoring daily life in the gospel.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

The gospel stands in judgment on each of us. It also rightly stands in judgment on the world and society.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Ultimately, just as there's no Church without the Eucharist, and no Eucharist without the priest, there are no priests without families on fire with Christ.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Faith in Jesus Christ is more than just an item on your weekly “to do” list. It's more than just a piece in the puzzle of your life. It's the heart of the matter.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

The sins of our own lives, no matter how private or public, affect everything around us. There may be lonely sinners, but there are no lonely sins..

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

The Church best serves the world not by trying to “accommodate” the world, but by being faithful to the mandate of Jesus Christ.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

If we truly believe that Jesus Christ is who he says he is, and that the Catholic Church is who she says she is, then we need to live like it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Render Unto Caesar,

The first principle of Christian social thought is this: Don't deliberately kill the innocent, and don't collude in allowing somebody else to do it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput,, Catholic Identity in the Public Square, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The world doesn't need affirmation. It needs conversion. It doesn't need the approval of Christians. It needs witness. And that work needs to begin with us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Religion and Civil Society, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We're better citizens when we're more faithful Catholics.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Column by Michael Warsaw, Reprinted by permission of National Catholic Register,

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (1 - 3 Lines)

All law has moral content. It's an expression of what we ought to do. Therefore law teaches as well as regulates.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Why Faith Matters*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Deliberately killing innocent human life, or standing by and allowing it, dwarfs all other social issues.

Charles Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*

Learn the habit of gratitude, and teach it to your children. What we have is so much more than what we don't have. Gratitude unlocks joy.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Salvation and damnation are not just words in a morality tale. They're real. Heaven exists. Hell exists.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Mass Honoring St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Marianne Cope*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

In the United States, the law currently allows abortion on demand. We live under that unjust law, but we sin only if we give up our struggle to change it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

We need to be active witnesses of our faith, or we're lying to ourselves when we claim to be Catholic.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Changing Our Culture With The Fire of Faith*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

If you speak up for the unborn child in this life, someone will speak up for you in the next, when we meet God face to face.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Why This Work Matters*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The conscious choice to repent and believe the Gospel is the most radical decision a human being can make.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*

As a nation, Americans pay lip service to God on our coinage while forcing Him out of our public life everywhere else.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Why Faith Matters*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Deliberately killing the innocent is always, inexcusably wrong. It sets a pattern of contempt for every other aspect of human dignity.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*

The right to life begins with the unborn child. Nothing can excuse the violence or mitigate the evil of abortion.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *The New Evangelization*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Human happiness can't be separated from the human thirst for meaning. Material things can't provide that meaning.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *The New Evangelization*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Christianity conquered the state through civil society; Islam, to the contrary, conquered civil society through the state.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Public Life and the Lay Vocation*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The more secularized we become, the more we undermine the common good and the more we feed the problems that are hurting us as a nation.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *A City Upon a Hill*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

"You will know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:20). That's the first and best voter guide ever written.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*

We begin to understand our vocations as Christians when we acknowledge God alone is the "Lord and giver of life," and we are His creatures.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Civil society, stripped of a soul, inevitably turns on the people it was meant to serve.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Religion and Civil Society*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We can never serve the common good by betraying who we are as believers or compromising away what we hold to be true.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Religion and Civil Society*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (1 - 3 Lines)

We cannot collaborate with evil without gradually becoming evil ourselves.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizen, Winter 2011

The freedom of faith we enjoy in this country needs to be earned and defended by all of us, again and again, or we'll lose it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Acceptance Speech, Canterbury Award, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Happiness consists not in accumulating money or things, but in discovering and pursuing the path God intends for us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

We're always bound to treat other people with charity, justice and prudence. But that can never be an excuse for our own inaction or silence.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, A City Upon a Hill, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The Commandments, then, are our standards for living, and also the rules for our own spiritual health.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living the Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

The construction of a Christian culture begins by lifting our own hearts up to God, without plans or reservations, and letting Him begin the work.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Life in The Late Republic, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We can't build a just society with the blood of unborn children.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Rendering Unto Caesar, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Our moral witness needs to be formed not by the nightly news, but by learning and living an authentic Catholic faith.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Catholics and the "Fourth Estate," Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The two pillars of Catholic social teaching are respect for the sanctity of the individual and service to the common good. Abortion violates both.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Being Human in an Age of Unbelief, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse,

Do we really believe in Jesus Christ, or don't we? And if we do, what are we going to do about it?

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Catholics and the Next America, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The power of Baptism is real. The delusion in our world isn't faith, but the lack of it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

We need to be faithful with our minds as well as our hearts, and we can't be faithful to, and we can't love, what we don't know.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

In Catholic belief, all human life, no matter how wounded, flawed, young or old, is sacred because it comes from God.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Why Faith Matters, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The first cell of society is the family, and as the family goes, so goes the soul of the culture.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Knowledge without the virtues of wisdom, prudence, and above all, humility to guide it, is not just unhelpful; it's dangerous. .

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Being Human in an Age of Unbelief, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse, The Witherspoon Institute.

If we don't remain true in our public actions to what we claim to believe in our personal lives, then we only deceive ourselves, because God isn't fooled.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Why This Work Matters, 03-2010, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Our rights come from God, not from the state. Government is justified only insofar as it secures those natural rights , promotes them and defends them.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Subject to The Governor of the Universe, 03-2011, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Only acting in and on our faith, does our faith become fully real.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Ten Ways to Deepen Our Relationship With God, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (1 - 3 Lines)

We need to really believe what we say we believe.
Then we need to prove it by the witness of our lives.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living Within the Truth, 8-2010,
Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We need to obey God first; the obligations of
political authority always come second.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living Within the Truth, Reprinted by
permission of archden.org

As adults, each of us needs to form a strong
Catholic conscience, Then we need to follow that
conscience when we vote.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Rendering Unto Caesar, Reprinted by
permission of archden.org

We get the elected officials we deserve. Their virtue
– or lack of it – is a judgment not only on them, but
also on us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Citizenship, Community and Public Life,
Reprinted by permission of archden.org

What we believe about God shapes what we think
about the nature of men and women, good human
relationships, and our ideas of a just society.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Repentance and Renewal in the Mission
of Catechesis, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The real choice in accepting or rejecting a child with
special needs is between love and unlove; between
courage and cowardice; between trust and fear.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Address to Phoenix Catholic Physician's
Guild, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We can't claim to be "Catholic" and "pro-choice" at
the same time without owning the responsibility
where that choice leads – to a dead unborn child.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Rendering Unto Caesar, Reprinted by
permission of archden.org

In arguing for the fiction of abortion rights, "pro-
choice" typically means agreeing to the even bigger
fiction that nobody really had a choice.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Rendering Unto Caesar, Reprinted by
permission of archden.org

Faith is confidence in things unseen based on the
word of someone we know –in this case, God.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Renewing the Church and her Mission in
a Year of Faith, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Because we are born for God, we belong to God.
And any claims that Caesar may make on us, while
important, are secondary.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Subject to the Governor of the Universe,
Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We have the power to unlock the power of creation,
but we lack the humility to use it for real human
progress.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Catholic Higher Education, Reprinted by
permission of archden.org

Marriage is the foundation and guarantee of the
family. And the family is the only sure foundation
and guarantee of society.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Humanae Vitae: The First 35 Years,
Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Married love is the seed of renewing what it means
to be "human" in an age that's forgotten the purpose
of human life.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Humanae Vitae: The First 35 Years,
Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Contraception is the choice of refusing life.
Deliberately sterilizing and attacking new life for the
world is a choice for death.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Humanae Vitae: The First 35 Years,
Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The right to life is the foundation of every other
human right. If that right is not inviolate, then no
other right can be guaranteed.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living Within the Truth, Reprinted by
permission of archden.org

The defense of newborn and preborn life has been
the central element of Catholic identity since the
Apostolic Age

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living Within the Truth, Reprinted by
permission of archden.org

Killing unborn children is a form of homicide. It's a
profound attack on human dignity, because all other
rights depend on the right to life.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Render Unto Caesar Revisited,
Reprinted by permission of archden.org

What makes the Christian faith convincing in any
age is the zeal of everyday Christians.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Render Unto Caesar Revisited,
Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (1 - 3 Lines)

Conscience is the voice of God's truth in our hearts, and it should usually make us uncomfortable, because none of us is yet a saint.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar Revisited*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We need to speak and act in a spirit of truth. And we need to demand the same from other people, including our elected and appointed leaders.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*, Personal Faith and Public Duty, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Dishonest language leads to dishonest politics – which then leads to bad public policy and bad law.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*, Personal Faith and Public Duty, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Relativism is now the civil religion of the West.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living Within the Truth*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

It's important for our own integrity and the integrity of our country to fight for our pro-life convictions in the public square. Anything less is a kind of cowardice.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Being Human in an Age of Unbelief*, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse

We can't call ourselves Catholic, and then simply stand by while immigrants get mistreated, or the poor get robbed, or unborn children get killed.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholic Identity in the American Public Square*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

What is the enemy within the [human] city? If I had to give it a name, I think I would call it “technological secularism.”

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Politics and the Devil*, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

The central problem in constructing a Christian culture is our lack of faith and cowardice it produces.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Life in the Late Republic*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Silence feeds the soul. Silence invites God to speak. And silence is exactly what American culture no longer allows.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Building a Culture of Religious Freedom*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We need to recover our distinctive Catholic identity and history. Then we need to act on them.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Building a Culture of Religious Freedom*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Being in the United States in the weeks before Christmas is an education in what the culture really worships. It worships commerce.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *The New Communities and the New Evangelization*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Unless we live our faith not just in our private behaviors, but in our public actions, including our political involvement, then we're living a lie.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *City Upon a Hill*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Competence without character is a good recipe for wickedness.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Fighting the Good Fight for Religious Freedom*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Each of our lives matters. What we do has consequences for our own eternity and those around us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *City Upon a Hill*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We need to make ourselves available to God before we can reasonably ask God to be available to us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Changing Our Culture with the Fire of Faith*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

God works his miracles through every one of us to the degree we give ourselves entirely to him.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Mass for Philadelphians at the March for Life*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We live in a time when our national leadership seems committed to policies, both at home and abroad, that are gravely evil.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Mass for Philadelphians at the March for Life*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Faith matters because it drives us to do what's right.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Why Faith Matters*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We create a culture of life in the measure that we give our lives to others.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Why Faith Matters*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (1 - 3 Lines)

The renewal of our country begins with the conversion of our own lives, and then our personal witness to the world around us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Why Faith Matters*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We're never as smart as we think we are, and we have a bad track record when it comes to preventing the worst uses of our best discoveries.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Being Human in an Age of Unbelief*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Modern life in developed countries is becoming a cocoon of narcotics, from pornography and abortion to crack cocaine.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *The New Evangelization*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The Word of God remains young and alive only to the degree that you and I live it zealously ourselves and share it generously with others.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Changing Our Culture with the Fire of Faith*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Without God, the whole world is salt. When we lose our sense of God, we lose our sense of hope.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Thirsting for God, Thirsting for Hope*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Freedom of religion is more than freedom of worship.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Testimony to the Commission on Civil Rights*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Threats against religious freedom in our country are not imaginary or overstated. They're happening right now. They're immediate, serious, and real.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Our First Right: Religious Liberty*, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse,

There is no such thing as "humanism without God." It never endures. And it ends by attacking the humanity it claims to serve.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholic Witness and Religious Liberty in Light of 2013*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Religious faith and practice are cornerstones of the American experience.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Our First Right: Religious Liberty*, Printed With Permission by Public Discourse

Real faith always bears fruit in public witness and public action.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholic Witness and Religious Liberty in Light of 2013*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Baptism involves us in a struggle for the soul of the world, whether we choose to see the struggle or not.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Junipero Serra and his Witness for Today*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

In too many instances, if we look at the way American Catholics live, we consume, relativize, and trivialize like everyone else.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Life in The Kingdom of Whatever*, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse,

One of the conceits of our age is that reason and science have banished superstition and brought a new era of light to human affairs.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Fire Upon the Earth*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 10-2013

Faith transforms the whole person precisely to the extent that he or she becomes open to love.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Fire Upon the Earth*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 10-2013

The rights of the poor and the rights of the unborn child flow from exactly the same human dignity guaranteed by the God who created us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Politics and the Devil*, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

The day when culture, ethnicity and habit could sustain a Catholic life is gone – and it's not coming back.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Nation of Faith, Nation of Immigrants*, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse,

Our country's laws and institutions come from a moral worldview shaped by Christian belief.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Nation of Faith, Nation of Immigrants*, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

The only thing new in today's discussion of religion and politics is the dishonesty of those who try to frame religion as a threat to public discourse

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Nation of Faith, Nation of Immigrants*, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (1 - 3 Lines)

Christian faith is always personal but never private. It either guides our behavior all the time, both in public and in private, or it's phony.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Nation of Faith, Nation of Immigrants, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

Politics is a struggle for the soul of the world. This is why Catholics always will be, and should be, politically engaged.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Nation of Faith, Nation of Immigrants, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

What is abortion but a form of intimate violence that clothes itself in democracy? The will to power of the strong is given to the force of law to kill the weak

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living Within the Truth, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We cannot be sure of our lives even tomorrow. And to the degree God grants us the gift of tomorrow, its content depends on our choices and actions today.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Archbishops Column 5-04-2011, Denver Catholic Register, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Abortion is the foundational human rights issue of our lifetime. It can't be ignored or alibied away.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Some Thoughts on Catholic Faith and Public Life Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Adoration grounds our whole being in the real reality: the fact that God is God, and man is his creation

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, 2014 Erasmus Lecture, Strangers in a Strange Land, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 12-2014

Abortion is the assassination of hope. It's the murder of a society's future.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, 2014 Erasmus Lecture, Strangers in a Strange Land, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 12-2014

God made us for heaven, but we work out our salvation here on earth.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

Shari'a law claims to protect religious minorities. In practice, it slowly smothers them.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

We're made in the image and likeness of God. And if there is no God, then human dignity is just elegant words.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

Our moral failures and our intellectual choices have had consequences over the centuries. And now our culture is fractured.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Life in The Kingdom of Whatever, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse,

A culture that rejects God always invents another, lesser godling to take his place.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Politics and the Devil, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse,

Whether rich or poor, emperor or peasant, Christian or pagan, all people in every age have a hunger for meaning in every age.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

The more secular we become, the less we care about the true, and the right and the lasting.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

We've become skeptical about our ability to really "know" anything, and we've stopped asking profound questions.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

We stopped believing in God and began believing in ourselves. Now we're losing our faith in ourselves and putting our faith in our tools.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

Our ambition must be to repair a culture of unbelief and heal the inhuman politics that flows from it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Life in The Kingdom of Whatever, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse,

We're agnostic about human meaning in the same way we're agnostic about God.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (1 - 3 Lines)

The more we subordinate the sanctity of the human person to the tools we create, the less human we become.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

Wisdom comes to the humble, not to the proud. And that simple truth may help us understand the moment we've arrived at in the life of our nation.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

It took less than thirty years for abortion to go from a crime against humanity at Nuremberg to a constitutional right.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

The wisdom which the Church offers the world is for the humble, not the proud, and it's the only wisdom that counts: the path to salvation.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

The shape of today's mass culture is different from anything the Church has faced in past decades.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Evangelizing Young Adults*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 01-2013

The moral renewal of our nation begins with the moral renewal we allow God to work in each of our own hearts.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Weekly column, Christian Witness and America's Birthday*, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

The right to pursue happiness does not include a right to excuse or ignore evil in ourselves or anyone else

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Building a Culture of Religious Freedom*, Reprinted with permission by *Public Discourse*

What makes abortion so grievous is the intimacy of the violence and innocence of the victim.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Being Human in an Age of Unbelief*, Reprinted With Permission by *Public Discourse*

All law serves "or should serve" the dual purpose of protecting the dignity of the human person and advancing the common good.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Violent Video Games and the Rights of Parents*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2011

Creation is more than an accident of dead matter. It's a romance. It has purpose. It sings of the Living God. It bears his signature.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *CatholicPhilly.com, Into the Deep*, July 2013, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Nothing is more compelling than a good man, or a good woman, in an evil time.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *CatholicPhilly.com 11-07-2013, Into the Deep*, Aug. 2013, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

It's time to live our Catholic faith as the apostles did – and through it, to reshape the world.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, 01-30-2013, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

God can be mocked, but in the end, his order can't actually be overturned.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Law and Morality in Public Discourse*, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

The sins of our lives, no matter how private or public, affect everything around us. There may be lonely sinners, but no lonely sins.

Charles Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith* Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

The family is the seed of the Church.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Column, The Family and its Mission*, 08-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

In mother, father and child, we find the sign of God's own nature — a community of love; three in one; distinct persons within a unity.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Column, The Family and its Mission*, 08-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

As religious practice has dropped, two things have happened: The cult of the self has grown, and so has the power of the state

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Column, The Family and its Mission*, 08-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

We learn the habit of courage, of love, of *choosing life* — the habit of real Christian faith — in the school of the family.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Column, Choosing Life*, 07-15-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (1 - 3 & 4 – 5 Lines)

Anyone who wonders what “marriage equality” really means need only watch the fallout in our laws, courts and public policies over the next decade.

Archbishop Chaput, Peace on Earth 2015, 07-06-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

“The family, founded upon marriage freely contracted, one and indissoluble, must be regarded as the natural, primary cell of human society.”

St. Pope John XXIII, Cited by Archbishop Chaput, Peace on Earth 2015, 07-06-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

The deliberate killing of innocent life is a uniquely wicked act. No amount of contextualizing or deflecting our attention to other issues can obscure that.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Column, There is no Equivalence, 08-10-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

When you read early Christian literature, practices like adultery and abortion are often described as part of “the way of death” or the “way of the [devil].”

Archbishop Charles Chaput, Church and State Today, 10-26-2007, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of

catholicreligionteacher.com The world around us has a hole in its heart, and the emptiness hurts. Only God can fill it.

Archbishop Charles Chaput, The Prince of this World ..., 01-27-2010, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

Democratic pluralism does not mean that Catholics should be quiet in public about serious moral issues because of some misguided sense of good manners.

Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2010, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois,

Lent is a time of repentance. It’s also a time for forgiving even the wicked. But it’s also a time to remember and learn from history — even when the whole world wants to forget it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Remembering A Forgotten Genocide, 03-05-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

We too easily forget that every good service the government provides comes with a growth in its regulatory power. And that power can be used in ways nobody imagined in the past.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, On Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

Religious liberty is a “natural” right because it’s hardwired into our human nature. And freedom of religious belief, the freedom of conscience, is – along with the right to life – the most important right any human being has.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

To put it another way, *Dignitatis Humanae* is not just about freedom *from* coercion. It’s also about freedom *for* the truth. The issue of truth is too easily overlooked.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

More than 70 percent of the world now lives with some form of religious coercion. Tens of thousands of Christians are killed every year for reasons linked to their faith.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

But the deeper problem, the one that’s crippling us, is that we use words like justice, rights, freedom and dignity without any commonly shared meaning to their content.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

There is no such thing as morally neutral legislation or morally neutral public policy. Every law is the public expression of what somebody thinks we “ought” to do.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Politics and the Devil*, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

Today a new and even more effective atheism “the practical atheism of an advanced but morally empty liberal consumer culture” is pushing the Church to society's margins.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Fire Upon the Earth*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 10-2013

The reasonable person understands that what we eat, drink, and breathe will make us healthy or sick. In like manner, in what we hear and what we see lifts us up or drags us down.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Violent Video Games and the Rights of Parents*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 04-14

So much of the suffering in modern American life “we see it every day” can be traced to our misdirected desires, and distractions we use to feed them. We look for joy and purpose in things that can never give us either.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Fire Upon the Earth*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 10-2013

Religious liberty isn't a privilege granted by the state. It's our birthright as children of God. And even the worst bigotry can't kill it in the face of a believing people.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *City Upon a Hill*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Campus ministry needs to lead young adults not just to good religious activities that keep them busy, but also to the beautiful silence that enables a person to hear the will of God and entrust his or her life to Jesus Christ.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Evangelizing Young Adults*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 01-2013

Healthy Catholic life demands excellence, self-denial, love for the Church and her teachings, a disciplined focus on the needs of others, and an ongoing hunger for knowing and doing God's will.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Young Adults and “Secrets of the Heart”*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Over the past five decades, we've moved from a culture permeated by religious faith to a culture that seems increasingly indifferent or cynical toward religion in general and Christianity in particular.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Young Adults and “Secrets of the Heart”*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Like it or not, our nation's best ideals are incoherent and unsustainable without their religious grounding. And as we lose that grounding, our problems get worse.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *City Upon a Hill*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The signs of our times in the developed world – morally, intellectually, spiritually, and even demographically – are very similar to the world at the time of the Incarnation.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*,: *Personal Faith and Public Duty*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

America is now mission territory. Our own failures helped to make it that way. We need to admit that. Then we need to re-engage the work of discipleship to change it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Building a Culture of Religious Freedom*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The Catholic faith is always personal but never private. If our faith is real, then it will bear fruit in our public decisions and behaviors, including our political choices.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholic Identity in the American Public Square*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Scripture tells us that the Christian citizen must “render unto Caesar” the things that are Caesars and to God, the things that are God's. The press can't help us with that task, because it doesn't know, and often doesn't want to know, the difference.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholics and the Fourth Estate*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

American culture is a new kind of mission territory. It's a cocoon of marketing, entertainment and manufactured appetites; a narcotic of distraction, noise and relentless propaganda for self-absorption and confused sexuality.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *The New Communities and the New Evangelization*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

America's media, including its news media, are the greatest catechetical syndicate in history. And if that kind of power doesn't make us uneasy, it should at least make us alert.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholics and the Fourth Estate*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Killing or funding the killing of unborn children has nothing to do with promoting human health, and including these things in “health care” proposals, no matter how shrewdly hidden, is simply a form of lying.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholics and the Fourth Estate*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The task of being a Christian disciple changes in its details from country to country and age to age, but the basic mission is always the same – to bring the world to Jesus Christ; and Jesus Christ to the world.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar: Personal Faith & Public Duty* Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Cooperating in abortion or quietly tolerating it is a grave evil. We can incrementally seek to restrict and eliminate abortion, but we can never accept it as a so-called “right.”

Bishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar Revisited*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

People unwise enough to accept a slogan like “marriage equality” without challenging its honesty and examining its massive implications, are people capable of doing things even more foolish.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, the human struggle is always the same: We're in this world, and yet we hunger for the next; We're imperfect, and yet we were made for perfection.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

People who conform their hearts to the ideas of the age disappear along with the age. Nothing is older than yesterday's “new thing” and the people who worshiped it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

We were created to live in the present, worship God in the present, serve the poor in the present, and support each other in the present, but to ready ourselves for eternity.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith*, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*, 07-2013

In the name of tolerance and pluralism, we have forgotten why and how we began as a nation; and we have undermined our ability to ground our arguments in anything higher than our own sectarian opinions,

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholics and The Next America*, Reprinted with permission of *First Things*, 09-2010

We can't simultaneously serve the poor and accept the legal killing of unborn children. We can't build a just society, and at the same time, legally sanctify the destruction of generations of unborn human life.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Politics and the Devil*, 04-11-2011 Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

Politics often works like a virus. The simpler a political slogan is, the faster people absorb it, the faster they transmit it, the less likely they are to really think about it – which means they don't develop an immunity to its content.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Politics and the Devil*, 04-11-2011, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

What's new today is the seeming collusion – or at least an active sympathy – between some media organizations and journalists, and political and sexual agendas hostile to traditional Christian beliefs.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Religion, Journalism, and the New American Orthodoxy*, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse,

As Catholics, like so many other American Christians, we have too often made our country what it is through our appetite for success, our self delusion, our eagerness to fit in, our vanity, our compromises, our self-absorption and our tepid faith.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholics and The Next America*, Reprinted with permission of *First Things*, 09-2010

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

It's hard to live a life of virtue when all around us, in the mass media end even in the lives of colleagues and neighbors, discipline, restraint, and self-sacrifice seem irrelevant.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Life in The Kingdom of Whatever*, 11-06-2012, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

We've lost the foundation for our moral vocabulary. This loss has starved our spirit, debased our sense of any higher purpose to life, and destroyed our ability to defend or even explain any special dignity we assigned to the human person in the past.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Being Human in an Age of Unbelief*, 11-08-2011, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

The separation of Church and state” does not mean – and it can never mean – separating our Catholic faith from our public witness, our political choices and our political actions.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Little Murders*, 10-18-2008, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

We have a duty to treat all persons with charity and justice. We have a duty to seek common ground where possible. But that's never an excuse for compromising with grave evil.

Charles J. Chaput, *Building a Culture of Religious Freedom*, 07-27-2012, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

We need to realize that America's founding documents assume an implicitly religious anthropology – an idea of human nature, nature's God, and natural rights – that many of our leaders no longer really share.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Our First Right: Religious Liberty*, 03-25-2013, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

Catholic moral convictions about abortion, contraception, the purpose of sexuality and the nature of marriage are rooted not just in revelation, but also in reason and natural law.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Testimony to the Commission on Civil Rights*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

From the cross at San Damiano, Jesus said to Francis: Repair my house which is falling into ruin. Those same words are meant for every Christian life and home and parish. How we respond is up to us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Without Gloss: Francis of Assisi and Western Catholicism*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Politics and courts are important. But our religious freedom ultimately depends on the vividness of our own Christian faith – in other words, how deeply you and I believe it, and how courageously we live it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Catholic Witness and Religious Liberty in Light of 2013*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Our economy runs on a steady catechesis of entitlement and dissatisfaction. And billions are spent every year on a nonstop creation of one new appetite after another. That's not living. That's not even human.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Without Gloss: Francis of Assisi and Western Catholicism*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

It's not that people have forgotten how to think. Rather, too many of us think badly, or just don't like thinking at all. We have no common body of beliefs to inform our public logic and discourse.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput *Without Gloss: Francis of Assisi and Western Catholicism*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The “how” of a new evangelization, or any evangelization, needs to begin with our own repentance and conversion. That hasn't changed since St. Paul walked the roads of Asia Minor.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Changing Our Culture with the Fire of Faith*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Technology, wealth and power may feed our vanity, but they're not the same as wisdom, moral purpose and character. And they don't give us any security, because only God can do that.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Changing Our Culture with the Fire of Faith*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

In practice, American society now breeds a kind of radical self-focus and practical atheism – not by refuting faith in God, but by rendering God irrelevant to peoples needs and urgencies of the moment.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Junipero Serra and his Witness for Today*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

And like material poverty, moral poverty has consequences. It brings fear of new life, a turning away from children, confused sexuality and broken marriages.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *The New Evangelization*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

A “new” evangelization must start with the sober knowledge that much of the once-Christian developed world, and even many self-described Christians, are in fact pagan.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Junipero Serra and his Witness for Today, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Old patterns of religious faith among many adults have faded into a kind of vague “spirituality,” which then shapes the world into which American adolescents are socialized.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Junipero Serra and his Witness for Today, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

If we took just one hour of the time we waste on television each day and used it to study and pray over the Gospels, we'd be fundamentally different people, and our country and world would be transformed

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Archbishops Column 7-13-2011, Denver Catholic Register, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Where we put our time shows the world what we really value and believe. What we really believe shapes our choices. And our choices shape our eternity.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Archbishops Column 7-13-2011, Denver Catholic Register, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The effect of our technology, when it becomes a cult of progress, is to capture us in a river of urgency and change that never stops, never slows down – but it never really feeds our deepest needs.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Religion and Civil Society, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The achievements of Catholic higher education in America are beyond question. But its also true that today, some Catholic universities and colleges, and some Catholic charitable ministries, seem to be “Catholic” in name only.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, The New Evangelization, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Every Christian life, and every choice in every Christian life, matter eternally. Laypeople, not clergy, have the task of evangelizing the secular world, and only you can do it as God intended.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Public Life and the Lay Vocation, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

For religious believers not to advance their convictions about public morality in a public debate is not an example of tolerance. It's an example of cowardice.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Divided Hearts, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

When the "separation of Church and state" begins to mean separating religious faith from public life, we begin to separate government from morality and citizens from their consciences.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Divided Hearts, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Our courts and legislatures now routinely take actions that undermine marriage and family life, and seek to scrub our public life of Christian symbolism and signs of influence.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living Within the Truth, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We face an aggressively secular political vision and a consumerist economic model that result – in practice, if not in explicit intent – in a new kind of state encouraged atheism.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living Within the Truth, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

No matter how many other things bear good fruit for the Gospel in our day, there is no ongoing presence of Jesus Christ in the world without the Church; there is no Church without the Eucharist; and there is no Eucharist without the priest.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Archbishops Column 5-18-2011, Denver Catholic Register, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

There are no real atheists in America. Quite the opposite. We have a thriving free market of little gods to worship. Sex and technology have very large congregations.-

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, The Lutsinger Legacy in Denver, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

There's no such thing as morally neutral legislation or morally neutral public policy. Every law is the public expression of what somebody thinks we “ought” to do.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Why this Work Matters, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

The practical unbelief we now face in our societies is, in large measure, the fruit of our own flawed choices in teaching, parenting, religious practice and personal witness.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Why this Work Matters*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Our culture is doing catechesis every day. It works like water dripping on a stone, eroding people's moral and religious sensibilities, and leaving a hole where their convictions used to be.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Repentance and Renewal in the Mission of Catechesis*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Nothing we do to defend the human person, no matter how small, is ever unfruitful or forgotten. Our actions touch other lives and move other hearts in ways we can never fully understand.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Why This Work Matters*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The form of the Church, and the form of every Christian life, is the form of the cross. Our lives must become a liturgy, a self-offering that embodies the love of God and the renewal of the world.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living Within the Truth*, 8-2010, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The state exists to defend the rights of man and to promote his flourishing. The state can never be the source of those rights. When the state arrogates to itself that power, even a democracy can become totalitarian.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living Within the Truth*, 8-2010, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

A society where faith is prevented from vigorous public expression is a society that has fashioned the state into an idol. And when the state becomes an idol, men and women become the sacrificial offering.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living Within the Truth*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Human progress means more than getting more stuff, more entitlements and more personal license. Real progress always includes man's spiritual nature.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Some Thoughts on Catholic Faith and Public Life*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

My point in mentioning abortion is this: Its widespread acceptance in the West shows us that without a grounding in God or a higher truth, our democratic institutions can very easily become weapons against our own human dignity.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living Within the Truth*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We created the birth-control pill to space children within a marriage more "rationally." What we got was a crashing birth rate, gender confusion, wrecked families and marriages, and a circus of sexual dysfunctions.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Humanae Vitae: The First 35 Years*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We can't simultaneously commit ourselves to human rights, and then vote for people and policies that attack the weakest among us. And as Catholics, we can't live our commitment to the sanctity of human life only as a private piety.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Citizenship, Community and Public Life*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

As believers, our task in the Liturgy involves working to recover the right focus and proper reverence in our worship. The Mass is not a show, or a performance, or a kind of entertainment. The Eucharist is about God.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Catholic married love always implies the possibility of new life. Because it does, it drives our loneliness and affirms the future, and because it affirms the future, it becomes a source of hope in a world prone to despair.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

We live in a society that speaks piously about protecting the environment and rescuing species on the brink of extinction. But then it licenses the killing of unborn children and the abuse of human fetal tissue as lab material.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Being Human in an Age of Unbelief*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

We owe no leader any submission or cooperation in the pursuit of grave evil. In fact, we have the duty to change bad laws and resist grave evil in our public life, both by words and our non-violent actions.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Rendering Unto Caesar*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

There is no greater sign of our culture's impact on the Eucharist than the fact that we no longer see Sunday as the first day of the week but as the final day of our "weekend."

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Glorify God by Your Life*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The Mass should be the spiritual offering we make to begin each week, not something we try to "fit in" among our leisure activities before we have to return to work on Monday.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Glorify God by Your Life*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

History is made -- and nations are built -- by people who believe in something zealously and act on it in the public square, not by people who have a neutrality or even a skepticism toward all belief.

Charles Chaput, *Address to Colorado Legatus*, 01-09-2003, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The Catholic who picks and chooses his doctrines sets his judgment above that of the Church. In doing so, in a certain sense he removes himself from her.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

A purely secular interpretation of the "separation of church and state" would actually result in the "separation of state and morality." And that would be a catastrophe for real pluralism and the democratic process.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Denver Catholic Register*, 04-21, 2004, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

People of religious faith need to live their moral witness courageously, as a matter of public record and civic responsibility – or we'll lose our faith even as a matter of private principle.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Citizenship, Community and Public Life*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

In practice, almost nothing of what we believe as Catholics is affirmed by our culture. Even the words "human" and "person" are subject to debate. And other tenants of the Catholic worldview are aggressively repudiated or ignored.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Glorify God by Your Life*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Faith should impregnate everything we do. It should bear fruit every day in beauty and new life. That's why God doesn't need "nice" Christians, Christians who are personally opposed to sin, but too polite to do anything about it publicly.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

The formation that spouses give to each other and to their children -- if done with love, courage, energy and persistence -- can move the world and change society.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

We need a new examination of conscience today. We need to look critically at how many of our actions result from submitting the world to our faith and how many from submitting our faith to the world.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

If Pope Paul VI was right about so many of the effects of contraception, it's because he was right about contraception itself. So, in seeking to become whole again as persons and as a nation, we need to begin by revisiting *Humanae Vitae* with open hearts.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

A kind of foggy worldliness has settled into the American Catholic soul. In effect, a great many Catholics keep the Catholic brand name, but they freelance what it means.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*

The "separation of church and state" does not mean – and it can never mean – separating our Catholic faith from our public witness, our political choices and our political actions..

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Rendering Unto Caesar*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

The most important single thing any of us can do to grow in Christ, reform our hearts, renew the Church, and change the world is simply this: Go back to confession, regularly and sincerely.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

All of us are required, if we're going to be faithful Christians, to embrace the gospel and the Church for what they are, not for what we'd prefer them to be.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

If we believe in Jesus Christ and the Church He founded, then we need to conform our hearts and actions to what Christ's Church teaches. That means recovering the holiness of Sunday.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

The Constitution is a great achievement in ordered liberty. But it's just another elegant scrap of paper unless people keep it alive with their conviction and lived witness.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Subject to the Governor of the Universe*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Nothing is more powerful than the witness of Christian men and women loving God and serving God's people; working together; and sharing lives of courage, joy and friendship.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *New Evangelization*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Politicians who say they personally oppose abortion, but then don't work to change the laws in order to protect unborn life, are examples of the most damaging kind of secularism.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living the Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

A Christian marriage involves equality of dignity for the spouses, but difference in roles. We are *not* autonomous selves. God made us — beautifully — to need each other.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Column, The Family and its Mission*, 08-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

"Pro-choice," as an expression, has no connection at all with the real, flesh-and-blood event of abortion. Abortion always involves a killing. But the language surrounding it has become sanitized, evasive, and dishonest..

Archbishop Charles Chaput, *Citizenship, Community and Public Life*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

If we withhold our religious and moral beliefs from our political debates because of a misguided sense of good manners, we are not being "polite." In the contrary: We're stealing from the public conversation.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *City Upon a Hill*, 02-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Whether we ever figure out the subatomic structure of the universe, we will soon encounter the Four Last Things (death, judgment, hell and heaven) , up close and personal.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Catholic teaching on abortion and sexuality is part of the integral vision of the human person that fuels Catholic teaching on immigration, economic justice, racism war and peace.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Why Faith Matters*, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The real religion of vast numbers of American young people is a kind of fuzzy moral niceness, with an undemanding God on duty to make people happy whenever they need him.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *New Evangelization* , Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We need to remember that tolerance is not a Christian virtue and it's never an end in itself. In fact, tolerating grave evil within a society is itself a form of evil.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Rendering Unto Caesar*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Most religious believers accept, at least in theory, that they'll be judged by the God of justice for their actions. For science, God is absent from the courtroom.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Being Human in an Age of Unbelief*, Reprinted With permission by Public Discourse

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

If we find ourselves disagreeing as Catholics with the teaching of our Catholic faith on a serious matter, it's probably not the Church that's wrong. The problem is more likely with us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Render Unto Caesar, Personal Faith and Public Duty, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

If we say we're Catholic, we need to show it by our love for the Church, and by our fidelity to what she teaches. Otherwise we're just fooling ourselves, because God certainly won't be fooled.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Render Unto Caesar Revisited, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The Church in the United States has done a poor job of forming the faith and conscience of Catholics for more than 40 years. And now we're harvesting the results – in the public square, in our families and in the confusion of our personal lives.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Rendering Unto Caesar, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Christianity is worthless as a leaven in society unless people actually believe in Jesus Christ, follow the Gospel, love the Church and act like disciples with passion and purpose.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, 2014 Erasmus Lecture, Strangers in a Strange Land, 12-2014, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*

Ignoring the needs of the poor among us is the surest way to dig a chasm of heartlessness between ourselves and God, and ourselves and our neighbors.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, 2014 Erasmus Lecture, Strangers in a Strange Land, 12-2014, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*

The dogma of tolerance cannot tolerate the Church's belief that some ideas and behaviors should not be tolerated because they dehumanize us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

People who uphold a traditional moral architecture for sexuality, marriage and family have gone from mainstream conviction to the media equivalent of racists and bigots. This is impressive, It's also profoundly dishonest and evil.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, 2014 Erasmus Lecture, Strangers in a Strange Land, 12-2014, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*

We need to remember that democracy is not an end in itself. Majority opinion doesn't determine what's good and true. Like every other form of power, democracy can become a means of repression and idolatry.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, The Great Charter at 800, 01-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

A man can't give what he doesn't have. If we want to change the culture of a nation, we need to begin by taking a hard look at the thing we call our own faith.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, 2014 Erasmus Lecture, Strangers in a Strange Land, 12-2014, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*

To put it another way, without the natural law, human rights have no teeth. fact, so-called "human rights," when they're divorced from the natural law, become inhuman.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Law and Morality in Public Discourse, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The role of a Catholic husband and father — a man who sacrifices his own desires, out of love, to serve the needs of his wife and children — adds a vital dimension to the home.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Column 02-28-2015, Man-up Philly 2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

God created men and women to be his sons and daughters – children whom he loves, not mere animals; and vastly more than property, or trash, or chattel.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Column 02-06-2015, Man-up Philly 2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The most important first step families can take in building a world of justice, mercy and charity is to *pray often and together*. We can't stop there, but we do need to begin there.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Column 12-31-2014, The Family and Social Justice, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

It (*Familiaris Consortio*) especially encourages families to "be the first to take steps to see that the laws and institutions of the state not only do not offend, but support and positively defend the rights and duties of the family.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Column 12-31-2014, The Family and Social Justice, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

Spiritual Revolution, 08-16-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We need to remember two simple facts. In practice, *no* law and *no* constitution can protect religious freedom unless people actually believe and live their faith – not just at home or in church, *but in their public lives*

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The American Jesuit thinker John Courtney Murray rightly warned that if we try to give everything that's morally good the force of the law, people will sooner or later start to think that whatever is legal is also moral.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Law and Morality in Public Discourse, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We need to remember that the battle for hearts and minds runs deeper than winning a particular issue at the polling booths. Conversion is more important, and much more far-reaching, than any particular legislative debate.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Law and Morality in Public Discourse, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

When we divorce our politics from a grounding in virtue and truth, we transform our country from a living moral organism into a kind of golem of legal machinery without a soul.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, The Great Charter at 800, 01-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The misfortune of our times is that our courts have systematically overturned and sought to reshape the will of the people on the nature of marriage. And this has implications.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Catholic Witness and the March for Marriage, 05-30-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Religion is to democracy as a bridle is to a horse. And *only* religious faith can guide and moderate democracy because it appeals to an Authority higher than democracy itself.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, The Great Charter at 800, 01-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Christian discipleship is not about how generous we feel, or our good intentions, or even how well we do certain religious duties. It's about being converted in our lives according to the pattern of Jesus Christ.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, St. Francis, Pope Francis and today's

We need to work vigorously in law and politics to form our culture in a godly understanding of human dignity and the purpose of human freedom.

Otherwise, we should stop trying to fool ourselves that we really believe what we claim to believe.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, The Great Charter at 800, 01-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We live in the earthly city with its earthly ends. But we're ultimately fulfilled only by our final end: communion with God when we see him in the glory of eternal life.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Law and Morality in Public Discourse, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The great paradox of God's plan is that we only achieve justice through the practice of mercy. Mercy changes both the giver and the receiver. It softens the hardened heart.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Weekly Column of 02-27-2015, Into the Deep, Apr.. 2015, Reprint permission by stonesswillshout.com/wp

Everything in Catholic social ministry begins and ends with Jesus Christ. If it doesn't, it isn't Catholic. And if our social work isn't deeply, confidently and explicitly Catholic in its identity, then we should stop using the word 'Catholic.' It's that simple."

Archbishop Charles Chaput, Address to Caritas International, 06-21-2011, ITD Sept. 2011, Reprint permission by stonesswillshout.com/wp

The Catholic faith is not an ideology. It's a romance. It's a love affair with God. We're a people who believe in Jesus Christ – not the ideas, but the *person* of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for our sake purely out of his love for us.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Without Gloss: St. Francis & the West, 05-22-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The recent Senate vote to defund Planned Parenthood was not only right and timely, but *necessary*. And the failure of that measure involves a public failure of character by every Catholic senator who voted against it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Column, There is no Equivalence, 08-10-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (4 – 5 Lines)

If we priests want to be true shepherds, we need to form active Catholic apostles in our people. That means shaping real lay leaders. If we're not zealous, they won't be. If we're not faithful and courageous in what the Church teaches, they won't be.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, What Renewing the Church Really Means, 06-03-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

As mediating institutions like Churches and families decline, the state expands to fill the gaps. And because individuals are isolated and weak against the power of the state, the real freedom of a society also declines.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Column, The Family and its Mission, 08-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

And the last thing we need from religious — including Catholic — leaders in the face of this profoundly flawed Supreme Court decision is weakness or ambiguity.

Archbishop Chaput, Peace on Earth 2015, 07-06-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

As America's bishops wrote more than 15 years ago and many times since, the right to life is the foundation on which all other Catholic social action rests. If no "right to life" for the unborn child exists, all other rights are merely fiction.

Archbishop Chaput, Pentecost and the Nature of Speaking the Truth, 05-21-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

There can be no "social justice," no "common good" based on compassion and human dignity, in a nation that allows the daily, routine killing of its own weakest members — the developing lives of unborn children.

Archbishop Chaput, Pentecost and the Nature of Speaking the Truth, 05-21-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The early Christians staked their lives on the belief that God is our Father. They respected Caesar, but they didn't confuse him with God, and they put God first.

Archbishop Charles Chaput, Church and State Today, 10-26-2007, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

Evil talks a lot about "tolerance" when it's weak. When evil is strong, real tolerance gets pushed out the door. And the reason is simple. Evil cannot

bear the counter-witness of truth.

Archbishop Charles Chaput, Zenit.org 26-01-2014, Into the Deep, Apr. 2014, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The fundamental crisis of our time, and the special crisis of today's Christians, has nothing to do with technology, or numbers, or organization, or resources. It is a crisis of faith. Do we believe in God or not?

Archbishop Charles Chaput, The Prince of this World .., 01-27-2010, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

Politics is never the main content of Christian faith. It can never provide perfect solutions. But no Christian can avoid the duty to work for more justice and charity in our life as a nation, a task that inescapably involves politics.

Archbishop Charles Chaput, There is no Equivalence, 08-11-2015, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

When basic moral convictions and historic religious wisdom rooted in experience are deemed "discrimination," our ability to achieve civic harmony, or even to reason clearly, is impossible.

Archbishop Charles Chaput, Robert P. George, William Lori, Albert Mohler and Russell Moore; Now is the Time to talk About Religious Liberty Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse, 03-03-2015

If we say we're Catholic, we need to show that by our love for the Church and our fidelity to what she teaches and believes. Otherwise we're just fooling ourselves. God certainly won't be fooled.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, There Are Consequences, ITD Feb. 2013, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (6 – 9 Lines)

Real wisdom grows from the moral memory or a culture. The more we debunk and reinterpret the past according to some political or social scientific agenda, the less coherent our memory becomes, and the more irrelevant wisdom like the Bible becomes.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Wisdom, Christian Witness and the Year of Faith*, 07-2013, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

People of religious faith need to demand of both political parties a real commitment to human dignity but never ending there; always starting with the unborn child, but always including the poor, the hungry, the jobless, the immigrant and every stage of human development. That's the Christian witness.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Archbishops column*, 9-22-2004, Reprint permission by [Denver Catholic Register.org](#)

As [Eric] Voegelin says, "The closure of the soul in modern Gnosticism can repress the truth of the soul, as well as the experiences that manifest themselves in philosophy and Christianity, but it cannot remove the soul and its transcendence from the structure of reality."

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Law and Morality in Public Discourse*, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of [CatholicPhilly.com](#)

Teach your children to develop the virtues of the heart. Help them to value fidelity instead of broken promises; patience instead of restlessness; simplicity instead of confusion; humility instead of pride; courage instead of cowardice; honesty instead of excuses; forgiveness instead of revenge; a hunger for justice in place of apathy.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Living The Catholic Faith*, Reprinted by permission of [Franciscan Media](#)

American Catholic life, as it stands today, has already been undermined by the cult of self. We see it in every distorted appeal to personal conscience. We see it in the kind of "cafeteria Catholicism" that throws out the inconvenient parts of Catholic belief but tries to keep the Catholic label.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Nation of Faith, Nation of Immigrants*, Reprinted with permission by [Public Discourse](#)

What we need to do in the years ahead is what God has always asked us to do: forgive each other; encourage each other; protect the weak; serve the needy; raise the young in virtue; speak with courage; and work for truth without ceasing always in a spirit of love.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Fire Upon the Earth*, 10-2013, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

It's profoundly rational to ask what our lives mean; to acknowledge the limits of our reasoning and senses; and to hope for and seek something more than this life. But these questions "so urgent, so fundamental" are exactly the ones modern life buries under a mudflow of distractions and narcotics.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Fire Upon the Earth*, 10-2013, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

This is the central challenge of our time: to give life to a new generation of young adults, to offer the Church to them with new and compelling passion, not merely as an institution or a collection of moral rules, but as the living presence of Jesus Christ, a source of joy and life.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Evangelizing Young Adults*, 01-2013, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

There's no way to contextualize or diminish the evil of a law that allows the killing of innocent, unborn human life. Nor is there any way for any Catholic to accept or ignore that kind of legalized homicide when it comes to decisions in the voting booth or anywhere else.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *2014 Erasmus Lecture, Strangers in a Strange Land*, 12-2014, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

To cultivate virtue, to pursue a life of self-sacrifice is not something anyone can do alone. It's too hard. We need grace. We need companions. We need to be taught and trained. This is why God gave us the Church. Too often flawed and all too human, she is nevertheless our Mother, and always a gift.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Life in The Kingdom of Whatever*, Reprinted with permission by [Public Discourse](#),

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (6 – 9 Lines)

The eagerness of Catholics to push their way into our country's mainstream over the past half century, to climb the ladder of social and economic success, has done very little to Christianize American culture. But it's done a great deal to weaken the power of our Catholic witness.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Building a Culture of Religious Freedom, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

The worst enemies of religious freedom aren't "out there" among the critics who hate Christ, or the Gospel or the Church, or all three. The worst enemies are in here, with us – all of us, clergy, religious and lay – when we live our faith with tepidness, cheap compromise, fear, routine and hypocrisy.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Catholic Witness and Religious Liberty in Light of 2013, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Critics of the Church have attacked America's bishops so bitterly, for so long, over so many different issues – including the abuse scandal, but by no means limited to it – for very practical reasons. If a wedge can be driven between the pastors of the Church and her people, then a strong Catholic witness on controversial issues breaks down into much weaker discordant voices.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Building a Culture of Religious Freedom, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse,

"If we are sincere about our faith, "Conscience" can never be used as an excuse for dismissing what the Church teaches by pointing to her theological critics, voter surveys or public opinion polls, and then doing what we find more convenient. That's dishonest. And God made us for something better than that."

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Denver Catholic Register, 04- 21-2004, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

The modern mind finds it easier to imagine a universe held together by the equivalent of very tiny rubber bands than to talk about God, the devil, heaven, hell, or immortality. Yet the one inarguable fact that we do know about life is that each of us, and all of our loved ones, will die.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Some Catholic parents -- in fact too many Catholic parents -- are willing to sacrifice a good part of their income to get a good moral education for their children, but don't follow it up at home with prayer, discussion, and regular participation in the Liturgy. Yet, that's where the really crucial Catholic education always takes place.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

We need to speak out, not only for religious liberty and the ideals of the nation we love, but for the sacredness of life and the dignity of the human person --- in other words, for the truth of what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, July 15-18 2012, Reprint permission by NCRRegister.com

We can lose our soul as a nation without supporting a lunatic ideology. We can lose our soul in a uniquely American way -- by being selfish and pragmatic, by being faithless in our commitments, and by twisting our freedom into the right to do whatever we want.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

The role of Catholics in America is exactly opposite of what we've been doing for a half a century of more – compromising too cheaply, assimilating, fitting in, fleeing from who we are as believers; and in the process being bleached out and digested by the culture we were sent to make holy.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Life in The Late Republic, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Procreative techniques that turn embryos into objects and mechanically replace the loving embrace of husband and wife violate human dignity and treat life as a product. No matter how good their intentions, these methods reduce human life to material that can be manipulated.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith, Reprinted by permission of Franciscan Media

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (6 – 9 Lines)

In the space of a few decades, an act of violence that was condemned as a "crime against humanity" at the Nuremberg Trials, has become a woman's "right to choose" -- and even an act of convenience. So we really have to ask ourselves whether we're really so far removed from the past as we think.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Citizenship, Community and Public Life*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

If we want a culture of religious freedom, we need to begin it here, today, now. We live it by giving ourselves wholeheartedly to God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ -- by loving God with passion and joy, confidence and courage; and by holding nothing back. God will take care of the rest.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Building a Culture of Religious Freedom*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

Fifty years ago, too many of us avoided receiving Communion out of an excessive fear of our own sins. Today, far too many of us receive Communion unthinkingly, reflexively, with no sense of the urgent need for our own self-examination, humility and conversion. Worse, too many Catholics receive the body and blood of Christ even when they ignore or deny the teachings of His church.

Charles Chaput, *Render Unto Caesar*

The separation of "church and state" does not mean -- and it can never mean -- separating our Catholic faith from our public witness, our political choices and our political actions. That kind of choice would require Christians to deny who we are; to repudiate Jesus when he commands us to be "leaven in the world" and to make "disciples of all nations."

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Rendering Unto Caesar*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

If we're Catholic, then we believe in the sanctity of developing human life. And if we don't really believe in the humanity of the unborn child from the moment life begins, then we should stop lying to ourselves and others, and even to God, by claiming something we're not.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Rendering Unto Caesar*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

If young people are morally and religiously ignorant by the millions, they didn't get that way on their own. We taught them. They learned from our indifference, our complacency, our moral compromises, our self-absorption, our eagerness to succeed, our vanity, our greed, our lack of Catholic conviction and zeal.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Renewing the Church and her Mission in a Year of Faith*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

When people sometimes claim that Islam and Christianity have so much in common, they need to read -- or reread the Creed. Catholics pray the Creed every Sunday at Mass as the framework and fundamental profession of our faith. Devout Muslims reject nearly every line of it.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Renewing the Church and her Mission in a Year of Faith*, Reprinted by permission of archden.org

We need to remember that tolerance is not a Christian virtue. Charity, justice, mercy, prudence, honesty -- these are Christian virtues. And obviously, in a diverse community, tolerance is an important working principle. But it's never an end to itself. In fact, tolerating grave evil within a society is itself a form of serious evil.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., *The Catholic Citizen*, Spring 2010, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Persons who support permissive abortion or same-sex unions, for example, are very comfortable in coercing the public through the courts and lawmaking process. As Christians we should be equally comfortable -- and even more zealous -- in defending the human person and advancing human dignity through legislative and judicial means.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Law and Morality in Public Discourse* Aug. 07, 2014 Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

To raise the question (in abortion) whether we are here concerned already with a human being or not is to confuse the issue. The simple fact is that God certainly intended to create a human being (at conception) and this nascent human being has been deliberately deprived of his life. And that is nothing but murder.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Archbishops column*, 9-22-2004, Reprint permission by Denver Catholic Register.org

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (6 – 9 Lines)

I like clarity, and there's a reason why. I think modern life in the Church, suffers from a phony unwillingness to offend what poses as prudence and good manners, but too often turns out to be cowardice. Human beings owe each other respect and appropriate courtesy. But we also owe each other the truth -- which means candor.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Catholic Citizen, Summer 2009, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Democracy thrives on the struggle of competing ideas. We steal from ourselves and from our fellow citizens if we try to avoid that struggle. Two of the worst qualities in any human being are cowardice and acedia – and by acedia I mean the kind of moral sloth that masquerades as tolerance but leaves a soul so empty of courage and character that even the devil Screwtape would spit it out.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, The Great Charter at 800, 01-26-2015, Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

And if the tradition of the virtues was able to survive the horrors of the last dark ages, we are not entirely without grounds for hope. This time however the barbarians are not waiting beyond the frontiers; they have already been governing us for quite some time.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Law and Morality in Public Discourse, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We live at a time when science, in the name of reason, seems to undermine the credibility of reason itself. We live in a time that's not just anti-ideological, but in many ways anti-intellectual. It's not that people have forgotten how to think. Rather, too many of us think badly, or just don't like thinking at all.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Without Gloss: St. Francis & the West, 05-22-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Having fun is to joy, as having sex is to love – they ought to go together in a rightly ordered way. And when they do, life is beautiful. But too often they just don't, because fun and sex become things to take, things to consume. And joy and love can only grow in a heart that gives.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Without Gloss: St. Francis & the West, 05-22-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

We need to be ready to pay a price for our convictions. We may never be asked to bleed for what we believe. But we do see character assassination, contempt and calumny against good people every day in our public media. We need to prepare for that. Nothing, not even our good name, should stop us from doing what we know to be right.

Archbishop Charles Chaput, Archbishop of Denver, Cleveland Right to Life symposium, 09-03-10 "Public witness can be costly, ITD Aug. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com

A case is sometimes made that abortion is mainly a cultural and moral issue, and politics is a poor solution to the problem. The curious thing is that some of the same voices that argue against political action on the abortion issue seem quite comfortable urging vigorous political engagement on issues like health care, homelessness and the environment.

Charles J. Chaput, There is no Equivalence, Archbishop Chaput's Column: 08-10-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The problem with comfortable Christianity is that it flows along like a lazy river. Little by little it silts up with distractions. It becomes a habit that, by gradual lapses and constant compromises — a little cheating here and there, or maybe a lot — isn't finally Christian at all.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Column, Choosing Life, 07-15-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

In its own words, *Dignitatis Humanae* says "religious freedom ... has to do with immunity *from coercion in civil society* [emphasis added]. Therefore it leaves untouched traditional Catholic doctrine on the moral duty of men and societies toward the true religion and toward the one Church of Christ."

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity: The Declaration on Religious Liberty at 50, 03-18-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Civil marriage is not just about allowing same-sex couples to "marry." It also implies the right to force others to give the marital relationship special treatment in many different contexts. And since terms like "marriage," "family" and "spouse" appear everywhere in U.S. law, the legal conflicts arising from marriage redefinition will become much more frequent.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, What Renewing the Church Really Means, 06-03-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (6 – 9 Lines)

If we can't help a man quench his thirst for God, then any work we do on his behalf loses some of its most important value. If we think we've done enough by writing someone a check, we're mistaken. Truly getting to know someone and sharing our experience of faith can fundamentally change a person's eternal destiny.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *To be Missionaries go Forth*, 07-26-2013, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The historian Gertrude Himmelfarb once noted that America in our lifetime is "living off the religious capital of a previous generation, and [that] capital is being perilously depleted." When the capital is gone, we may not like the results, because the more we delete God from our public life and our private behavior, the more we remove the moral vocabulary that gives our culture meaning.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Changing Our Culture With the Fire of Faith*, 08-13-2013, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The more our economy misuses the language of our desires, dreams and ideals to sell products, to create new hungers and to commodify life ... then the darker our appetites grow, and the more mixed up our dreams and ideals become. We feed our spiritual longings with material things, and we end up starving morally.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Changing Our Culture With the Fire of Faith*, 08-13-2013, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We confuse ourselves to a point where we no longer know what real love, real intimacy, honest work, personal maturity, freedom, virtue, duty, family — and even a meaningful life itself — look like. We're left with a chronic aching for more; more of everything and anything, except the one thing that matters: God.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Changing Our Culture With the Fire of Faith*, 08-13-2013, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We live in an age when almost every scientific advance seems to be matched by some increase of cruelty in our entertainment, cynicism in our politics, ignorance of the past, consumer greed, little genocides posing as "rights" like the cult of abortion, and a basic confusion about what — if anything at all — it means to be "human."

Archbishop Charles Chaput, *The Prince of this World ...*, 01-27-2010, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

If we priests want to be true shepherds, we need to form active Catholic apostles in our people. That means shaping real lay leaders. If we're not zealous, they won't be. If we're not faithful and courageous in what the Church teaches, they won't be.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *What Renewing the Church Really Requires*, 06-03-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The work of this synod needs to show much more confidence in the Word of God, the transformative power of grace, and the ability of people to actually live what the Church believes. And it should honor the heroism of abandoned spouses who remain faithful to their vows and the teaching of the Church.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Marriage as a Witness to Hope*, 10-07-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

We need to be a *welcoming* Church that offers refuge to anyone honestly seeking God. But we need to remain a Church committed to the Word of God, faithful to the wisdom of the Christian tradition, and preaching the truth of Jesus Christ.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Language And Its Implications*, 10-12-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

The Church is "catholic" or universal. We need to honor the many differences in personality and culture that exist among the faithful. But we live in a time of intense global change, confusion and unrest. Our most urgent need is *unity*, and our greatest danger is fragmentation.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Language And Its Implications*, 10-12-2015, Reprinted by permission of CatholicPhilly.com

"We need to call people to perseverance in grace and to trust in the greatness God intended for them — not confirm them in their errors. Marriage embodies Christian hope — hope made flesh and sealed permanently in the love of a man and a woman."

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Cited by Patrick Craine, *Synod's Working Text Risks Compromise With Sin*, 10-08-2015, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (1 – 3 Lines)

In the mystery of God's Providence, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a witness to the dignity of human life. We must be witnesses also.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12-12-2014

Parents must form their children—must educate them—with fidelity to the reality of who they are, and who God made them to become.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Education for Holiness, 10-17-2014

We build a just Christian culture through our public life, through our engagement with the world, through our votes, and through our advocacy.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Let us Not be Afraid, 10-10-2014

Divorce is a symptom of the culture of death. Broken families beget more broken families, broken marriages beget more broken marriage.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., No solution to Divorce Possible Without Strengthening Families, 09-26-2014

In the midst of broken families, it is the Church who must shoulder much of the responsibility for preparing couples to embrace the cross of married life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., No solution to Divorce Possible Without Strengthening Families, 09-26-2014

And in the quiet contemplation of Christ, all of us are called to the joy that makes the Christian life beautiful, and delightful.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Joy of Religious Life, 09-12-2014

What we do in education is worthwhile if young men and women are inspired to live their lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., In Praise of Catholic Schools, 09-05-2014

Let us ask the Blessed Mother to intercede for persecuted Christians. May she be, for all of us, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Our Life, Our Sweetness and Our Life, 08-08-2014

We're called to serve the Kingdom in the very places where God has placed us.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Place Matters, 07-25-2014

"We are the times," says St. Augustine. As we live, the world shall see goodness. How great is a good priest.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., How Great is a Good Priest, 05-30-2014

May we teach the faith, and live the faith, and may our Catholic schools transform families, and transform the world.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., We are all Called to be Teachers, 06-23-2014

Without the participation of religious believers, the principles of justice and freedom are replaced with reckless pursuit of comfort and pleasure.

Charles Carroll, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Our Moral Obligation to Vote, 05-09-2014

The fruit of discipleship is a life transformed in the friendship of Jesus Christ. The fruit of discipleship is holiness.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Fruit of Discipleship, 04-02-2014

Mercy begins with humility. Mercy is the generous forgiveness that restores relationships and rights wrongs. Mercy is a manifestation of love in the face of sin.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Mercy, 04-02-2014

May we contemplate Christ this Lent. And may our hearts, our families, and our nation be transformed.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Source of our Blessings, 03-14-2014

Abortion has begun to erode our national conscience, and with it, our democracy itself. But it is not too late for us to stem the tide.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., In Need of Your Prayers, 01-17-2014

Good law leads us to choose what is good, and bad law tolerates, endorses, or celebrates evil.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Poverty, Justice and the Fight for Freedom, 01-10-2014

We need to put aside our hopes for worldly glory, or fame, or wealth. If we want to find God this Christmas, we need to be with the poor.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Poor Heirs to Christ's Richness, 12-02-2013

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (1 – 3 Lines)

“The family is placed at the center of the great struggle between good and evil, between life and death, between love and all that is opposed to love.”

St. John Paul 11, cited by Bishop Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Comments on book “Hope of the Family,” 10-02-2014

We must be witnesses not only of what we oppose, but also — and even more enthusiastically — of the joy we experience in the Christian life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Comments on book “Hope of the Family,” 02-10-2014

stat crux dum volvitur orbis. “The cross is steady while the world is turning.”

St. Bruno,s motto, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Light Shining out of Darkness, 10-02-2014

Yes, being lovingly open to children requires sacrifice. But sacrifice is the harbinger of true joy. Dear brothers and sisters, I invite you to be open to joy.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Language of Love, 03-25-2014

The culture of life begins with love. To be prophets of life is to demonstrate God’s uniquely personal love for every human life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Fulfilling Our Prophetic Mission, 10-19-2013

Our public lives should be a witness to the justice and mercy of God.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Fulfilling Our Prophetic Mission, 10-19-2013

Twenty years after its promulgation, we must return to *Evangelium Vitae*. Its message becomes more relevant each year.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Preach From the Rooftop 03-25-2015

The consequences of contraception’s denial of the truth about human sexuality, said John Paul, have put “freedom” on the path of self-destruction.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Preach From the Rooftops: *Evangelium Vitae* at Twenty, 03-25-2015

The homes and cities of the West are built on the “shifting sands of relativism,” and we pretend, too often, that popular consensus makes goodness from evil.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Preach From the Rooftops: *Evangelium Vitae* at Twenty, 03-25-2015

John Adams wrote in 1797, “our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Red Mass, 800 years of Prayer, 01-29-2015

When we speak of evangelization, we mean not only the conversion of individuals, but also the transformation of culture.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ever Ancient, Ever New, 10-10-2013

There are many souls to rescue, and a vast cultural wasteland to restore. Both tasks will require fluency in God’s language of beauty.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ever Ancient, Ever New, 10-10-2013

The dictatorship of relativism is the prevailing uncertainty, ambiguity, and confusion that we face in our culture today.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., 800 Years of Prayer: Lawyers, Faith and the Common Good, 01-29-2015

God’s character has not changed, and neither have our temptations. It is easy for us to forget that we have been set apart for God’s sacred purpose.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Freedom, Fasting, and the Courage to be ‘Set Apart’, 06-14-2013

Faith will not always stop the storm – but it always gives us access, in the midst of suffering, to a love that is more powerful than any source of pain.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., A Love Greater than Any Force of Nature, 05-31-2013

We need to celebrate every form of motherhood, and to understand the feminine genius that makes it all possible.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Feminine Genius, 05-17-2013

A religious sense of the common good allows us to make better choices for public governance.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Culture, Transformation and Law 09-27-2012

God is calling us to respond to the violence that has come to characterize our culture. He is calling us to respond with love.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Run the Race Well, 04-26-2013

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley 1 – 3 & 4 - 5 Lines

Consecrated life is a spiritual wellspring, all the more necessary in our secularized society.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., St. Brigid's Greatest Miracle: Fruitful Obedience to God's Call, 02-01-2013

Abortion is the radical choice for personal fulfillment, convenience, or "freedom," even at the immediate expense of another's life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Preach From the Rooftops, *Evangelium Vitae* at Twenty, 03-25-2015, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse

We can't address the great cultural unraveling we're experiencing if we do not address the consequences of contraception and abortion.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Preach From the Rooftops, *Evangelium Vitae* at Twenty, 03-25-2015, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse

Evil coarsens us and deadens us—robs us of the freedom life offers.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pray for Those Who Persecute You, 07-21-2015, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

For fifty years, America has accepted the use of contraception, and the consequences have been dire.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pastoral Letter on Contraception, 09-12-2014

Contraception impedes our share in God's creative love. And thus it impedes our joy.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pastoral Letter on Contraception, 09-12-2014

Contraception and sterilization stifle the natural and supernatural processes of marriage, and cause grave harm.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Letter to Catholic Families and Healthcare Providers, [Zenit.org](#), Into the Deep, June 2014

If we want to reverse our culture's descent into socially accepted hedonism, we need to understand the connection between relativism, contraception, and abortion.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Preach From the Rooftops, *Evangelium Vitae* at Twenty, 03-25-2015, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse

The danger of contraception, *Evangelium Vitae* said, is that it fosters a "hedonistic mentality," a "self-centered concept of freedom," which places personal fulfillment at the center of life's meaning and purpose.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Preach From the Rooftops, *Evangelium Vitae* at Twenty, 03-25-2015, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse

The tyranny of evil is shrouded today in trappings of "democratic consensus." We equate moral goodness with popular consensus. We're shamed into tolerance of evil.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Preach From the Rooftops, 03-25-2015, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse

The culture of death still gains ground, and the weakest among us suffer. Their suffering will be relieved when courageous men and women proclaim Jesus Christ, and witness to the real dignity of human lives made for eternity with Him.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Citing Pope John Paul 11, Preach From the Rooftops, 03-25-2015, Reprinted by permission of Public Discourse

The Founding Fathers believed that religion and the laws derived from religious belief had a fundamental role to play in public and political life. Without it, they feared their noble experiment would fail.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Red Mass, 800 years of Prayer, 01-29 2015

Beauty is the antidote to dull minds and flat souls. Beauty can capture our hearts like nothing else. Beauty—in music, and poetry, and painting, and worship—can open our hearts to the power of God's love.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., SEEK 2015 Focus Conference, 01-01-2015

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (4 - 5 Lines)

In the waters of baptism, we can have new life. In the mercy of confession, we can have forgiveness. And in the Eucharist, we can take and eat Christ's resurrected body, and share in his eternal life in heaven.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Easter Vigil 2015, 04-04-2015

Christ put it even more clearly—"whatever you do for the least of your brothers," he said, "you do for me." If we really love Christ, the needs of those around us will become our needs, and the misfortunes of others will become our concern.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Tua Res Agitur: It Concerns You, 01-09-2015

In truly loving relationships, men and women respect the meaning of sexuality, and its dignity. In truly loving relationships, men and women know they don't need to debase themselves in order to keep a relationship intact.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Real Love and the Urgency of Evangelization, 02-13-2015

We need to build authentic friendships with those hungering for Christ, and in the context of those friendships, we need to witness to the source of everlasting love.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Real Love and the Urgency of Evangelization, 02-13-2015

Couples who choose not to marry are statistically more likely to live in unstable homes, which most often break apart. Children in such situations bear the heaviest cost of their parents' choices.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Stability of Love, 02-05-2015

If we want to continue to build Catholic culture in the Diocese of Lincoln—if we want to continue to form disciples of Jesus Christ—our Catholic schools are essential.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Legacy of Catholic Education, 01-30-2015

The difference between people who know God's love and those who believe they must take their lives is us. Those who believe they are a burden are in need of Jesus Christ's love.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Dying With Dignity, 01-16-2015

Redefining marriage concerns each of us because its impact is profound. For the sake of our neighbors and friends—for the sake of our whole community—we need to continue to proclaim and clarify the truth about marriage.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Tua Res Agitur: It Concerns You, 01-09-2015

Sin—manifested in suffering, in chaos, in selfishness, and in death, cannot be overcome by our hard work, technology or innovation. Sin stands in the way of all we hope to achieve.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Tua Res Agitur: It Concerns You, 01-09-2015

If we wish to be successful evangelists—successful missionaries to a people who need Christ—we need the Blessed Virgin Mary. And in our culture, in our nation, in our communities, and in our families, we need the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12-12-2014

We are connected to every single member of our community—living or dead. We ought to pray for them. And we ought to do all that we can to build a culture of justice, of liberty, and a culture of life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Our Brothers and Sisters, 10-31-2014

When the synod resumes, there will doubtlessly be more debate, more disagreement, perhaps more confusion. But in the end, there will be one winner—the love of Jesus Christ, which brings us all into truth, to joy, and to peace.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Eyes on Rome, Eyes on Jesus Christ, 10-24-2014

Every day in this country, men and women gather to pray that evil places—places which kill more than 1 million unborn children each year—might be redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Each of us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation 10-03-2014

Our nation so desperately needs truth. Our friends and families so desperately need Christ. And, in the aggressively secular culture in which we live, it is ever more difficult to build a civilization of love and a culture of life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Education for Holiness, 10-17-2014

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (4 - 5 Lines)

A good priest helps couples to embrace the sacrificial call of marriage, and to reject the lies of the world about false relationships—the lies of cohabitation, of contraception, of “trial marriage,” or easy divorce.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., No solution to Divorce Possible Without Strengthening Families, 09-26-2014

The life of prayer, of contemplation, of silence, especially, that religious embrace (religious sisters) is a witness to all of us in an era of disconnectedness, and noise, and distraction.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Joy of Religious Life, 09-12-2014

Our religious liberty is not an end in itself. Instead, religious liberty is the freedom for something real—the freedom to “make disciples of all nations”—to spread the Gospel, and its fruits, joyfully.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Hobby Lobby Decision is also a Mandate, 07-11-2014

Hobby Lobby is a victory for human dignity. But it is also a mandate. What’s clear, in the aftermath of the decision, is how toxic our culture has become to faith in public life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Hobby Lobby Decision is also a Mandate, 07-11-2014

Without the voice of Christians in public life, democratic self-government too easily becomes a tool for tyranny, for oppression, and for the triumph of hedonistic self-interest.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., A Man for all Seasons, 06-13-2014

Either we will form our children as disciples of Jesus Christ, the Son of the true God, or they will choose other gods to take His place — and the marketplace is full of them.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., We are all Called to be Teachers, 06-23-2014

All of us are dependent on the Providence of God. Our very lives are a gift of God and our livelihoods are a share in his abundant generosity. We live and breathe by God’s love. We are all reliant on his loving care.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., St. Isadore the Farmer and Divine Providence, 05-16-2014

The Holy Spirit gave the Church John Paul II to protect her and guide her in a most difficult time. And with courage, and dependence on the Blessed Virgin Mary, John Paul embraced the greatness to which he was called.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., St. John Paul 11, 04-26-2014

“A man who is good for anything ought not to calculate the chance of living or dying; he ought only to consider whether in doing anything he is doing right or wrong.”

Socrates, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Death of Jesus Christ is Unlike Any Other, 04-18-2014

We hope and pray for an honorable death. But in the end, what matters only, is that we die in the friendship, and the goodness, and the grace of Jesus Christ.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Death of Jesus Christ is Unlike Any Other, 04-18-2014

In Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, and there alone, is the way to eternal life. Christ’s death is unlike any other—and we are invited to share in his passion, and to share in his resurrection.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Death of Jesus Christ is Unlike Any Other, 04-18-2014

This Holy Week, consider the beauty of Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross, and, free from the noise which draws us away, be transformed by the beauty, and the meaning, of Jesus Christ and his resurrection.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Lead With Beauty, 04-11-2014

The widespread use of contraception opposes a truth as old as humanity itself: that men and women, in the intimacy of sexuality, can share in the active and creative love of God. We’ve forgotten that, and now we face real and immediate consequences.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Gift of Life, 03-21-2014

Yes, we are suffering the consequences of a contraceptive mentality in America. And we will continue to suffer, until more people chose to be open to the gift of life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Gift of Life, 03-21-2014

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (4 – 5 Lines)

Each of us knows the times when we have chosen sin – have chosen our will over God's will. This is why Lent should begin with the sacrament of penance – with a good confession.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Create in us Clean Hearts, 02-28-2014

We need the witness of beautiful families now more than ever before. The family is under attack. Marriage is under attack. And we face the real risk in our culture of forgetting the true and time tested understanding and meaning of marriage itself.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Beauty of Married Love, 02-14-2014

Parents, who are the primary educators of their children, should want more for their children than training for a career, as important as that is. They should want training for living, and training for holiness.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Education: To be fit for Living, 01-01-2014

If we want greatness for our nation, we will work together to end the unspeakable shame of abortion. We will speak from our hearts for those who cannot speak at all.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., In Need of Your Prayers, 01-17-2014

Imagine the transformation of our Church—of culture, in fact—if beautiful liturgy awakened Catholic souls to wonder, to conversion. Imagine the consequences of beautiful liturgy awakening souls to Jesus Christ.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Light Shining out of Darkness, 10-02-2014

We need to find new and creative ways to demonstrate the dignity of all humanity. The elderly, the indigent, the unborn, and the condemned depend upon it.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Fulfilling Our Prophetic Mission, 10-19-2013

May we shed light in the world, and with it, the Gospel of Life. May we see the world as the Lord sees it. May we point to human dignity, to the Kingdom, and to the Lord.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Fulfilling Our Prophetic Mission, 10-19-2013

Christians have something unique to offer in the fight against pornography: an understanding of the human person, of the Christian community, and of grace.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ariel Castro's Addiction 08-06-2013

In 1903, Pope St. Pius X asked "Who will prevent us from hoping that the flame of Christian charity may dispel the darkness from all minds and bring all to light and the peace of God?" May nothing prevent us from our hope in Jesus Christ.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., To Restore all Things in Christ, 10-11-2013

Real love is expressed in sacrifice. God expresses His love to us on the cross, and we express our love to God in our lives—by living in accord with truth. Pope Francis desires that we would know God's love and mercy, and that we respond in kind.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pope Francis leads with the Father's Love and Mercy, 10-27-2013

Every student is made for holiness, made to become a saint. Our schools must lead and draw out from students a sense of their own call to holiness, and a sense of the grace that renews their minds.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Let them be born in Wonder, 08-23-20

The Lord loves the entire world. His salvation is offered to all. But our mission is to make disciples. To proclaim the Gospel. To share the love of Jesus Christ.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Lessons of World Youth Day, 08-09-2013

"Children, should be spared the degrading manifestations and the crude manipulation of sexuality so prevalent today. They have a right to be educated in authentic moral values rooted in the dignity of the human person."

Pope Benedict XV1, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Lessons of World Youth Day, 07-26-2013

When God's people start living like everyone else, there is trouble in store. The loss of holiness, and the embrace of a worldly lifestyle, can cause us to lose our freedom and come under oppression.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Freedom, Fasting, and the Courage to be 'Set Apart', 06-14-2013

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (4 – 5 Lines)

Prayer, fasting, and penance are the first things to disappear, when God's Church decides to live just like the rest of the world. We must restore these practices, if we are serious about defending religious freedom.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Freedom, Fasting, and the Courage to be 'Set Apart', 06-14-2013

Blessed John Paul understood that women are made by God to nurture goodness, virtue, and beauty. Motherhood — whether physical, spiritual, or cultural — is the practice of cooperating with God, as others grow in goodness and become more beautiful, more holy.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Feminine Genius, 05-17-2013

The poets understood that Mary shepherds each new grace into our lives; caring for us and feeding us as a mother. When we invite Mary into our homes and lives, she brings Christ, in new and profound ways.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast, 05-10-2013

Kermit Gosnell's actions are the logical outcome of the abortion mentality. But they are also, in a deeper sense, the result of what Blessed John Paul II called the "contraceptive mentality."

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Abortion, Contraception Consequences on Display in Gosnell's 'house of horrors', 05-03-2013

All of us want, on some level, not a father to form us, correct us, and judge us, but a God who will give the appearance of love, or at least benevolence, without requiring very much of us at all.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., A God of Great Expectations, and Great Mercy, 04-05-2013

Jesus' glorified wounds are the ultimate answer to pain, suffering and injustice. But they are not the kind of "easy answer" or "cheap grace" we might be looking for

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Our Wounded World, and the Glorified Wounds of Christ, 03-29-2013

Our nation is "mission country." While Christianity was once a predominant factor in American cultural life, its influence today has become increasingly marginalized, or, at best, watered down.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Seizing the Chance to Evangelize, in our modern 'Mission Territory', 03-15-2013

Rather than running from the unpleasant truth about ourselves, we should deal with our own sins courageously – in the same way Pope Benedict dealt with what he called the "filth" in the Church.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Benedict's Reforms should Inspire us to 'Cooperate with the Truth' During Lent, 03-01-2013

Benedict XVI found his life's deepest meaning in the sacrifice of his pontificate. He gave up those things that were "his," and opened his arms to the entire world. "One receives one's life precisely when one offers it as a gift."

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Law of the Gift, a final Lenten Lesson from Benedict XVI, 03-08-2013

God shows mercy to each of us, with the expectation that we will use our second chances to do good. And he expects us, in turn, to show the same mercy to others.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., In Debate over Immigrants' Health Care, a Lesson from 'Les Miserables', 02-15-2013

In the eyes of God, the value of a life is determined by the ability to love. And suffering, like the suffering which comes with disability, helps us to love as God himself loves.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Euthanasia Supporters must Learn True Meaning of 'Dignity' and 'Compassion', 01-25-2013

Adoration can transform cities and nations, and it can transform hearts. But the impact of adoration often goes unnoticed. Humble, quiet, simple prayer, which begins every good work, is often forgotten, or dismissed.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Nebraska, The Source of Our Blessings, Into the Deep, May 2014, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

In an age of religious skepticism and moral relativism, we should be able to show how logic and science also support the pro-life position. We need to anticipate opposing arguments and learn to respond in ways the secular world can understand.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Task of Pro-life Discipleship is a Marathon, not a Sprint 01-11-2013

Voting is a means of expressing our hopes for our communities, a means of pursuing justice, and of building a culture of life. Voting is a means to help protect the unborn, the family, the poor, and the freedom of conscience and faith in public life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., An Election Message from the Reverend James Conley 2014

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (4 - 5 Lines)

“Every child that isn’t born, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, has the face of Jesus Christ,” said Pope Francis last year in Rome. When we pray for end to abortion, we join Mary and John and the women of Jerusalem at Calvary.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Each of Us Is a Masterpiece of God's Creation, 10-2014

The freedom to practice the faith is threatened by aggressive unchecked secularism, which stops at almost nothing to establish what Pope Benedict XVI called the “dictatorship of relativism.”

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Martyrs, Witnesses, and Public Life, 03-26-2015,

Good citizenship requires that we fight for the soul of our nation. But we are first citizens of a heavenly city. And being good citizens of the heavenly city requires that we invite every person to freedom: to renewal of heart and mind through Jesus Christ.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Martyrs, Witnesses, and Public Life, 03-26-2015

Under our new circumstances, faith can't be transmitted by habit, routine or osmosis. In our modern "missionary territory," Catholicism must be passed on with passionate conviction, by deeply converted disciples who base their lives on divine revelation.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Seizing the Chance to Evangelize, in our modern 'Mission Territory', 03-15-2013

No Catholic healthcare provider, in good conscience, should engage in the practice of medicine by undermining the gift of fertility. There is no legitimate medical reason to aid in the acts of contraception or sterilization. No Catholic physician can honestly argue otherwise

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pastoral Letter on Contraception, 09-12-2014

Pornography destroys families. It destroys the soul. Pornography robs us of the freedom to have subjective relationships”in a mind addicted to pornography, personal subjectivity is replaced by a dehumanizing, objectifying, abusive kind of relationality.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ariel Castro's Addiction 08-06-2013

Christianity is the faith of unmerited greatness—the faith of heroic virtue, unsurpassed hope, and unbounded charity. The Christian life elevates humanity in the great sanctifying process of *theosis*.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ubi Amor, Ibi Oculus, 03-15-2015, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

The mission of the New Evangelization is to proclaim the living person of Jesus Christ to those for whom God is a benevolent, impersonal, and mostly impotent figure

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ubi Amor, Ibi Oculus, 03-15-2015, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

Reading good books exposes the contemplative part of our humanity. Good books can spur in us a sense of justice, and charity, and generosity. They can expand our souls and inspire our hearts to strive for greatness.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ubi Amor, Ibi Oculus, 03-15-2015, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

Without our even knowing it, holy liturgy effects change in our hearts. Because good and holy liturgy lifts up our hearts—*sursum corda*, as the Roman Canon reads—to an experience of transcendent and ineffable mysteries.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ubi Amor, Ibi Oculus, 03-15-2015, Reprinted with permission by [First Things](#)

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (6 - 9 Lines)

The whole course of Christianity... is but one series of troubles and disorders. Every century is like every other, and to those who live in it seems worse than all times before it.... Religion seems ever expiring, schisms dominant, the light of Truth dim, its adherents scattered.

John Henry Newman, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Eyes on Rome, Eyes on Jesus Christ, 10-24-2014

In families, we learn how to love as God made us. Mothers and fathers, living as God created them, form children for the vocations to which they are called. Families matter. And they matter most of all for children—who depend on the loving stability of mothers and fathers to become virtuous, joyful, and charitable.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., The Stability of Love, 02-05-2015

The world is very confused about the meaning of marriage, about the importance of families and, ultimately, the world is very confused about happiness, and joy, and peace. The world is a dangerous place for anyone who is seeking real love. Christ's love—and his plan for each one of us—is the antidote to that danger.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Tua Res Agitur: It Concerns You, 01-09-2015

Whenever possible, Catholics have an obligation to vote—particularly when critical issues are at stake. Today, in our country, critical issues are certainly at stake. Abortion remains our national shame. Our failure to protect the unborn is a failure of the highest magnitude. The right to life is the foundational human right.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Our Brothers and Sisters, 10-31-2014

Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their schooling choices won't undermine the profound responsibility to which they are called. When schools don't support the vocation of parents, or when they reject the fundamental truths of human identity, parents have a responsibility to work for change in order to protect their children.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Education for Holiness, 10-17-2014

When we pray for an end to abortion, we join Mary and John and the women of Jerusalem at Calvary. We are at a place, a modern day Calvary, where pure innocence meets pure evil. And there, in the unborn children condemned to be aborted, we see the face of Jesus Christ.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Each of us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation 10-03-2014

The secularist social agenda is more palatable to impressionable young people if it complements, rather than competes with, the residual Christianity of their families. The enemy has no interest in eradicating Christianity if he can sublimate it to his own purposes.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Our Pop Culture Moment, 02-07-2014

If the American conscience is deadening, we can look to the millions of children killed by abortion for the reason. If we treat each other with more injustice, more violence, and more vulgarity than ever before, we can know that our tolerance for abortion is at the root.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., In Need of Your Prayers, 01-17-2014

Like Calvary, the abortion clinic is a place where pure innocence and the dark of evil collide. But our faith reminds us that Christ has already claimed victory over evil through his cross and resurrection. At the epicenter of the culture of death, life—blessed, holy, sanctified life, will be the victor.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Bishop Bruskwicz, Apostolate of Joyful Hope, 10-25-2013

God wants the world to be interconnected and unified. But our Father's plan is not based on things like political integration, trade agreements, or electronic media. God's plan is based on the unity of faith, the bond of sacramental grace, and the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our hearts. This is God's vision of globalization, and it is the only kind that will succeed in the long run.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., True Globalization: Uniting the whole world in Christ, 05-24-2013

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (6 - 9 Lines)

The Catholic Church is the pillar and foundation of all truth (1 Tim 3:15). It is said that today more people have questions about faith than ever before while, at the same time, there are fewer people to answer those questions than ever before. This is why we are all called to be evangelizers.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Open the door of Faith, 09-20-2013

We're made with a deep desire to have great souls. And the virtue of "doing the daily things well," is at the root of faithful stewardship. As Christ's disciples, we strive to live out the virtue of magnanimity when we commit to becoming faithful stewards of all that God has given us.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Greatness of Soul, 09-06-2013

As we remember St. Joseph in our public worship, we should also reflect on his example as the head of the Holy Family, the model for every Catholic home. In an unofficial but very real way, Joseph is the "patron saint of the domestic church," just as he is of the Universal Church.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., St. Joseph: Patron of the Universal Church, and the 'Domestic Church' 06-28-2013

Our media outlets thrive on provocation and controversy, but they shrink from life's deeper questions. They shy away from suggesting that abortion might lead to infanticide. They don't dare to ask whether the "contraceptive mentality" makes us callous toward life.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Abortion, Contraception Consequences on Display in Gosnell's 'house of horrors', 05-03-2013

Openness to life is characterized as foolishness or zealotry. But that couldn't be further from the truth. That's what makes it important to provide guidance on this issue. If we want to convince people of the truth, we need to offer real, compelling insights into what we believe. Sadly, the contraceptive mentality has affected even Catholics – so a bishop's job is to offer the opportunity to hear, and follow, the Gospel of Life

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pastoral Letter on Contraception, Zenit.org, Into the Deep, June 2014, Reprinted by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Persecuted and suffering Christians are often forgotten by the world. But the Church does not forget her children – in the Holy Land, the larger Middle East, or anywhere else. The Lord wants us to reach out, with action and prayer, to the suffering members of his Mystical Body.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Holy Land's Struggling Christians need our Prayerful Solidarity, 04-12-2013

Religious faith, and Christianity in particular, provide an external sense of justice and truth, as well as a clear sense of authentic human dignity. Promoting human dignity is the common good. Promoting the family is the common good. Protecting truth and preserving justice is why we make law. We need to bring that perspective to bear in the public square.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Culture, Transformation and Law 09-27-2012

Easter tide has always been a season of mercy, ever since the days that followed Christ's Resurrection. In this sense, Divine Mercy Sunday is not "new," but a reminder of something the Church has always known: that the risen Lord asks great things of us, even though we are sinners who need his forgiveness.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., A God of Great Expectations, and Great Mercy, 04-05-2013

Our faith is not an anesthetic. It is not a prescription against pain. Even those who firmly believe the Gospel must pass through darkness and difficulty. But suffering has a purpose, and injustice does not have the final word. The wounds of this world will someday be a source of joy, and a sign of triumph.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Our Wounded World, and the Glorified Wounds of Christ, 03-29-2013

The Church needs to evangelize by creating a culture rooted in true friendship with Jesus Christ. This begins with our own lives of faith—and with our families, and our friendships. It isn't easy to be Christ's disciples. But our discipleship can transform the world. "Evangelical Catholicism" may help us to do precisely that.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Seizing the Chance to Evangelize, in our modern 'Mission Territory', 03-15-2013

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (6 - 9 Lines)

Among the many forms of self-giving, generosity toward the poor has a special precedence. By giving to those most in need, we discover that we are their brothers and sisters. We learn the difference between our own "wants" and "needs." And we grow in gratitude for what God has given us.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., The Law of the Gift, a final Lenten Lesson from Benedict XVI, 03-08-2013

The prayer of discernment is not goal-oriented, but God-oriented. If the clarity we seek is slow to arrive, the hours spent in God's presence are hardly a waste of time! If we can set aside our impatience, we will find that Christ is gradually preparing us for whatever the future holds.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pope Benedict XVI Leaves us with Lessons in Prayerful Discernment, 02-22-2013

The best way to begin our Lent is by committing to a regular schedule of prayer and sacramental life. We should all, without exception, commit to making a deep and heartfelt confession of our sins during this season of Lent, particularly if it has been a while since our last confession

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Develop Habits of Discipline, Displace Patterns of Sin, 02-08-2013

Suicide is never a dignified way to die. Assisting in suicide is never an act of compassion. But we cannot put an end to tragic acts of euthanasia or assisted suicide if we do not learn and proclaim the meaning of human dignity, and the meaning of human suffering.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Euthanasia Supporters must Learn True Meaning of 'Dignity' and 'Compassion', 01-25-2013

Among the casualties of the contraceptive mentality is the sacredness of sexual relationships. When sex is divorced from procreative potential, infidelity abounds. Sexual license thrives. Pornography flourishes. Divorce abounds. Most tragically, when sex becomes merely about pleasure, it seems to lose its full splendor, and becomes a commodity, an exchange, or a service.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Into the Deep, Apr. 2014, stoneswillshout.com/wp

A culture of violence cannot be legislated out of existence. It must be fought through the building of a consistent, comprehensive Culture of Life. If we want to rid our country of violence and injustice, we must open our eyes to the ongoing violence against the unborn.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Only a Culture of Life can Confront a Culture of Violence, 01-18-2013

There is a profound similarity between the victims of abortion and the early martyrs. Both are victims of a society's attempt to solve its problems by putting people to death. They show us that even an "advanced" and "civilized" culture may commit itself to evil policies and laws.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Only a Culture of Life can Confront a Culture of Violence, 01-18-2013

America today is becoming what I would call a theocracy – a society that is actively hostile to religious faith and religious beliefs. And, I might add, the faith that our society is most hostile toward is Christianity in general and Catholicism in particular.

Bishop James Conley Lincoln Neb., Christian Witness and the Challenge of "Atheocracy." 11-05-2011

God, not government, is the only sure guarantee of human rights and the blessings of our liberty. We need to live as if we believe that. Only a people who believes these truths to be sacred and self-evident, can build a society worthy of men and women created by God.

Bishop James Conley Lincoln Neb., Christian Witness and the Challenge of "Atheocracy." 11-05-2011

America's future depends today, as it always has, on the choices that faithful citizens will make. And that means rediscovering the basic religious and Christian values that are contained in our Declaration of Independence. It means living out our beliefs with what the Declaration calls a "firm reliance on the Protection of divine Providence."

Bishop James Conley Lincoln Neb., Christian Witness and the Challenge of "Atheocracy." 11-05-2011

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop James Conley (6 - 9 Lines)

Religious people are being systematically marginalized in public life, in business, and in schools. The sanctity of marriage as we have always known it is being undermined. The family, and the right of children to have mothers and fathers, is under attack. And the dignity of the poor, whom we are called to love zealously, is often undermined by policy initiatives and greed.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., An Election Message from the Reverend James Conley, 2014

The blood of Christ, poured out on Calvary, can make holy the violent and evil and depraved things of this world. Mary and John prayed for this on Calvary. I pray that we might join them, praying at places of killing for the redemption of all things, made possible in Jesus Christ.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Each of Us Is a Masterpiece of God's Creation, 10-2014

If law continues to be an agent of self-interest, we will see more instances of religious persecution and family disintegration. On the other hand, if law helps us to identify, proclaim, and seek a common good, then we will have turned the tide and served the vision of the Founding Fathers.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., 800 Years of Prayer: Lawyers, Faith and the Common Good, 01-29-2015, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

Love—real love—is about sacrifice, and redemption, and hope. Real love is at the heart of a rich, full life. We are made for real love. And all that we do—in our lives, our careers, and our families, especially—should be rooted in our capacity for real, difficult, unending love.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pastoral Letter on Contraception, 09-12-2014

Tragically, a majority of people in our culture and even in our Church, have used contraception. Much of the responsibility for that lies in the fact that too few have ever been exposed to clear and consistent teaching on the subject. But the natural consequences of our culture's contraceptive mentality are clear.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pastoral Letter on Contraception, 09-12-2014

Anyone who can casually discuss tearing children to shreds while having lunch and a good cabernet is a victim of the father of lies. Anyone who thinks that divvying up murdered bodies does “a little bit of extra good” is a captive subject of the dictatorship of relativism.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pray for Those Who Persecute You, 07-21-2015, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*

A person who believes that evil is good will not have a moral conversion upon being told that she has broken the law. An organization committed to killing does not close its doors because of a public relations problem. But these discoveries might be the catalyst for our prayers. Only grace is capable of liberating hearts that have been ensnared by powerful evil.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pray for Those Who Persecute You, 07-21-2015, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*

Let us pray for those who promote and support the abortion industry. Let us pray that they might experience conversion. Let us pray that they might know mercy and freedom. Let us pray that through Jesus Christ, who came to the world as an unborn child, every abortionist might rediscover the dignity, the joy, and the beauty of humanity.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pray for Those Who Persecute You, 07-21-2015, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*

We focus too often on becoming good processors and producers, manipulators of data, rather than on becoming good human beings—critical minds, and noble hearts, capable of appreciation, engagement, and thought—and hungry for adventure and romance.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ubi Amor, Ibi Oculus, 03-15-2015, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*

Our religious liberty has the potential to transform the world. God may well use the Christians of our generation to end the shame of abortion. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we may well restore the family, and protect marriage, and bring peace to the poor. If we work together in the Holy Spirit, Christians can be the hands and feet of our redeemer.

Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Ecumenical Prayer Service for Religious Liberty, 06-27-2014

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone (1 – 3 & 4 – 5 Lines)

In a society marked by increasing poverty and family fragmentation, marriage needs to be strengthened, promoted and defended, not redefined.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, OSV, 11-25-2012

Redefining marriage never upholds the equal dignity of individuals because it contradicts basic human rights.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, USCCB's Defense of Marriage Chairman, OSV, 11-4-2012

We need to embrace the Cross, repent for our own and others' sins, and get on with telling the truth in love.

Shenan Boquet, cited by Archbishop Cordileone: A Shepherd on the Cross, 03-13-2015, Reprint permission by Truth and Charity Forum.org

St. Augustine wrote that God had one Son without sin, but none without suffering. Christ does not shield us from suffering – he leads us through it.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, San Francisco, Homily for World Day of the Sick, 02-21-2015

“And that, my friends, is the whole point of marriage: to connect husbands and wives to each other and to any children they bring into the world.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, cited by John Burger, Abortion and Marriage Debates are Interrelated, 02-05-2014, Truth and Charity Forum

The pro-life message is filling the void that secular society creates when it excludes God, morality and sensitivity to the beauty of human life.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, at Walk for Life, National Catholic Register, Feb. 10-23-2013

Marriage is primarily about the children, not the adults, such that you cannot be consistently pro-life without being pro-marriage: the two go together. That's the big picture.”

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, cited by John Burger, Abortion and Marriage Debates are Interrelated, 02-05-2014, Truth and Charity Forum.org

“A baby in the womb is thrown away because at least one of the two people who brought that baby into the world has thrown the other away, has rejected the other as someone worthy of commitment, self-surrender, and unconditional love.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, cited by John Burger, Abortion and Marriage Debates are Interrelated, 02-05-2014, Reprint permission by Truth and Charity Forum.org

If we don't save marriage, things will get very dark. The idea that you can change the definition of marriage is a lie. If our society accepts this lie, it will fail.

Archbishop-designate Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, National Catholic Register, 12-30-2012

No matter what policy, law or judicial decision is put into place, marriage is the only institution that unites a man and woman to each other and to any children born of their union. It is either this, or it is nothing at all.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, USCCB, Defense for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, National Catholic Register, 11-18-2012

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki (1 – 3 Lines)

The truth is that we do not judge the truth; the truth judges us.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Catholic Men's Prayer Breakfast, 03-24-2012, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

How very often the words of Saint Thomas More ring true for us: —Alas, how different we are from Christ, though we call ourselves Christians!

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Catholic Men's Prayer Breakfast, 03-24-2012, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

We must each take up the Cross and hold it aloft, allowing its light to illuminate the world around us in the light of truth, which is the light of life.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Catholic Men's Prayer Breakfast, 03-24-2012, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

It is not the Church that must change to conform its teachings to the views of the world, but it is each individual who is called to be configured to Christ.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Prayers for Supplication and Exorcism in Reparation of Same-Sex Marriage, 11-20-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

For a Catholic, a properly formed conscience means to share God's knowledge and the Church's teaching about right or wrong

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, 2013 Red Mass Homily, 10-23-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

We cannot make compromises or justifications when it comes to prayer, for prayer is the needed foundation for us, regardless of our vocation.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Visit to Simon Brute College Seminary, 12-04-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Remaining faithful to our duties of the present moment is one of the best ways for us to be prepared for that unknown moment

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Mass for the Diocesan Enrichment Conference, 11-16-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Wisdom is a gift from God that allows us to see all things in light of God's plan.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Humanae Vitae Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

The tragic decision of the Supreme Court (same-sex marriage) mocks the true meaning of marriage and thereby makes a mockery of itself.

Bishop Paprocki, Homily for Fortnight for Freedom Mass, 06-28-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Let us pray the Lord to help us praise him with Mary's spirit and soul, and to bring Christ back to our world."

Bishop Paprocki, Homily - Vespers with Religious - Year of Consecrated Life, 09-20-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

The greatness to which Jesus calls us is one that is directed toward unity and must be combined with other virtues, such as humility and charity.

Bishop Paprocki, Homily -150th Anniv. of Catholic Life -Bishop Creek - St. Aloysius, 09-20-2015, Reprint permission by Dio. of Springfield, IL

May we never miss an opportunity to do all things, small or large, with true love, thus making all of our actions great.

Bishop Paprocki, Homily -150th Anniv. of Catholic Life -Bishop Creek - St. Aloysius, 09-20-2015, Reprint permission by Dio. of Springfield, IL

The law of love wants to reform our heart or interior dispositions and gives us the grace or power to do so. On our part, it requires our cooperation and effort.

Bishop Paprocki, First Annual Third Circuit Red Mass - Saint Boniface – Edwardsville, 08-30-2015, Reprint permission by Dio. of Springfield, IL

During these 40 days of Lent, let us pray that we as individuals and as a nation may acknowledge, name and resolve to defeat the evils that confront us.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Column – We Must Recognize, Name and Resolve to Overcome Evil, 03-08-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki (4 – 5 Lines)

Christ points us to the truth that divisions between people can never be healed as long as people are pointing fingers at each other instead of examining their own consciences.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord, Taylorville, 12-24-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Unions which are essentially different from marriage (one man and one woman permanently committed to each other) will not become marriage simply by taking on the institutional guise.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Marriage, Same-Sex Relationships and the Catholic Church, 05-31-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

A life rooted in the regular reception of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, is a way of staying united to the love of Christ as He comes to dwell in us through the gift of grace.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Teammate of Christ Catholic Men's Conference, 01-24-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Healing the culture is no small task. It requires a change in how we view human beings around us and it requires a change of heart for an entire society, not just a set of lawmakers

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Nellie Gray Mass, 01-22-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

There is an intimate connection between truth and freedom, for by following the truth as given to us by God, we come to experience the authentic freedom of what it means to be a human being.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Humane Vitae Mass, 08-10-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

If a man, then, is to be courageous he must know that which is good, that which is worth fighting for, that which is worth dying for; "he must be brave for the sake of the good."

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Fathers in Faith and Family, 12-08-12, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

He (Pope John Paul II) reminds us to not be afraid of knowing and following the truth, even when those truths are not accepted by the vast majority of those around us.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Memorial of Pope St. John Paul II, 10-22-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

We are invited to overcome the temptation to buy in to the materialistic and self-centered culture in which we live and to turn our eyes and our hearts to those around us, especially those from whom we shy away or who are pushed away by society.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Nellie Gray Mass, 01-22-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Religion does not concern itself only with heavenly realities or life after death; religion is very much concerned that how we live in this world is indeed connected to how we will live for all eternity in the life to come.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Catholic Men's Prayer Breakfast, 03-24-2012, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

If you, dear brothers, have not yet awakened to the reality of the grave threat to our religious freedom that is now present before us, let my presence among you today be your wake-up call.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Catholic Men's Prayer Breakfast, 03-24-2012, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

It is not hateful to say that an immoral action is sinful. On the contrary, the most compassionate thing we can do is help people to turn away from sin.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Prayers for Supplication and Exorcism in Reparation of Same-Sex Marriage, 11-20-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

"Every unborn child, though unjustly condemned to be aborted, has the face of the Lord, who even before his birth, and then as soon as he was born, experienced the rejection of the world."

Pope Francis, cited by Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Diocesan Respect Life Mass and Rosary Walk, 09-28-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

In this simple phrase – "the King's good servant, but God's first" – St. Thomas More summarizes the call of Christian discipleship and the proper perspective we must all bring to our daily work – to be God's servant first!

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, 2013 Red Mass Homily, 10-23-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki (4 – 5 & 6 – 9 Lines)

The season of Lent is a time for us to accept that we are weak and sinful people born into a beautiful but broken world and then to renew our faith joyfully in the meaning of our baptism.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Column – We Must Recognize, Name and Resolve to Overcome Evil, 03-08-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

As we prepare to taste once again the goodness of God in the Holy Eucharist, let us all pray for the strength contained in that greatest of all gifts so that we will live our lives according to the wisdom of God in every aspect of our lives.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Humanae Vitae Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

We are called to let the “bright light of truth” shine forth to overcome the “darkness of error.” In short, God gives us these challenges as a test of our faith, our hope and our love.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Humanae Vitae Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

We are called upon to be accountable in striving to guard ourselves from those things which threaten to distort our view of the truth, particularly with regard to the dignity of human nature.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Mass for Father-Son Holiness, 06-19-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

While you [sons] look to your fathers and other Catholic men for a good example, do not focus solely on that. Take ownership of your faith and ask the Lord for the graces that you need to become the man that the Lord is calling you to be.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Mass for Father-Son Holiness, 06-19-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Religious liberty is more than being able to pray in our churches, synagogues, mosques and other places of worship; religious liberty means being able to put those beliefs into practice in our hospitals, schools and social services like Catholic Charities.

Bishop Paprocki, Fortnight for Freedom Reflections Prayer Rally 06-23-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

By putting our words and good intentions into action, through God's grace we can indeed reach the highest aspiration of our souls, for the “The Law of the Heart is Love.”

Bishop Paprocki, First Annual Third Circuit Red Mass - Saint Boniface – Edwardsville, 08-30-2015, Reprint permission by Dio. of Springfield, IL

We might ask: why has God allowed these attacks on our faith and our Church to happen? Why did He not answer our prayers for the protection of the true meaning of marriage in our country? The answer, I believe, is that we are being called to put God above all else, even above our nation and our country's laws.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Homily for Fortnight for Freedom Mass, 06-28-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

It is a great challenge to be in the world – to address present things, while keeping our eyes fixed on heaven – because there is a growing “disconnect” between our secular laws and our Christian faith, for example, the secular redefinition of marriage and the religious understanding of holy matrimony.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, 2014 Red Mass Homily, 10-19-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Since the legal redefinition of marriage is contrary to God's plan, those who contract civil same-sex marriage are culpable of serious sin. Politicians responsible for enacting civil same-sex marriage legislation are morally complicit as co-operators in facilitating this grave sin.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Prayers for Supplication and Exorcism in Reparation of Same-Sex Marriage, 11-20-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

We have to go beyond what we think or feel about a certain teaching and follow it in faith, trusting that what God calls us to is better than anything we can think of on our own. There are many examples of this in the teachings of Christ in the Scriptures, where the Lord invites us to something challenging, but which actually leads to something remarkable.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Humanae Vitae Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Pope St. John Paul II, in his Encyclical Letter on the Gospel of Life, wrote that the freedom that is being claimed is rooted in a self-centered concept of freedom that is unwilling to accept the responsibility of one's actions. This view of freedom is the logical result when one defines truth according to one's standard of thinking in opposition to the true standard which comes from God.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Humane Vitae Mass, 08-10-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki (6 – 9 Lines)

In order to see the true beauty of the wisdom of God, we need to allow ourselves to experience it by allowing our lives to be conformed to His will and His plan for us. We have to go beyond what we think or feel about a certain teaching and follow it in faith, trusting that what God calls us to is better than anything we can think of on our own

Bishop Paprocki, *Humanae Vitae* Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

As Catholics, we willingly exercise that faith in what we cannot see or fully understand each time we come to Mass. This is one of the great mysteries of our faith and we live by it. If Christ is able to make good on that promise which, according to human logic, is impossible, why should we doubt that following His teachings for how we live our lives will bring us anything but true peace and happiness?

Bishop Paprocki, *Humanae Vitae* Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

With regards to living the teachings of *Humanae Vitae*, there is no question that it carries challenges. In reality, this is true of any of the teachings of Christ and His Church. They are challenging because they invite us to step out of ourselves where we are most comfortable. As Pope Benedict XVI said so beautifully, “You were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness.”

Bishop Paprocki, *Humanae Vitae* Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

A re-definition of marriage to include same-sex marriage is beyond the competence of the state, because marriage both precedes the state and is a necessary condition for the continuation of the state (because future generations arise from and are formed in marriage).

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, *Marriage, Same-Sex Relationships and the Catholic Church*, 02-12-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

May we resist the many voices of the so-called wisdom of the world that try to lure us away from the truth and persevere in giving ourselves completely to God and one another, as we all strive to be admitted to the wedding banquet in Heaven where we will taste and see the goodness of the Lord for all eternity.

Bishop Paprocki, *Humanae Vitae* Mass Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 08-16-2015, Reprint permission by Dio. of Springfield, IL

Our nation has suffered a loss of virtue and honor that threatens our freedom with the decision of the United States Supreme Court this past Friday attempting to redefine marriage to include same-sex relationships. It was an “attempt” because the State has no moral authority to change what God has created. The government certainly has the legal power in civil law to coerce its definition, but that does not make it morally valid in the higher realm of supernatural realities

Bishop Paprocki, *Homily for Fortnight for Freedom* Mass, 06-28-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

“I encourage Catholics to move forward with faith, hope, and love: faith in the unchanging truth about marriage, rooted in the immutable nature of the human person and confirmed by divine revelation; hope that these truths will once again prevail in our society, not only by their logic, but by their great beauty and manifest service to the common good; and love for all our neighbors, even those who hate us or would punish us for our faith and moral convictions.”

Bishop Paprocki, *Homily for Fortnight for Freedom* Mass, 06-28-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Imitating and manifesting divine love through our actions is the reason why freedom of religion cannot be reduced to freedom of worship. Religious liberty is more than being able to pray in our churches, synagogues, mosques and other places of worship; religious liberty means being able to put those beliefs into practice in our hospitals, schools and social services like Catholic Charities.

Bishop Paprocki, *Fortnight for Freedom Reflections Prayer Rally* 06-23-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties?”

Bishop Paprocki, *On Pope Francis Encyclical Laudato Si*, 06-18-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop/Cardinal Raymond L. Burke (1 – 3 Lines)

We are called to be “Christians Without Borders,”
without boundaries to love our neighbor.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

Our civic responsibility to protect the common good
is informed, first and foremost, by our life in Christ.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

Christ poured out His life on Calvary and never
ceases to pour out His life for all, especially in the
Eucharistic Sacrifice.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

Conscience is the voice of God within us, assisting
us to choose good and to avoid evil, in accord with
God's law.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

It is intrinsically evil to destroy human embryos,
even for some intended good.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

We cannot remain silent. We have a most serious
obligation to bring the moral law to bear upon our
life in society, so that the good of all will be served.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

Our Lady of America calls the people of our nation
to the new evangelization through a renewed
dedication to purity in love.

Raymond L. Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 05-31-2007, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The culture of life is not just Catholic, but is “written
in the hearts of everyone.”

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Backs pro-life legislative efforts, 11-28-2011, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

To the extent in which the Christian family accepts
the Gospel and matures in faith, it becomes an
evangelizing community.

Pope Paul VI, cited by Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family& Freedom, 08-30-2014

Today, one must be attentive to a false notion of
conscience, which would actually use the
conscience to justify sinful acts.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, Confusion between Good and Evil, Zenit.org, ITD, July 2014, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The family at prayer and at worship manifests Christ
alive in the Church most powerfully and, therefore,
attracts many other families to Christ in His Church

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family& Freedom, 08-30-2014

Without a profound moral and spiritual conversion,
an increasingly violent and disordered civilization
“will not survive.”

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Tells students to embrace challenge of public witness, 11-20-2010, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The family is where a child "first learns the truths of
the faith, first prayers, first practices his or her life in
Christ."

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Reflection on First Year in Sacred College of Cardinals, 11-28-2011, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The Mass itself is the "source of our solid teaching,
of our solid witness," and also "the most beautiful
and fullest expression we give to that teaching."

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Reflection on First Year in Sacred College of Cardinals, 11-28-2011, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

It is from the blood of Christ that all draw *the
strength to commit themselves to promoting life.*

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, The Perennial Newness of The Gospel of Life, 05-06-2014, Zenit.org

There is only one kind of marriage as God has given
it to us from the Creation and as Christ has
redeemed it by His saving Passion and Death.”

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Voice of The Family, 03-09-2015

The faithful must be ready to suffer, as Christians
have suffered down the ages, to defend the sanctity
of Holy Matrimony.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Voice of The Family, 03-09-2015

By living “as if God did not exist”, man not only loses
sight of the mystery of God, but also of the mystery
of the world and the mystery of his own being.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, The Perennial Newness of The Gospel of Life, 05-06-2014, Zenit.org

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop/Cardinal Raymond L. Burke (1 – 3 & 4 – 5 Lines)

Through sound family life, our society will be transformed," he added. "Without a sound family life, it will never be transformed."

Archbishop Raymond L. Cardinal Burke, CNS News Brief, 03-06-2015

"Let our hearts bow in adoration of God – open wide to God in unbounded love."

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, Opening homily, Year of the Eucharist, therealpresece.org

"If we can't get it straight with regard to the truth about marriage and the family, we really don't have much to say about anything else,"

Archbishop Raymond L. Cardinal Burke, CNS News Brief, 03-06-2015

"We sadly find the need to speak about 'traditional marriage,' as if there were another kind of marriage."

Archbishop Raymond L. Cardinal Burke, Cited by Patrick Reilly, Cardinal Burke Urges Genuine Catholic Education to Renew Culture, 10-29-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholiccitizens.org

Our civic responsibility for the common good is great, especially in a society which fails to afford legal protection to the weakest and most defenseless,

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

No circumstance, no purpose, no law whatsoever can ever make licit an act which is intrinsically illicit, since it is contrary to the Law of God which is written in every human heart, knowable by reason itself, and proclaimed by the Church" (*Evangelium vitae*, No. 62d).

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The secularism of our culture, with its tendency to an exaggerated individualism, can easily cause confusion regarding the relationship of our duties as Christians and citizens, as citizens of Heaven and citizens of Earth.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

We are obliged to inform our conscience with the knowledge of God's law, both the natural law inscribed in our hearts and the law revealed in God's Word taught with authority by the Church

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The "fulfillment" which the common good helps us to attain is not self-fulfillment in the popular sense. It is, rather, the fulfillment of God's plan and destiny for us and our world.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

***** 4 – 5 Lines *****

The success of efforts to convincingly preach anew the Gospel in secularized societies rests on the ability of Catholics to faithfully abide by the church's teachings.

Raymond L. Cardinal Burke, CNS News Brief, 03-06-2015

How will I answer the Lord when He asks me about what I, as bishop, (and each of us) have done to teach (and witness) the inviolability of human life from conception to the moment of natural death.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

One cannot justify a vote for a candidate who promotes intrinsically evil acts which erode the very foundation of the common good, such as abortion and same-sex "marriage," by appealing to that same candidate's opposition to war or capital punishment.

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The greatest challenge facing the Church today, the threat of secularism – a worldview which relegates religion and even morality to the private sphere, leaving social life to become chaotic and empty.

Raymond L. Burke, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, Tells students to embrace challenge of public witness, 11-20-2010, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop/Cardinal Raymond L. Burke (4 – 5 Lines)

The Christian faith and its practice must be imparted anew, as if for the first time, as it was during the first Christian centuries and at the time of the evangelization of our native lands.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family & Freedom, 08-30-2014

Disordered sexual activity, sexual activity outside of marriage, and the constant and potent false messages about who we are as man and woman served up by the communications media are the signs of a desperate need of a new evangelization.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family & Freedom, 08-30-2014

Today, for example, we sadly find the need to speak about “traditional marriage,” as if there were another kind of marriage. There is only one kind of marriage as God has given it to us from the Creation and as Christ has redeemed it by His saving Passion and Death.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family & Freedom, 08-30-2014

In the context of charity, tolerance means unconditional love of the person who is involved in evil but firm abhorrence of the evil into which the person has fallen.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family & Freedom, 08-30-2014

Fundamental to understanding the radical secularization of our culture is to understand also how much the secularization has entered into the life of the Church.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family & Freedom, 08-30-2014

We live in a time when the fundamental truth of marriage is under a ferocious attack which seeks to obscure and sully the sublime beauty of the married state as God intended it from the Creation.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Melbourne regional Conference: Life, Family & Freedom, 08-30-2014

Another intrinsic moral evil which seemingly is growing in acceptability in our society is euthanasia, "an action or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering"

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 2277).

Raymond L. Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The practice of abortion attempts to deny the essentially procreative nature of the union of man and woman in marriage and, therefore, does a great violence to the family.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Heartened by US pro-life marches, 01-26-2013, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

Abortion represents, of course, an attack on marriage because a man and woman become one flesh for love of each other and for the sake of the procreation and education of human life made in God's own image and likeness.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Heartened by US pro-life marches, 01-26-2013, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The Catholic Church, in particular, has a most serious obligation to give witness in the world to the truth of the natural moral law and to work for the salvation of the world through the transformation of the culture of death into the civilization of life and love."

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Backs pro-life legislative efforts, 01-26-2013, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as "good news" to the people of every age and culture.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, The Perennial Newness of The Gospel of Life, 05-06-2014, Zenit.org

The first and most important component of the apostolate of respect for human life is communion with Christ Who is the Gospel of life, through the Holy Eucharist and Penance, and through their extension by means of daily prayer and devotion.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, The Perennial Newness of The Gospel of Life, 05-06-2014, Zenit.org

The degree of secularization to which Pope Paul VI referred with concern in 1975 only continues to increase exponentially, also due to a grave impoverishment or even lack of adequate catechesis in the Church during the past four decades.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, The Perennial Newness of The Gospel of Life, 05-06-2014, Zenit.org

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Archbishop/Cardinal Raymond L. Burke (4 – 5 & 6 – 9 Lines)

While the transformation of hearts is the most fundamental means of the new evangelization, Catholics and all persons of good will must be attentive to promote laws which safeguard the dignity of human life.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, The Perennial Newness of The Gospel of Life, 05-06-2014, Zenit.org

Restoring the “respect for the integrity of the conjugal act” and correcting the contraceptive Mentality that fears procreation, “ is fundamental to the New Evangelization and its effort to transform Western Culture.

Cardinal Raymond L. Cardinal Burke, 03-18-2011, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

“A Catholic college or university, at which Jesus Christ alive in his Church is not taught, encountered in the Sacred Liturgy and its extension through prayer and devotion, and followed in a life of virtue, is not worthy of the name.”

Cardinal Raymond Burke, Prefect -Supreme Tribunal -Apostolic Sig., ITD Jan. 2011, Reprint permission by stonesswillshout.com/wp

How tragic that the very secularism which the Catholic university should be helping its students to battle and overcome, has entered into several Catholic universities leading to the grievous compromise of their high mission.”

Cardinal Raymond Burke, Prefect -Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Sig., ITD Jan. 2011, Reprint permission by stonesswillshout.com/wp

The Church cannot change her teaching on the indissolubility of marriage and the grave sinfulness of sexual relations outside the matrimonial union and the grave sinfulness of homosexual acts.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, Interview with Don Fier of The Wanderer, ITD, May. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stonesswillshout.com/wp

The laity needs to nourish themselves with the teaching of the Church’s Magisterium on marriage, with the teaching that is contained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, Interview with Don Fier of The Wanderer, ITD, May. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stonesswillshout.com/wp

The Church has always taught that we love the sinner, but we hate the sin. On the other hand, a person is bound to judge evil acts as evil. We cannot pretend – tolerance cannot fly in the face of truth.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, Interview with Don Fier of The Wanderer, ITD, May. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stonesswillshout.com/wp

Given the breakdown in family life, the wholesale attack on innocent and defenseless human lives, and the violation of the integrity of the union of marriage in our society, the call to martyrdom of witness is ever more urgent.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2015, Reprint permission by www.CatholicCitizens.org

***** 6 – 9 lines *****

I cannot fail to note the grave scandal caused by legislators, judges, and political leaders who profess to be Catholic and who present themselves to receive Holy Communion, while, at the same time, they uphold and even promote laws which violate the moral law in its most fundamental tenets.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, The Perennial Newness of The Gospel of Life, 05-06-2014, Zenit.org

The Church herself must address the situation of so many of her members who, even though they may be active in Church activities, “end up by separating their Christian faith from its ethical requirements regarding life, and thus fall into moral subjectivism and certain objectionable ways of acting.

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, The Perennial Newness of The Gospel of Life, 05-06-2014, Zenit.org

The attempt to generate human life "without any connection with sexuality through 'twin fission,' cloning, or parthenogenesis" is a grave violation of the moral law (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation: Replies to Certain Questions of the Day," *Donum vitae*, Feb. 22, 1987, I, No. 6).

Raymond L. Burke Archbishop of St. Louis, Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good, 10-01-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Donald DeMarco (1 – 3 & 4 – 5 Lines)

The expression “right to life” is best understood in the negative. It is the right of a living human being not to have his life discontinued by being killed.

Donald DeMarco, The Right Not to be Killed, 02-10-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

The sanctity of life, God’s living seal on the human soul, will persist as an idea not only because of its truth, but because it is imprinted in our being

Donald DeMarco, The Sanctity of Life for Dummies, 03-12-2015 Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

An essential way to restore the authentic image of marriage is through the example of spouses who truly reflect its nature.

Donald DeMarco, The Erosion of Marriage, 09-20-2014, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

Society has lost a sense of what marriage is in its essence, having misinterpreted it according to how it is commonly practiced.

Donald DeMarco, The Erosion of Marriage, 09-20-2014, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

To be with God is both man’s end and the reason for embracing the challenges presented to him in this world

Donald DeMarco, Does Belief in The Afterlife Diminish Man, 12-11-2012 Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

The truth, though often avoided with a passion, lies waiting for us, as accessible as the letter on a table.

Donald DeMarco, The Truth in Hiding: Converts and Archbishop Fulton Sheen, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

We must continue to legislate morality, but always in the hope that we can incarnate its merits through our actions.

Donald DeMarco, On Legislating Morality, 07-03-2013, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

Life is a gift, not a possession. It is rooted in the living person and not in an external agent. Finally, it is the right not to be killed, and not the right to have power over life.

Donald DeMarco, 02-10-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

The law is like a lamp. It will provide us with illumination, but only on the condition that we turn it on. A good law achieves its final purpose only when we choose to put it into practice.

Donald DeMarco, On Legislating Morality, 07-03-2013, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

The City of God, where love has conquered hate, is our only hope for a perfect society. But entrance into this world is not achieved by science or social planning but by faith in God, love and good works.

Donald DeMarco, Logic or Prophecy?, 01-03-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

Genesis tells us that the coming together in marriage of male and female constitutes a “two-in-one-flesh intimacy”. Politics cannot triumph over nature, nor cannot it improve on Scripture.

Donald DeMarco, Is Nature Homophobic, 04-07-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

The antithesis of snobbery, graciousness flows from a disposition of benevolence and, in its clearest manifestations, bestows honor and respect on those who have no personal, social, or professional claim to such largess.

Donald DeMarco, The Heart of Virtue, Reprinted by permission of Ignatius Press

By clinging to the present world, believing it to be the only world that is real, we can become highly reluctant to recognize its faults, no matter how glaring they might be.

Donald DeMarco, Does Belief in The Afterlife Diminish Man, 12-11-2012 Reprint permission by truthand charityforum.org

Divorce, infidelity, abortion, contraception and sterilization have carved out a sizable hole in the nature of marriage, leaving it a relatively empty shell and making it susceptible to being taken over by an arrangement that is not marriage.

Donald DeMarco, The Erosion of Marriage, 09-28-2014, Reprint permission by truthand charityforum.org

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Donald DeMarco (4 – 5 & 6 – 9 Lines)

Secularism is not self-sufficient even though it is self-congratulatory. The real problem is that when God and the afterlife are denied, society loses all sense of higher standards and lapses into egoism. And egoism is the catalyst for mayhem and brutality.
Donald DeMarco, Does Belief in The Afterlife Diminish Man, 12-11-2012
Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

The dispute between tradition marriage and same-sex marriage will finally be settled in the court of public opinion. The critical question, however, is this: will public opinion on this crucial issue be formed by knowledge and careful reflection, or will it be formed by the unthinking masses?
Donald DeMarco, Marriage and Marketing, 03-24-2015, T Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

The one philosophy that has remained relevant, though it has never dominated the American consciousness, is the one that is based on the *natural law*. It has been a consistent corrective for the thinner, but more popular philosophies, never disappearing but always retaining sufficient credibility to call into question its more trendy antitheses.
Donald DeMarco, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org, 01-05-2015

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Sam Guzman (1 – 3 Lines)

Evil is not greater than good, it simply makes more noise.

Sam Guzman, *The Quietness of Good*, 05-07-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

St. Jerome once said, “Without doubt, the Lord grants all favors which are asked of Him in Mass, provided they be fitting for us.”

Sam Guzman, (excerpts) *The Four Ends of the Mass*, 10-17-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If we’re going to have a good Lent, we have to realize that the heart of Lent is not resolutions but *repentance*.

Sam Guzman, *Preparing for a Good Lent*, 02-11-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

As we prepare for Lent, let’s keep the focus where it was always supposed to be— on a heart of repentance and love.

Sam Guzman, *Preparing for a Good Lent*, 02-11-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Scripture makes it quite clear that religious education is to take place first and foremost in the home.

Sam Guzman, *The Three Munera, Part 1, The Father as a Prophet*, 07-07-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Parents should teach their children to subordinate the “material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones.” (Catechism #2223)

Sam Guzman, *The Three Munera, Part 1, The Father as a Prophet*, 07-07-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The Sacred Heart teaches us that true love is always costly, but that it always gives life.

Sam Guzman, *7 Ways to Honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, 06-19-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Jesus Christ came to earth for one reason only—to redeem fallen humanity—and the Cross was his chosen instrument of redemption.

Sam Guzman, *Catholicism and the Cross*, 02-18-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

God is bringing glory to himself through his Church, and we are called to be a part of it. The only question is, will you finish the mission?

Sam Guzman, *What is the Goal of the Catholic Church?* 06-02-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

We must turn from the sin of our complacency and begin again to embrace the cross, for it alone is the sure way to true joy and life eternal.

Sam Guzman, *Catholicism and the Cross*, 02-18-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Virtue is the habit of choosing what is good and right, despite our own inclinations.

Sam Guzman, *The Virtuous Life*, 12-31-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

St. Andre Bessette, the recently canonized Canadian brother, was credited with healing thousands of individuals. His secret? Praying to St. Joseph.

Sam Guzman, *St. Joseph: The Model of Manhood*, 03-19-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If we are to imitate Christ, we must first and foremost practice humility. The servant is not greater than his Master.

Sam Guzman, *7 Lessons From Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament*, 11-17-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Jesus came to us through Mary, and all the graces of God come to us through her.

Sam Guzman, *The Other Woman in My Life*, 03-21-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

In a very real sense, eternal life starts now. Both heaven and hell are simply confirmations of how we have chosen to live in this life.

Sam Guzman, citing St. Maximilian Kolbe on *How to Have Heaven on Earth*, 04-07-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Prayer is the key to salvation. What oxygen is to our lungs so is prayer to the life of our soul.

Sam Guzman, *Ten Reasons to Pray the Rosary*, 09-22-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

No one gets to heaven on cruise control. If you’ve been living aimlessly, decide today to pursue virtue with all your heart.

Sam Guzman, *The Virtuous Man*, 07-17-2013, Reprinted by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Justice isn’t just negative, a matter of dealing out judgment, but also a positive thing, in that we render whatever is owed to God and others.

Sam Guzman, *The Cardinal Virtues: Justice*, 08-19-2013, Reprint permission by www.catholicgentleman.net

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Sam Guzman (4 – 5 Lines)

As Catholics, we have the privilege of attending this sacrifice (Mass), and uniting ourselves to Christ's self offering. Put another way, we can imitate Christ by offering ourselves, souls and bodies, to God the Father as "living sacrifices," as St. Paul says.

Sam Guzman, The Four Ends of the Mass, 10-17-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

As St. Padre Pio once said, "If we only knew how God regards this Sacrifice, we would risk our lives to be present at a single Mass." Why would we miss mass for anything?

Sam Guzman, The Four Ends of the Mass, 10-17-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Mother Church teaches us that Eucharist has power in our life in proportion to how well we receive it, so preparing our hearts to receive Christ well is of the greatest importance.

Sam Guzman, Prayers of Thanksgiving, 06-19-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The deeper we grow in the Catholic and Apostolic faith, the more we realize that the gospel is centered not so much in *our* love for God, but in God's love for us.

Sam Guzman, 7 Ways to Honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 06-19-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

To all those who would follow him (Jesus Christ), he still offers the same condition: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Sam Guzman, Catholicism and the Cross, 02-18-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

We must not hide the crucifix, but rather gaze upon it, recalling the words of St. Paul, "We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Sam Guzman, Catholicism and the Cross, 02-18-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Many men coast through life without a thought to where they are going. They don't really worry about things like temperance, prudence, or fortitude—let alone faith, hope or charity. But no one gets to heaven on cruise control

Sam Guzman, The Virtuous Life, 12-31-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The last 50 years have been disastrous for us culturally. Fueled by aggressive feminism, almost everything about masculinity—especially fatherhood—has been criticized and belittled by society.

Sam Guzman, The Dignity of Men, 12-11-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Today we are not only utilitarian of each other, but also of the land, forgetting how to wonder and enjoy. We confuse knowing about a thing with knowing a thing.

Sam Guzman, In Praise of Catholic Homesteading, 01-30-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Our Lord, in his great love for you, is commanding you to keep holy his day by setting aside the to-do list and enjoying some rest. Six days thou shalt run around like a madman, but on the seventh, thou shalt rest, take it easy, play a little bit.

Sam Guzman, Thou Shalt Take it Easy: 7 Reasons to Embrace Sunday Rest, 12-29-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

As Father Morrow writes: If you have a problem with exploding anger and you want to be a Christian, you absolutely must work hard to overcome it. You cannot simply say, "Well, that's me," if you want to be friends with the Lord.

Sam Guzman, Overcoming Sinful Anger, 03-18-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Fall and get up again—this is the only prescription for holiness. Those who patiently endure will not be without their reward, for in the words of our Lord, "He who perseveres to the end will be saved."

Sam Guzman, Resolutions, Failures, and the New Year, 12-31-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Men, celebrate your children. Have a lot of them. Love them, devote your time and attention to them, pray for them, invest in them—but above all, treasure them. Other blessings pass, but children are a reward that will last forever.

Sam Guzman, Fatherhood in An Anti-Kid World, 10-13-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicgentleman.net

If you practice no other devotion in the spiritual life, pray the rosary. Through it, you will obtain all that you need and will vanquish the enemies of your soul. Through it, you will find peace and joy in the trials of life. Conquer the devil—pray the rosary!

Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: 15 Quotes on the Holy Rosary, 10-07-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Sam Guzman (4 – 5 & 6 – 9 Lines)

Now, more than ever, fortitude is needed among men, especially Catholic men. We are called to stand firm and recognize that, no matter how black things may seem, “there is good in this world, and it is worth fighting for.”

Sam Guzman, The Cardinal Virtues: Fortitude, 08-30-2013, Reprinted by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

While it may not sound like much fun, the only real way to become temperate is through prayer and self-denial. In other words, you have to tell yourself no now and then.

Sam Guzman, The Cardinal Virtues: Temperance, 09-16-2013, Reprinted by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Choose to learn from your mistakes, learn from others, and patiently consider your choices, and before you know it, you will be well on your way to prudent and wise manhood.

Sam Guzman, The Cardinal Virtues: Prudence, 08-06-2013, Reprinted by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

It is faith that is the true antidote to fear. Faith is believing and acting on what we know to be true despite our fear-induced paralysis. It is the heartfelt conviction that Jesus is with us, and that with him by our side, we can never be truly harmed.

Sam Guzman, Be Not Afraid, 09-16-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

For the simple truth is that we can never be grateful enough. We can never be fully aware of just how good things really are. If we were, this knowledge would crush us under the weight of its glory. But we can learn to sense the silent presence of goodness through thanksgiving

Sam Guzman, The Quietness of Good, 05-07-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The three munera (father's duties) are as follows: 1. Munus docendi – The duty to teach, based on Christ's role as Prophet 2. Munus sanctificandi – The duty to sanctify, based on Christ's role as Priest 3. Munus regendi – The duty to shepherd, based on Christ's role as King

Sam Guzman, The Three Munera, Part 1, The Father as a Prophet, 07-07-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

With this authority as head of the home, the father has the ultimate responsibility to catechize his children in the ways of God. And at the hour of his death, each father, more than anyone else, will answer before God for how well he has fulfilled this grave duty.

Sam Guzman, The Three Munera, Part 1, The Father as a Prophet, 07-07-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If you are a husband, if you are a father, you do have God-given authority. You are, in a sense, a king. But if you are using your authority like a club, you are simply incurring Christ's anger. The authority that husbands and fathers possesses is to be used in in humble service in imitation of Jesus Christ.

Sam Guzman, The Three Munera, Part 3, The Father as King, 09-12-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

With all the busyness, it's hard to live a prayerful life and be mindful of God's presence, even if we want to. But ultimately, quietness comes from within, and incorporating holy habits into our lives can help us keep recollected in the midst of all the noise and chaos of the modern world.

Sam Guzman, Five Ways to Sanctify Your Day, 06-23-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Virtue is essential because we all are filled with disordered passions. Anger, gluttony, lust, laziness, envy, pride, and greed—these sins are churning about in our souls constantly due to our fallen nature. If we don't tame them, they will kill us spiritually.

Sam Guzman, The Virtuous Life, 12-31-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (1 - 3 Lines)

You don't stumble into great things, or even worthy things. They have to be sought out with intentionality.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The Christian life is simply not sustainable without daily prayer.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The more time you spend in silence, the more clearly you will hear the voice of God in your life.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The world is noisy and distracting. It is in the silence that we find God and our true self.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

One of the great struggles of the Christian life is surrendering our will so that we can embrace the will of God.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Clarity emerges from silence, and passion and purpose are the fruits of clarity.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God speaks to us in the silence. Spending time in the classroom of silence is indispensable in our quest for spiritual growth.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The quiet is critical to our spiritual development because it is in the silence that God speaks to us.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Personal prayer is a deepening of your relationship with God, discovering who God is calling you to be for Him and for others.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Prayerlessness is one of the great torments of modern times.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Life is about saying yes to the things that help you to grow in holiness (become the best version of yourself) and no to the things that don't.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

It is time for us to start thinking about where our lives are leading and to where God is calling us.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If humanity is to make any progress in the coming century, the error of moral relativism must come to an end.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

We lust to know more and more, but we don't want to live what we already know.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Our capacity to seek, find, and adopt truth is in direct proportion to our humility.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The more we learn about our faith, the more likely we are to take the spiritual life seriously.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Christmas is the best chance we have each year to re-engage disengaged Catholics (32% come only once or twice a year).

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

How would your life be different one year from now, five years from now, ten years from now if you read five pages of a great Catholic book each day?

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God has an incredible dream for each and every one of us. He wants you to become the best-version-of-yourself.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (1 - 3 Lines)

The world proposes selfishness as the path to happiness. God proposes generosity as the path to happiness.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Happiest People I Know, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God invites us to a life of gratitude while the world fosters discontent.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Happiest People I Know, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Happiest People I Know, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God is the supreme giver, and whenever we give we grow in the image of God, become a better-version-of-ourselves, and live holy lives.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Happiest People I Know, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The more we are mindful of how much we have received, the more we are inclined to look for opportunities to give.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Happiest People I Know, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

It is by giving that we receive, and even more so, it is by giving that we become (generous, joyful).

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Changing The World, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Virtue is the ultimate organizing principle, whether it is in a person's life, a marriage, or the life of a nation.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Changing The World, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Relativism leads to a world where nobody is the best-version-of-themselves.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Changing The World, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Our regrets are born when we ignore our conscience.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point , What's Holding You Back, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Virtue is at the heart of every good human experience.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Life is Choices, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

When we move away from Scripture, we alienate ourselves from our heart, since we can only find our true heart in the heart of Jesus.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, A New Level of Thinking, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Our lives change when our habits change.

Matthew Kelly, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

We become the books we read.

Matthew Kelly, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

We can never get enough of what we don't really need.

Matthew Kelly, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

When we feel like life is not making sense, it is usually because we have lost sight of God's vision for our lives.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Life is Choices, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Reject the modern culture and the world's empty vision for your life. Embrace God. You will be happier.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Life is Choices, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God wants you to become the best-version-of-yourself. Will you choose God's dream or the modern culture's nightmare?

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Life is Choices, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Once we catch a glimpse of the beauty of truth, the shallowness and emptiness of our culture is revealed.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Changing The World, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The more we sin, the less capable we become of doing good – being generous, charitable, and virtuous.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Jesus Question, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God is goodness, and so, every sin is in some way a rejection of God.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Jesus Question, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (1 – 3 Lines)

Sin is more than just bad behavior. It is the rejection or destruction of something good.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Jesus Question, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If there is a God, and that God has a plan for your life, then trying to find happiness outside of that plan is impossible.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Prayer Process, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

We all get confused about what really matters from time to time. Prayer helps us to keep things in perspective.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Prayer Process, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Mental prayer is nothing else than an intimate friendship, a frequent heart-to-heart conversation with him by whom we know ourselves to be loved

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Prayer Process, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God wants you to live a rich, full, and happy life – and He provides the Bible as a map for that.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If you don't have time to pray and read the Scriptures, you are busier than God ever intended you to be.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Life is choices. Make a choice often enough and it will become an ingrained habit.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

You will learn more from your friends than you ever will from books. Choose your friends wisely.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Relationships, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

One thing will impact your relationships with other people more than anything else in life, and that is the way you respond to God's love.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Relationships, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Love is a choice, not a feeling. Every day you make hundreds of choices – and every choice is a choice for love or against love.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Relationships, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist is the ultimate spiritual experience, but there is also something powerful about just sitting in His presence.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Eucharist, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

One of the shortest Christian prayers is the Sign of the Cross.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Holy Spirit, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The Holy Spirit will help you find and understand truth, and you will never have more happiness in your life than you have truth.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Holy Spirit, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The Holy Spirit empowers you to do things you would not otherwise be able to do.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Holy Spirit, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The Holy Spirit will help you know and do God's will.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Holy Spirit, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The Holy Spirit gives you the wisdom to know what is right and what is wrong, and leads you in the path of what is good and right.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Holy Spirit, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control, and Chastity.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Holy Spirit, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The way of God is one of peace and order. The way of sin is one of chaos and anxiousness. Which will you choose?

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Holy Spirit, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (1 – 3 Lines)

Agape love (choice, act of the will) was profound and revolutionary two thousand years ago and remains so today.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Church, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Catholicism is a treasure map. It may be old, but it still leads to treasure.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Church, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God chose you from the beginning. Just as God chose Jeremiah and Joshua, Moses and Abraham, He is choosing you again today.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Confirmation, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If you don't embrace and fulfill your mission (God's design), it will be left undone. Nobody else has been assigned that mission. Just you.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Made For Mission, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The world is a mess in many ways, but the beautiful things is, you and I can do something about it.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Made For Mission, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

You never can get enough of what you really don't need.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Made For Mission, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

When we get beyond ourselves and serve others we start down a sure path to happiness.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Made For Mission, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The world is a mess because too many people have abandoned their God-given mission.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Made For Mission, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

In your own place and time, in your own ways, you are here to bring the love of God to every person who crosses your path.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Made For Mission, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Want to see something truly incredible? Make yourself available to God.

Matthew Kelly, Holiness is Possible, Decision Point, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Whatever habits you choose to make your own, whatever decisions you make along the way, they will determine the type of life you live.

Matthew Kelly, Holiness is Possible, Decision Point, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

A holy moment happens when you are being the person God created you to be and doing what He wants you to do in that moment.

Matthew Kelly, Holiness is Possible, Decision Point, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Our culture places a very high premium on self-expression, but is relatively disinterested in producing "selves" that are worth expressing.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Prevailing Philosophy, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

More than nine times the number of people murdered in the atrocity we call the Holocaust have fallen victim to abortion in the United States alone.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Prevailing Philosophy, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The crisis of the modern world is a crisis of ideas. Ideas shape our lives and the world.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Prevailing Philosophy, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Freedom is the strength of character and the self-possession to do what is good, true, noble and right.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Is Jesus Still Relevant, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The essence of Catholicism is dynamic transformation. You cannot become more like Jesus Christ and at the same time stay as you are.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Searching for Identity, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Our culture is hungry for authentic lives. Let your life speak.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What Are we Celebrating?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

We have an identity problem because enough of us have not clearly defined and embraced an authentic Catholic lifestyle.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Searching For Identity, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (1 – 3 Lines)

What are we celebrating as a culture? What are you celebrating? You have become the person you are because of the things you celebrate.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What are we Celebrating, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The greatest tragedy of modern Catholicism is the way we have become so distracted from the goal of the Christian life.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What is The Authentic Life?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

By putting aside the goal of the Christian life, this call to lead holy lives, we have lost our way in the modern world.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What is The Authentic Life?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The philosophy of Christ is based on discipline, and it is discipline that our modern culture abhors and has rejected with all its strength

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Path is Well Trodden, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Holiness is not something we do for ourselves; it is something God does in us if we cooperate.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Even a Blind Man Knows ..., Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Man is created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means save his soul.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What Sets Them Apart, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

You have been told what is good and what Yahweh wants of you. Only this, that you live justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8, cited by Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What Sets Them Apart, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Your character is your destiny in the workplace, in relationships, and in eternity.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What Sets Them Apart, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

When you know you are doing the will of God, that alone is enough to sustain your happiness.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Daily Prayer, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The modern Church desperately needs men and women who are willing to live for their faith.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Who Will be Next, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The good character created by good habits in turn creates a prosperous future. The bad character created by bad habits in turn creates misery in your future.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What Sets Them Apart, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If you want a litmus test for choosing friends, use this question: Will spending time with this person make me a better person?"

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Their Attraction and Influence, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Goodness is contagious. The problem is, so is evil. The challenge for you and me, as Christians in the midst of the modern world, is to be examples of good living.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Their Attraction and Influence, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If the problems today are greater than ever before, then God will raise up saints greater than ever before.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Who Will be Next, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Confession is the perfect spiritual practice to rekindle our passion for excellence in the spiritual life.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Confession, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Thought determines action, and so the actions of your life are determined by your most dominant thoughts.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Daily Prayer, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

In the silence you will find God and in the silence you will find yourself. These will be the two greatest discoveries of your life.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Daily Prayer, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

There is only one question and one course of action that leads to lasting happiness in this changing world: *God, what do you think I should do?*

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism] Daily Prayer, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (1 - 3 Lines)

We don't go to Mass to socialize. We don't go to be entertained. We go to give ourselves to God, and in return to receive God.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Mass, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Open your heart, open your mind, and open your soul to the miracles God wants to work in and through you.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Mass, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

There is incredible genius and beauty in the Mass, but to discover it we need to be constantly delving into it a little deeper.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Mass, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The Mass reveals God's vision for us as individuals, his vision for marriage and family, for community and society, and for the Church and the world.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Mass, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Until you have learned to see yourself in every person in the Scriptures, you have not read the Bible.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Our modern culture is asking all the wrong questions, and that is why so many are living lives of quiet desperation.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

You never will have more happiness than you have discipline. The two are directly related to one another.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Fasting, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Fasting is one of the ingenious practices that the Church teaches us to insure that the body does not become our master.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Fasting, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Authentic Christian fasting helps to release us from our attachment to the things of this world.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Fasting, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Fasting is by its very nature a statement of humility, while dieting is usually linked to ego, vanity, and pride.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Fasting, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Fasting is to the body what prayer is to the soul. Indeed, fasting is the prayer of the body, and bodily fasting leads to spiritual feasting.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Fasting, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Fasting is a means, but never an end. The purpose of fasting is to assist the soul in turning back to God.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Fasting, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body and prayer is to the soul.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Spiritual Reading, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If you want to grow in faith, identify the teaching of the Catholic Church that you find most difficult to understand and accept, then read about it.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Spiritual Reading, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Remember, Catholicism is not a set of lifeless rules and regulations: Catholicism is a lifestyle.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Spiritual Reading, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

In a culture that exalts the selfish attainment of pleasure and possessions, one eternal truth remains to all: love is the only way.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Rosary?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Prayer doesn't change God; prayer changes us.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Rosary?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

There is no point having all the knowledge, insight, and wisdom of the ages if you cannot inspire anyone to activate these in their lives.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Time For a Change?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

It is amazing how many academic degrees you can award in a culture and still have the masses almost completely ignorant of any life-giving truth.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Time For a Change?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (1 – 3 Lines)

We may not be able to explain everything about Catholicism, but we shouldn't let what we can't do interfere with what we can do.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Time For a Change?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Authentic love of self and genuine self-esteem are born from the right relationship with God and the truth He has revealed.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Time For a Change?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

It is impossible to have a healthy sense of self unless we are proactively seeking to live out the truth that God has revealed to us.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Time For a Change?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Courage is the father of every great moment and movement in history.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Leadership, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Courage is not the absence of fear, but the acquired ability to move beyond fear.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Leadership, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The measure of your life will be the measure of your courage.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Leadership, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Prayer allows us to work out what matters most and place it at the center of our lives.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Daily Prayer, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If the Word of God is to transform us we need to allow it to sink its roots deep into our lives through repetition and reflection.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Mass, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

We have more and more of what we want, but less and less of what we need.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Changing The World, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Every good thing we hope for in the world will flow from the reemergence of character and virtue in our lives and in society.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Changing The World, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

In the Rosary, we have twenty mysteries that beget twenty lessons in life, love, the attainment of virtue, and the genius of God's plan for humanity.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Rosary, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

One of the greatest tragedies of modern Catholicism is that as Catholics we are no longer considered a spiritual people.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Who Will Be Next?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Stop trying to put together a master plan for your life and for your happiness. Instead, seek out the Master's plan for your life and for your happiness.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Daily Prayer, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Give it two wings: fasting and almsgiving."

Pope Paul VI, cited by Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Fasting, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Nothing ignites the soul to imitate the Divine Master more than an intimate familiarity with the story of his life, work, and teachings.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What Are We Celebrating?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (4 – 5 Lines)

It is true that God wants to radically transform our lives, and sometimes He calls us to take a great leap. But most of the time He invites us to make small, continuous improvements.

Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Incredible Possibilities*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

In our own times we are woeful at distinguishing right from wrong. We have more academic degrees than ever before and plenty of knowledge, but where is the wisdom?

Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

We live in a time when more people – Catholics and non-Catholics alike – have questions about Catholicism, but fewer people are capable of really answering those questions.

Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

When we forget the true source of things, disorder begins to reign in our lives. God wants to lead us out of the chaos of this world and into his divine order.

Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Happiest People I Know*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

It is sobering to think that if we were willing to go without some of the things that complicate our lives or so many of the things that we really don't need, we would be able to save lives.

Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Happiest People I Know*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Every day many prayers go unanswered, and it seems to me that this is not because God did not want those prayers answered, but because he sent us to answer those prayers and we didn't heed the call.

Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Happiest People I Know*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

When we look to change the world, too often we look outside ourselves. When God looks to change the world, He looks deep within us, driving straight to the heart of the matter: human behavior.

Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Changing The World*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Are you ready to let Jesus take you to the next level in your spiritual life? When enough people answer yes to this question, the Church will again become fresh and vibrant, relevant and invigorated.

Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, A New Level of Thinking*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If we will walk humbly with our God, He will lead us by the hand to exactly who and what we need, to those people, things, and experiences he has designed and intended for us, and this alone will be the cause of our deep fulfillment and happiness.

Matthew Kelly, *From Notebook* by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Throughout your life you will encounter people who say, "There are no absolute truths. What's true for you is not necessarily true for me!" This is relativism, and it is a lie.

Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, Life is Choices*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

There is such a thing as truth – not this rubbish of your truth and my truth, but universal truth. Truth is bigger than you and me; truth is bigger than everyone.

Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, What's Holding You Back*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Invite Jesus into your heart and into your life, decide today to follow him, and many years from now, you will look back and know that today was a turning point in your life.

Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, The Jesus Question*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's culture takes the trivial things and makes them important, and then takes the important things and makes them trivial. Start focusing on the important things.

Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, Relationships*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Grace is the assistance God gives us to do what is good, true, noble, and right. And there is no better way to receive God's grace than through the Eucharist.

Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, The Eucharist*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (4 – 5 Lines)

You have a lot of decisions to make. Getting yourself to Mass on Sunday and receiving the Eucharist will help you make better decisions in every area of your life.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Eucharist, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The world needs more agape love. This is the love that Jesus calls us to. Just as the Ancient world of the first Christians was brutal, cold, distant, impersonal, and ruled by self-interest, so too is the modern world.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Church, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God has a plan for you and your life. We read in Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you, 'says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Confirmation, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

When I was young I saw getting what I wanted as the path to happiness. But as I have gotten older I see getting what God wants as the path to happiness.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Confirmation, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

What's the difference if the starving child lives next door or across the ocean? They are still God's children. And as always, God has a plan for his children. But He needs your help to fulfill His plan.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Made For Mission, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If you want to discover your mission, your genius, and how to bring the best out of yourself, the person to talk to is the one who designed and built you: *God*.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Made For Mission, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Get in touch with your essential purpose – to live a holy life – and once you have found it, keep it always in your sight. This is the great spiritual secret of life.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What is The Authentic Life?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The saints have lost their popularity and fallen from good grace among modern Catholics because the Church has been infected by common secular philosophy.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Path is Well Trodden, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Without discipline, we are confined to soulless living and must content ourselves with work, food, momentary pleasures, and anything that can help distract us from the misery of purposeless living.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Path is Well Trodden, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Those who refuse to learn from the mistakes of others, those who refuse to study history, must content themselves to make mistakes that have been made before.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Even a Blind Man Knows ..., Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The lives of the saints are stories of virtue and character, and if we would read them, tell them, and listen to them over and over again, our lives would become examples of that same virtue and character.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Who Will be Next, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Within each of us there is a light. It is the light of God, and when it shines it reflects not only the wonder of God but also the greatness of the human spirit.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Who Will be Next, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Every journey toward something is a journey away from something. If we need to turn our back to God at this moment in our lives, we also need to turn away from whatever led us away from God and keeps us away.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Confession, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

When it is "just me and God" it is all too easy to project my own qualities and biases upon God. Then, rather than being created in the image of God, we begin to create God in our own fallen image.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Confession, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (4 – 5 Lines)

Sin limits our future by chaining us to the past. Yet most people are able to convince themselves either that sin doesn't exist, that they don't sin, or that their sins are not affecting them.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Confession, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Both, knowledge of God and knowledge of self are necessary to make the journey of the soul. These two are inextricably linked, and one without the other is useless.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Confession, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The proud must content themselves with mediocrity; excellence belongs to the humble. Humble yourself to know who you really are and God will respond by revealing the incredible person you are capable of becoming.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Confession, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Prayer is central to the Christian experience. A Christian life is not sustainable without it, because growth in the Christian life is simply not possible without prayer.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Daily Prayer, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

While modern man is filling his life with more and more noise and trying to absent God from more and more areas of his life, God is inviting us into that silence and into his presence.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Daily Prayer, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If you believed God was going to speak to you at Mass, I suspect you would bring pen and paper. Get yourself a Mass Journal.-- visit DynamicCatholic.com/massjournal and request a free Mass Journal.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Mass, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Life is about whom you love and whom you hurt. Life is about how you love yourself and how you hurt yourself. It's about how you love and hurt the people in your life.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Mass, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The great tragedy in the modern environment is that people know more about their favorite music group or sports players than they do about Jesus Christ. Get to know Jesus. Read the Gospels.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Unless we are willing to constantly examine the way we live, love, work, think, and speak under the piercing light of the Gospels, we will almost certainly find ourselves gradually adopting a Gospel of convenience.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The Bible is the richest treasury of prayers. Some of the prayers are obvious, like the Psalms, but others are treasures hidden among the stories, waiting to be discovered.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Our lives change when our habits change. Our habits change when we make resolutions, remind ourselves of those resolutions, hold ourselves accountable for them, and perform them.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Fasting, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Catholics have abandoned the rosary today because we have been seduced by complexity. We give our allegiance and respect to complexity, but simplicity is the key to perfection.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Rosary?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If the Catholic Church is to change, grow, thrive, and fulfill its mission in this modern climate, it will be for one reason: because we become a more spiritual people.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Time For a Change?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If we had keen minds and keen spirits, if we were truth-seekers, in every instance we would humbly ask, "Why does the Church teach what she teaches about ...?"

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Time For a Change?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (4 – 5 Lines)

Fear stops more people from doing something incredible with their lives than lack of ability, contacts, resources, or any other single variable. Fear paralyzes the human spirit.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Leadership, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

For the most part we're too busy doing just about everything that means just about nothing to just about nobody just about anywhere and will mean even less to anyone 100 years from now.

Matthew Kelly, Reprint with permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

We all have spiritual disease. We all have sins. Some people like to pretend that they don't, but over time their sins spread through their lives like cancer in the body. Like cancer, if our sin is not addressed and arrested, in the end it will devour us.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Confession, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Christians of all demonitions around the world owe an enormous debt to the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, is responsible for the formulation, preservation, and integrity of the Sacred Scriptures.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Catholicism is not easy. It is an advanced way of life that requires all of our being; the Gospels are a constant reminder to us all of what we are created for and called to.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Hedonism is not an expression of freedom; it is a passport to enslavement by a thousand cravings and addictions. And in the end it produces not pleasure, but despair.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Prevailing Philosophy, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

It is through prayer, reflection, the Scriptures, the grace of the sacrements, the wisdom of the Church, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we discover and walk the path that God is calling us to walk.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Searching for Identity, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

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.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What Are We Celebrating?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

At this moment in history both life and faith are being attacked with the full force of a culture racing toward self-destruction. These are direct attacks on the essence of the human person.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What Are We Celebrating?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

When the practice and preaching of Christianity are not clearly focused on the universal call to holiness, the activities pursued in the name of Christianity disintegrate into little more than a collection of social welfare initiatives.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], What is The Authentic Life?, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If there is to be a "new springtime," as John Paul II prophesied, it will be because we rediscover this indispensable principle (holiness) of Christian spirituality .

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Path is Well Trodden, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The renewal that the Church so desperately needs is a renewal of virtue. And it is our relationship with Christ that gives us the strength, the grace, and the wisdom to grow in virtue (a habitual and firm disposition to do good).

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Return to Virtue, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If humanity is to flourish in the twenty-first century it will be because we realize once and for all that the key organizing concept of a truly great civilization is virtue.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Return to Virtue, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The Catholic education system has the potential to play an unfathomable role in the renewal of the Church. More than any other activity in the Church, education has a rare opportunity to reorient modern men and women toward God.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Time For a Change, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Today's Wisdom: S-2

Matthew Kelly (6 – 9 Lines)

Dynamic (engaged) Catholics have these four things in common:

Prayer – daily commitment.

Study – continuous learners.

Generosity – are generous.

Evangelization – invite others to grow spiritually and share God's love.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Incredible Possibilities, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Life is about love. It's about whom you love and whom you hurt. Life's about how you love yourself and how you hurt yourself. Life's about how you love and hurt the people close to you. Life is about how you love and hurt the people who just cross your path for a moment. Life is about love.

Matthew Kelly, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The challenge life presents to each of us is to become truly ourselves – not the self we have imagined or fantasized about, not the self that our friends want us to be, not the self our ego would have us be, but the self God has ordained us to be from before we were in our mother's womb.

Matthew Kelly, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The modern search for happiness is governed by individualism, hedonism, minimalism, and their fruits: greed, lust, laziness, gluttony, selfishness, exploitation and deception. And yet, as these philosophies become more and more the focus of modern lifestyles, people seem to be filled with greater discontent and unhappiness with every passing day.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Is Jesus Still Relevant, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

All the spiritual disciplines that make up the incredible landscape of Catholic spirituality are designed in one way or another to restore our lost self-possession so that we can once again love God and neighbor, and be loved the way we were created to be loved

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Fasting, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

God doesn't call us to church on Sunday because he has some egotistical need for us to fall down before him and worship him at ten o'clock each Sunday morning. It isn't designed to help him; it's designed to help us. It isn't intended to make him happy; it's intended to allow us to share in his happiness.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Mass, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The Bible isn't a book. It is a collection of books – seventy-three in all: forty-six in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament. Hence the name *Biblia* in Greek, which means "the books" or "library." It is important to note that most Protestant and Evangelical Bibles contain only sixty-six books.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Bible, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The first Christians gathered around her for comfort and guidance, yet some modern Catholics treat her like she has some contagious disease. One of the great challenges that we face as modern Catholics is to find a genuine place for Mary in our spirituality.

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], The Rosary, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

If we cannot afford to lose another generation of Catholics, and I think we all know we can't, isn't it time to start allocating serious resources to developing world-class CCD programs? Shouldn't we be allocating more of our parish and diocesan budgets to genuinely engaging young people with the Catholic faith?

Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from [Rediscover Catholicism], Time For a Change, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Reflections: S-2

Around The Corner

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end.
Yet the days go by and weeks rush on,
And before I know it, a year is gone.
And I never see my old friend's face
For life is a swift and terrible race.
He knows I like him, just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell,
And he rang mine, but we were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men,
Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow," I say, I will call on Jim
Just to show that I'm thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And distance between us grows and grows,
Around the corner, yet miles away.
"here's a telegram, Sir." Jim died today."
And that's what we get and deserve in the end--
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

Father's Day Thoughts

A careful man I ought to be;
A little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the self-same way,
I cannot once escape his eyes;
What ever he sees me do, he tries --
Like me, he says, he's going to be'
The little chap who follows me.
He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every word of mine;
The base in me he must not see,
The little chap who follows me.
I must remember as I go,
Through summer's sun and winters snow,
I'm building for the years to be,
For a little fellow follows me.

HOPE

Hope looks for the good in people
instead of harping on the worst.
Hope opens doors where despair
closes them.
Hope discovers what can be done instead of
grumbling about what cannot.
Hope draws its power from a deep trust
in God and the basic goodness
of human nature.
Hope "lights a candle" instead of
cursing the darkness.
Hope regards problems small or large,
as opportunities.
Hope cherishes no illusions, nor does it yield
to cynicism.
Hope sets big goals and is not frustrated
by repeated difficulties and setbacks.
Hope pushes ahead when it would be
easy to quit.
Hope puts up with modest gains,
realizing that "the longest journey starts with one
step."
Hope accepts misunderstandings
as the price for serving
the greater good of others,
Hope is a good loser because
it has the divine assurance
of final victory.

Father James Keller, M.M. Founder, The Christophers

Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Teach us, good Lord,
To serve Thee as Thou deservest;
To give and not count the cost;
To fight and not heed the wounds;
To labor and not ask for reward,
Save that of knowing that we do thy will,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflections: S-2

I Believe

I believe in the sun even
when it is not shining.

I believe in love even
when I feel it not.

I believe in God even
when he is silent.

My Prayer

I thank Thee Lord for every day,
I'm more than blessed in every way.
My needs are small, my wants are few, Lord all I
need and want is You.
Be at my side I ask of Thee.
In all I do -- please let it be
The best that You expect of me.
I offer all my thanks to Thee!
My family, friends and neighbors too
Are a special gift from You.
So bless us each and everyone,
From dawn to dusk Thy will be done.
Hedwig Wroblewski

My Wish for You

I wish you all life's happiness
And every lovely thing,
With days of golden sunshine and
With years of endless spring.
I wish you love abundantly,
That never seems to cease;
Your daytimes filled with laughter and
Your nights with gentle peace.
To never feel the pain of want
To have the best of health;
May sorrow never cross your door,
Your purse be great with wealth.
But most of all I wish you this,
The greatest wish there is,
That God will ever bless you and
Will ever call you His!

Kate Watkins Furman

Let Me Be A Blessing Lord

Let me be a blessing Lord,
To all who pass my way.
Walk with me and guide me
In all I do and say.
Lead me to the lonely ones
That I might bring them cheer,
To show I care and want to help
And that You are always near.
Let me share with others
Your covenant and creed;
Help me to instill new faith,
Let me fill their void and need.
I strive to serve You faithfully,
To channel hope in Your accord;
Empower me, show me the way,
Then let me be a blessing Lord.
Patience Hartbauer

Don't Quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit --
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns;
And many a fellow turns about
When he might have won, had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow --
You may succeed with another blow.
Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup;
And he learned too late when the night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Food for Thought: S-3

(1 - 3 Lines)

Our Constitution is designed only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for any other.

John Adams, The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2014, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (catholiccitizens.org)

Stillness helps us to remain faithful to God's will and opens the way for spiritual growth within us.

Judy Keane, Popes and Saints: Advocates for Spiritual Stillness, 03-01-2013, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into Political and Economic decay.

Douglas MacArthur, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2014, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (catholiccitizens.org)

I venture to say that never in the lifetime of anyone present here has religious liberty of the American people been as threatened as today.

Carl Anderson, Knights of Columbus at National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, 12-30-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

In the ways of God, he who does not progress, loses ground.

Fr. Reginald Garigou-Lagrange, column by Marcus C. Grodi, The Catholic Answer, July/August 2011

Maybe part of the New Evangelization is simply to understand better what we claim to believe.

Greg Erlandson, president and publisher, OSV, 11-11-2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, (www.osv.com)

The right to religious liberty is a gift from God. Our public witness arises from a heart and mind shaped by God himself.

Archbishop Wm. Lori -Baltimore, National Catholic Register, 11-3-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

A beautiful woman is a woman who is lovely in body and soul. Her loveliness starts on the inside and is reflected on the outside.

Emily Stimpson, Teaching Young Girls What it Means to be Truly OSV, 10-28-2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

This is a time when Catholics have a particular role to play in American history: to call the nation back to its true self.

Msgr. Stuart Swetland, Prof. Of Christian Ethics at Mount St. Mary's Univ., 12-30-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

If we choose to call ourselves Catholic, then that word has consequences for what we believe and how we act.

Michael Warsaw, Publisher's Note, 11-4-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

When I reflect upon the number of disagreeable people who I am told have gone to a better world, I am moved to lead a different life.

Mark Twain, From The Angel's Blackboard, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyin mission.org

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.

Mark Twain, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

"Adoration will heal our Church and thus our nation and thus our world..

Peter Kreeft, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"The Bible is a love letter from God with your name on it."

Peter Kreeft, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Abortion is the sacrament of the sexual revolution.

Peter Kreeft, editorial New Oxford Notes, New Oxford Review, March 2014

The four things in life that never get boring are knowing and loving God, your neighbor, and yourself.

Peter Kreeft, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

"To worship a crocodile is better than to worship yourself."

Peter Kreeft, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

If you truly love God and His will, then by doing what you will, will, in fact, be doing what God wills.

Peter Kreeft, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

If anyone claims to have met Christ without being changed, he has not met Him at all.

Peter Kreeft, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

Do you know any better way to make saints than to become one yourself

Peter Kreeft, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

"The day's food for the day's march...that is what Holy Communion is meant to be."

Msgr. Ronald Knox, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament. Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

While all the sacraments confer grace, the Eucharist contains the author of grace, Jesus Christ Himself."

Fr. John Hardon, S.J., Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament. Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Why is it so hard for so many to realize that winners are usually the ones who work harder, work longer and, as a result, perform better?

John Wooden, basketball coach, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

The sacred word within man in secular life transcends the control of the supreme power of the State.

Cardinal James Stafford, Address to Catholic Univ. Of America, Reprint by permission of www.catholicnewsagency.com

Human life has been conceded to the arbitrary will of the state.

Cardinal James Stafford, Address to Catholic Univ. Of America, Reprint by permission of www.catholicnewsagency.com

Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children, Now I have six children and no theories.

John Wilmot (Earl of Rochester), The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Children have more need of models than critics.

Joseph Jubert, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

The task of constructing a culture is essentially spiritual, for culture has its home in the soul.

Fr. John Courtney Murray, Cited by Charles J. Chaput, Life in The Late Republic, Reprint by permission of archden.org

American culture, as it exists, is actually the quintessence of all that is decadent in the culture of the Western Christian world.

Fr. John Courtney Murray, Cited by Charles J. Chaput, Life in The Late Republic, Reprint by permission of archden.org

If we cannot have moral feelings against homosexuality, can we have it against murder? Can we have it against other things.

Justice Anthony Scalia, U.S. Supreme Court, speech at Princeton Univ., 12-30-2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

It is not any more justifiable to wound the spirit than the body.

Shaker Saying, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Parents learn a lot from their children about coping with life.

Muriel Spark, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a manner that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.

Old Indian Saying

The answer to a crisis pregnancy is to eliminate the crisis, not the child.

Jeanie W. French, Reprint by permission of Reprint by permission of Reprint by permission of www.truthandcharityforum.org

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

Thomas Jefferson, The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2012, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (www.CatholicCitizens.org)

I tremble for my country when I consider that God is just, and His justice will not sleep forever."

Thomas Jefferson, cited by Robert P. George, Could America Survive Without Religion?, 11-19-15, Reprint by permission of Public Discourse

I have never observed men's honesty to increase with their riches.

Thomas Jefferson, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyin mission.org

When people fear their government, there is tyranny; when government fears the people, there is liberty.

Thomas Jefferson, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2011, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (www.CatholicCitizens.org)

To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.

Thomas Jefferson, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2011, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (www.CatholicCitizens.org)

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

Thomas Jefferson, Wikipedia reprint.

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.

Thomas Jefferson, *The Catholic Citizen*, Spring 2011, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (www.CatholicCitizens.org)

As no child will develop courage by being over protected, so no child will develop it by being pushed.

Rollo May, *The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book* (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Lincoln, quoting Jesus, cited by Michael Paulson, *Abraham Lincoln and ...*, 02-20-2015. Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.

Abraham Lincoln, *FMA Focus*, Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; ...

Abraham Lincoln, cited by Matthew Holland, *Lincoln's Best Speech*, 03-04-2015, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

"You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you can never fool all the people all the time."

Abraham Lincoln, cited by Msgr, Dennis Clark, Ph.D., *What Does God See...*, 07-01-2010, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

"As was said three thousand years ago... 'The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'"

Abraham Lincoln, cited by Lewis E. Lehrman, *A Presidents Day Look at ...*, 02-19-2001, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Mr. President, let us pray that God be on our side." With far greater insight Lincoln replied, "No, gentlemen, let us pray that we be on God's side."

Abraham Lincoln, *Homily of The Day*, 12-25-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

We need to remember we don't want to defeat people, we want to convert them. We want them to see the presence of Christ.

Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone, Opening Mass at National Council of Catholic Women, OSV, 10-14-2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

There will be over 3,500 children killed in the USA today from abortion. No flags lowered. No presidents crying. No media hyperventilating. Normal day.

Matt Drudge, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionsite.com

They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Benjamin Franklin, cited by Ken Connor, *Big Brother is Watching*, 08-21-2013, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Trouble came knocking but hearing laughter hurried away.

Benjamin Franklin, *FMA Focus*, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

"Rebellion against tyrants is obedience to God."

Benjamin Franklin (1776), cited by Michael Novak, *Religious Liberty and ...*, 06-27-2011, Reprinted with permission by Public Discourse

Public disputes warm the Imagination, whet the Industry, and strengthen the natural abilities.

Benjamin Franklin, *Proposal – Education of Youth in Pennsylvania*, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

By preserving the whole moral law of marriage, the Church knows that she is supporting the growth of a true civilization among men.

Janet E. Smith, *Humanae Vitae: A Challenge to Love*, 09-17-2003, www.lifeissues.net

"If you get God, sex, and money in the right place, everything else is easy."

Janet E. Smith, *Contraception, Why Not?* 12-29-2010

Whether abortion or gay marriage is right or wrong, some don't believe they have the tools to make a judgment, and they just let it happen.

Janet E. Smith, theologian Sacred Heart Seminary, *National Catholic Register*, 11-18-2012, Reprint by permission of NCRegister.com

We live in a culture in which condoms can be handed out in schools and Bibles can't. And I think that tells you everything you need to know about our society.

Janet Smith, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionsite.com

One reason that modern culture has trouble understanding the truth of *Humanae Vitae* is that it fails to appreciate what a profound good children are.

Janet E. Smith, *The Catholic Citizen*, Summer 2008, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens Of Illinois (www.catholiccitizens.org)

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

It's a dark culture that we live in. But you were called to glow in the dark.

Curtis Martin, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

What is liberty without wisdom and without virtue? It is the greatest of all evils: for it is folly, vice and madness, without restraint.

Edmund Burke, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2015, Reprint by permission of The Catholic Citizens of Illinois (www.catholiccitizens.org)

It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free.

Their passions forge their fetters.

Edmund Burke, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2015, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (www.catholiccitizens.org)

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

Edmund Burke, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2015, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Nothing is so fatal to religion as indifference.

Edmund Burke, Cited by Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Anger is only one letter short of danger.

Unknown

Peace is better than war. In peace sons bury their fathers, but in war fathers bury their sons.

Unknown

If photos of abortion are too upsetting to look at, then abortion itself should be too upsetting to tolerate.

Unknown, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com.

Why is it that you can't read a Bible in school, but can read a Bible in prison?

Unknown

The secret of a good speech is to have a good beginning and a good ending; then have the two as close together as possible.

Unknown

Thought for the month: Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.

Unknown

He died to take away your sins, not your mind.

Unknown

Church sign -- Warning: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning!

Unknown

Never mind trying to remember the names of the seven dwarfs or eight reindeer. Just remember the Ten Commandments.

Unknown

God answers knee mail.

Unknown

Faith makes all things possible, it does not make them easy.

Unknown

Find a way today to make changes in yourself instead of someone else. Sometimes the results are the same.

Unknown

Money will buy all the friends in the world, but they're seldom worth the price.

Unknown

The country clubs, the cars, the boats, your assets may be ample, but the best inheritance you can leave your kids is a good example.

Unknown

A Christian is the keyhole through which other folks see God.

Unknown

Two marks of a holy person: giving and forgiving.

Unknown

There are times when parenthood seems nothing but feeding the hand that bites you.

Peter DeVries, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

The biggest sin of our day is indifference."

Tim Staples, Catholic Quotations, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it.

Flannery O'Connor, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

What people don't realize is how much Christianity costs. They think faith is a big electric blanket, when of course it is the cross.

Flannery O'Connor, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

In the absence of faith, we govern by tenderness, and tenderness leads to the gas chamber.

Flannery O'Connor, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2014, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (catholiccitizens.org)

May your soul be in glory an hour before the devil knows your dead.

Irish Blessing

May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and a smooth road all the way to your door.

Irish Blessing

May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may troubles always be a stranger to you.

Irish Blessing

Don't buy the house; buy the neighborhood.

Russian Proverb

When you meet someone you judge them by their clothes; when you leave them, you judge them by their heart.

Russian Proverb

When money talks the truth is silent.

Russian Proverb

You can do anything with children if you only play with them.

German Proverb, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

To change and improve are two different things,

German Proverb

A good example is the best sermon.

English Proverb, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Little love; little trust.

English Proverb

One can go a long way after one is tired.

French proverb

What is learned in the cradle lasts to the grave.

French Proverb, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

The longest path is the one that leads from the heart to the pocket.

Jewish Proverb

God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers.

Jewish Proverb, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Promise little, do much.

Hebrew Proverb, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

You can only go halfway into the darkest forest; then you are coming out on the other side.

Chinese Proverb

Patience is power; with time and patience the mulberry leaf becomes silk.

Chinese Proverb, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.

Chinese Proverb

A man grows most tired by standing still.

Chinese Proverb, FMA Focus, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Dios tarda pero no olvida. God delays but doesn't forget.

Spanish Proverb

You have a lifetime to work, but children are only young once.

Polish Proverb, FMA Focus, Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

One kind word can warm three winter months.

Japanese Proverb

When you have spoken the word, it reigns over you. When it is unspoken, you reign over it.

Arabian Proverb, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

There are three things that never return: the spent arrow, the spoken word, and the lost opportunity.

Persian Proverb

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

Let no man claim the title of patriot who labors to undermine our country's fundamental pillars or Religion and Morality.

George Washington, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2011, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (www.catholiccitizens.org)

I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain the character of an honest man."

George Washington, cited by Dr. Gary Scott Smith, The Character of ..., 02-22-2010, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Democratic States must always feel before they can see: it is this that makes their Governments slow, but the people will be right at last.

George Washington, Letter to Lafayette, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

It is infinitely better to have a few good men than many indifferent ones.

George Washington, Letter to James McHenry, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness

George Washington, Circular to the States, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

We never know the love of the parent until we become parents ourselves.

Henry Ward Beecher, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is, that one often comes from a strong will and the other from a strong won't.

Henry Ward Beecher, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

There's not much practical Christianity in the man who lives on better terms with angels and seraphs than with his own children and neighbors.

Henry Ward Beecher, FMA Focus, 2-2013, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

"Let the love of God flow from us to those we meet."

Fr. Stan Tabor, Reprinted with permission

Waste no more time arguing what a good man should be. Be one

Marcus Aurelius, Book X, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Know the joy of life by piling good deed on good deed until no rift or cranny appears between them.

Marcus Aurelius, Book XI, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

When thou art offended at any man's fault, forthwith turn to thyself and reflect in what manner thou doest error thyself.

Marcus Aurelius, Book X, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Blot out vain pomp; check impulse; quench appetite; keep reason under its own control.

Marcus Aurelius, Book IX, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The mind which is free from passions is a citadel, for man has nothing more secure to which he can fly for refuge and for the future be inexpugnable.

Marcus Aurelius, Book VIII, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The true worth of a man is to be measured by the things he pursues.

Marcus Aurelius, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home.

Goethe, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing (www.osv.com)

Correction does much, but encouragement does more.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, FMA Focus, June 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Happiness is when what you think, say and do are all in harmony.

Mahatma Gandhi, FMA Focus, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat, for it is momentary.

Mahatma Gandhi, Satyagraha Leaflet No. 13, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes.

Mahatma Gandhi, Excerpt – Ethical Religion, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Be the change that you wish to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi, FMA Focus, June 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

Men stumble over the truth from time to time, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.

Winston Churchill, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

The short words are best, and the old words, when short, are the best of all.

Winston Churchill, FMA Focus, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionmissionassoc.org

An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile hoping it will eat him last.

Winston Churchill, FMA Focus, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

We know that he has, more than any other man, the gift of compressing the largest number of words into the smallest amount of thought.

Winston Churchill, Excerpt – The 1930's, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings. The inherent virtue of Socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.

Winston Churchill, Speech – House of Commons-1945, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Dogs look up to you, cats look down on you. Give me a pig! He looks you in the eye and treats you as an equal.

Winston Churchill, Excerpt – Churchill by Himself, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

It is no use to preach to [children] if you do not act decently yourself.

Theodore Roosevelt, Speech to Holy Name Society, Oyster Bay - 1903 Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Believe you can and you are halfway there.

Theodore Roosevelt, FMA Focus, Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.

Theodore Roosevelt, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point , The Bible, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

A sound body is good; a sound mind is better; but a strong and clean character is better than either.

Theodore Roosevelt, Address at Groton School, 1904, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The only man who makes no mistakes is the man who never does anything.

Theodore Roosevelt, Excerpt – Theodore Roosevelt The Citizen - 1904 Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed.

Theodore Roosevelt, Speech to Hamilton Club, Chicago - 1899 Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The first essential of civilization is law. Anarchy is simply the handmaiden and forerunner of tyranny and despotism.

Theodore Roosevelt, National Duties, Minnesota State Fair, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Righteous anger has its place, but humility helps temper our judgment.

Elizabeth Anderson, When (Righteous) Anger is Justified, 12-22-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

Married joy is possible, does exist. Use common sense, put your focus on God, and live one holy life. It's been done before and is being done even now.

Elizabeth Anderson, Who are Your Role Models, Married Celebrities vs Married Saints?, 09-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

The choice to be a mother or father is not merely a human choice. It is God's choice first

Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

"Nature never tells a lie." It is humanity's false use of nature that darkens the face of the world.

Aristotle, From: Peace of soul, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyin mission.org

He who has overcome his fears will truly be free.

Aristotle, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point , What's Holding You Back, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Both oligarch and tyrant mistrust the people, and therefore deprive them of their arms.

Aristotle, Politics, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Our characters are the result of our conduct.

Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

A friend is one soul abiding in two bodies.

Aristotle, The Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosophers, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

Everything a baptized person does each day should be directly or indirectly related to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Dorothy Day, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

“All are called to be saints, not to do the extraordinary. If sanctity depended on doing the extra there would be few saints.”

Dorothy Day, cited by Richard Becker, Saint TBA, 09-04-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“Let us then depart from this world with joy, but let us not wait until our final moments to begin the journey.”

Bishop Jacques-Benigne Bossuet, Quote of the Day, Meditations for Lent, 02-24-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Love is life. And if you miss love, you miss life.

Leo Buscaglia, Quote of the Day, 03-31-2015, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Spiritual beauty or the good, generally not only does not coincide with the typical meaning of beauty, it is its opposite

Leo Tolstoy, Excerpt – What is Art?, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

It is terrible when people do not know God, but it is worse when people identify as God what is not God.

Leo Tolstoy, Excerpt – Path of Life, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

A real mother, who knows the will of God by experience, will prepare her children also to fulfill it.

Leo Tolstoy, Excerpt – What Then Must We Do?, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Seize the moments of happiness, love and be loved! That is the only reality in the world, all else is folly.

Leo Tolstoy, Excerpt – War and Peace, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

Leo Tolstoy, Excerpt – The Artist's Way at Work, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

A Country cannot subsist well without liberty, nor liberty without virtue.

Jean Jacques Rousseau, Quote of the Day, 06-28-2015, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

It is more from carelessness about truth than from intentional lying that there is so much falsehood in the world.

Samuel Johnson, Quote of the Day, 09-18-2015, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Lord Acton, Letter to Mandell Creighton, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The danger is not that a particular class is unfit to govern. Every class is unfit to govern.

Lord Acton, Letter to Mary Gladstone, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Better a dry crust and with it peace than a house full of feasting with strife.

Proverbs 17:1, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

“No culture has appeared or developed except together with a religion.” Nor can a culture survive or develop for long without one

T.S. Eliot, Cited by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprint by permission of www.CatholicPhilly.com

If you're motivated by the Holy Spirit to say, “Something needs to be done”, than you've likely been appointed the person to do it.

Fr. Stephen Grunow, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.

James Baldwin, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

When we can rediscover the truth about love, sex, and marriage, we will transform the culture of death into a culture of life and love.

Allison LeDoux, God Saved the World Through a Baby, 12-26-2014, Reprint by permission of www.truthandcharityforum.org

Our Lord's dictum that whoever tries to save his life will lose it applies not only to persons, but to institutions as well.

Nicholas Senz, The Real Threat Facing Humanities, 12-18-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

I learned as a beginning writer that compliments feel good, but criticism does good." -

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Catholic Quotations, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

Have you ever stopped to think that Christianity is the only religion in which the first step is to say, "I'm wrong?"

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

We all want the best. We all want life, love, beauty, truth and goodness. The problem is we seek it the wrong way in the wrong places.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Distorted Desires: The Seven Deadly Sins, 09-10-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

When we strike at the capital sins, therefore we strike at the head of sin. We trample on the head of Satan and help to overcome in the name of Christ.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Distorted Desires: The Seven Deadly Sins, 09-10-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

In an act of suppressed irrational rage the human person takes the final act of desperate wrath and destroys himself.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Impotent and Irrational Rage, 10-08-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

To love another person is to see the face of God.

Victor Hugo, FMA Focus, Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Nothing is stronger than an idea whose time has come.

Victor Hugo, Excerpt – The History of a Crime, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

To put everything in balance is good, to put everything in harmony is better.

Victor Hugo, Excerpt – Ninety-Three – Ch. 5., Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.

Helen Keller, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.

Helen Keller, Cited by Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Blindness cuts us off from things, but deafness cuts us off from people.

Helen Keller, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardship.

Helen Keller, Excerpt – The Simplest Way to be Happy, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

"The shortest verse in the Bible is 'Jesus wept'. The only thing wrong with it is the past tense."

Randy Milholland, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

The right thing to do never requires any subterfuge, it is always simple and direct.

President Calvin Coolidge, FMA Focus, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

The simple fact remains, when a civil law commands a properly formed conscience to be violated, injustice ensues.

Joe Kral, Conscience, Legislation and the Culture of Death, 08-27-2015, Reprint by permission of www.truthandcharityforum.org

Faith is taking the first step even when you do not see the staircase.

Martin Luther King Jr., FMA Focus, Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

"When God seems to be millions of miles away, we have to ask ourselves one question: Who moved?"

Fr. John Klockman, God and Hum... www.catholicreligionteacher.com

"God is not a slot machine. We don't go to God to get something; we go to give something."

Mother Angelica, www.catholicreligionteacher.com

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, In Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Character is higher than intellect...A great soul will be strong to live, as well as strong to think.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nature, 1636, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

It was a high counsel that I once heard given to a young person, — "Always do what you are afraid to do."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Essays, 1841, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Nothing can bring you **peace** but yourself.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Self Reliance, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Friendship, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The less **government** we have, the better, — the fewer laws, and the less confided **power**.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Politics, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The soul is healed by being with children.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Without God all things are permitted.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Book XI – Ch. 4 (Variation) Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes.

Nothing in this world is harder than speaking the truth, nothing easier than flattery,

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Excerpt – Crime and Punishment, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Better to be driven out from among men than to be disliked of children.

Richard Henry Dana, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

A sure sign of a good book is that you like it more the older you get.

Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, Accessed on Wikiquotes

A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on.

Carl Sandburg, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

To study and not think is a waste. To think and not study is dangerous.

Confucius, Excerpt – Chapter II, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

They who know the truth are not equal to those who love it, and they who love it are not equal to those who delight in it.

Confucius, Excerpt – Chapter VI, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother.

Lin Yutang, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Be calm in arguing: for fierceness makes error a fault, and truth discourtesy.

George Herbert, Excerpt – The Church Porch, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Knowledge is folly unless grace guide it.

George Herbert, Excerpt – Quotes, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

When schools cease to teach virtue, then we all need protection from their knowledge.

Cardinal Mindszenty, Mindszenty report, Feb. 2003, Reprint by permission of www.mindszety.org

People who separate religion from the rest of life are trying to get rid of religion altogether for they do not want it to interfere with the way they live;

Cardinal Mindszenty, Mindszenty Report, Feb. 2003, Reprint by permission of Mindszenty Foundation

An angry father is most cruel towards himself.

Publilius Syrus, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

He that loves not his wife or children, feeds a lioness at home and broods a nest of sorrow.

Jeremy Taylor, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

This is a time (Lent) to rediscover why we have come to the world, where we come from, where we are going, what route we are following.

Zenit.org, Into the Deep, Jan./Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it.

Herald S. Hulbert, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

It is an illusory notion that the man of our own age can only be reached with the message of Christ in a completely new way.

Dietrich von Hildebrand, cited by editor, citing Pope Francis: Delight of the New World, New Oxford Review, Dec. 2013

To forget murder victims is to kill them twice.

Elie Wiesel, cited by Monica Migliorino Miller, Graphic Images: An Apologia, New Oxford Review, Sept. 2013

“The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reprint by permission of www.relevantmagazine.com

“Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reprint by permission of www.relevantmagazine.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

Grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ living and incarnate ... is the deadly enemy of the Church.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, cited by Charles J. Chaput, Archbishops column, 9-29-2004, Reprint by permission of www.archden.org

Destruction of the embryo in the mother's womb is a violation of the right to live which God has bestowed upon this nascent life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, cited by Charles J. Chaput, Archbishops column, 9-22-2004, Reprint by permission of www.archden.org

Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Do not try to make the Bible relevant. Its relevance is axiomatic. Do not defend God's word, but testify to it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reprint permission by www.relevantmagazine.com

“When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reprint by permission of www.relevantmagazine.com

If we are serious about our Christian commitment, we cannot neglect to recharge our spiritual batteries in the central act of our worship ... the Mass

Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Miami, Obligation of Sunday Mass ..., OSV, 07-22-12, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

As all of us get older, we begin to realize the presence of God in our lives and the wonderful love he has for us. ... I'm a very happy man.

Retired Archbishop Kucera, column by Greg Erlandson, OSV, 10-21-2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage. God.
Billboard message

“You don't know that God is all you need until you're in a position where He's all you've got.”

Kurt Warner, NFL, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Consider the postage stamp, my son. It secures success through its ability to stick to one thing til it gets there

Josh Billings, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Teaching children the importance of living a good life now so as to live with God in eternity is the most important element of Catholic education.

Dominican Sr. John Mary Fleming, Dr .U.S. Bishops' Sec. of Catholic Education, 2-8-14, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

In a spectacle-driven culture, God's voice is drowned-out – or, perhaps worse, it is distorted:

Soren Kiergaard cited by Benjamin Mann, Building A Culture of openness to God, 04-11-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Praying does not mean listening to yourself speak; praying means calming down and being still and waiting until you hear God.

Soren Kierkegaard, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Prayer Process, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

The tyrant dies and his rule is over, the martyr dies and his rule begins

Søren Kierkegaard, cited by Catholic Answers, A Few Last Words, 09-17-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

It is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.

Abraham Maslow, FMA Focus, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

No person is your friend who demands your silence or your right to grow.

Alice Walker, FMA Focus, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Our faith is the constant call for conversion, the constant call to life, the constant call to be saints.

Robert P. Lockwood, Catholic Journal, OSV, 04-08-2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Man is constantly being assured that he has more power than ever before in history, but his daily experience is one of powerlessness.

Richard Weaver, Excerpt – Ideas Have Consequences, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Practically all traditional distinctions, whether economic, moral, social, or aesthetic, are today under assault as founded on a prejudice

Richard Weaver, Excerpt – Life Without Prejudice, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

When there is a lack of honor in government, the morals of the whole people are poisoned.

Herbert Hoover, FMA Focus, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

The most precious freedom of all -- the freedom to live -- is endangered by assisted suicide legislation clothed in the language of choice and autonomy.

Paul Longmore, Professor of History, San Francisco University, Disabled From Polio

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots, the other, wings.

Hodding Carter, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

The better we live our Catholic faith, the better we serve our country. Love of God and love of country go hand in hand.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, Archdiocese for Military Services, USA, July 1-14, 2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

It's not that we're against gays, it's not that we're against divorced people, it's that we're pro-marriage.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, president USCCB, National Catholic Register, 11-18-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

Secularism is just communism's better-scrubbed bedfellow.

Cardinal Francis George, 12-04-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

You speak of beginning the education of your son. The moment he was able to form an idea his education was already begun.

Anna Letitia Barbauld, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

We are rapidly approaching a time when Catholic teaching on marriage will be a minority opinion, perhaps even a despised opinion.

Editorial Excerpt OSV, 7-14-2013, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if it does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.

Archbishop Vignano citing Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, OSV 11-24-2013 Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Success consists of getting up just one more time than you fall.

Oliver Goldsmith, FMA Focus, 2-2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.

Oliver Goldsmith, FMA Focus, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.

Robert Frost, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Try not to be a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.

Albert Einstein, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

Albert Einstein, FMA Focus, Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Imagination is the preview of life's coming attractions.

Albert Einstein, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

If you are out to describe the truth, leave elegance to the tailor.

Albert Einstein, FMA Focus, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

If we knew what it was we were doing, it wouldn't be called research would it?

Albert Einstein, FMA Focus, June 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Men are like tea -- the real strength and goodness are not properly drawn until they have been in hot water.

Lillie Hitchcock Coit, FMA Focus 6-2013, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

A child is now regarded as a commodity which people believe they have a "right" to obtain any way possible, if and when they wish.

Fr Bernard McGrath, Bendigo, Vic, Australia, IITD, Mar. 2013, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

We correctly deplore the misuse of nature in our environment, but the abuse of human nature now becomes a matter of free choice.

Fr Bernard McGrath, Bendigo, Vic, Australia, Into the Deep, Mar. 2013, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Self-respect is the fruit of self-discipline; the sense of dignity grows with the ability to say no to oneself. Abraham Heschel, The Catholic parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

A religious man is a person ... whose greatest passion is compassion.

Abraham Heschel, New York Journal American, 04-05-1963, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The time for the Kingdom may be far off, but the task is plain: to retain our share in God in spite of peril and contempt.

Abraham Heschel, Excerpt – The Torch, 1950, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

"When the church is unified and the Lord is glorified, then the saints will be edified, sinners will be sanctified, and the devil will be terrified."

Anthony Warner, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else.

James Matthew Barrie, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

It's not how busy you are, but why you are busy. The bee is praised; the mosquito is swatted.

Marie O'Connor, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Many men have been capable of doing a wise thing, more a cunning thing, but very few a generous thing.

Alexander Pope, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

If we fail in our moral duty to cast our vote, then not only do we run the risk of a bad administration, but we are inviting evil through the sin of omission.

Bishop Jose H. Gomez, Denver Catholic Register, Sept. 29, 2004, Reprint by permission of www.archden.org.

The doctor said the cause of death was starvation. God said the cause of death was neglect.

Brendan Quinlan, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

"Don't worry so much about the kind of world you are leaving for your kids. Worry much more about the kind of kids you are leaving for the world."

Fr Stan Fortuna, CSR, at a conference, Into the Deep, Aug. 2013, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Just as billions of drops of dirty water will never make a clean ocean, so billions of men and families without peace will never make a peaceful humanity.

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, 2nd Advent homily 2014, Into the Deep, Mar. 2015, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"It is an immense consolation to continually discover that Christ's hand is ready to lift us up, if only we seek and grab hold of it."

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Pontifical Household preacher, ITD Dec. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"It is not enough that I recognize Christ as 'Savior of the world'; it is necessary that I recognize him as 'my Savior'."

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Pontifical Household preacher, ITD Nov. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"You can never get closer to someone who has died than when you are at Mass."

Fr. John Ricardo, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

In our own especially self-indulgent times, the unruly desires that are a consequence of the Fall have drawn our nation into the culture of death.

Fr. C.J. McCloskey, The Chance to Live a Life, 02-12-2015, www.truthandcharityforum.org

What St. John Paul II called the "culture of death" won't be defeated without our witness to the "culture of life."

Mark S. Latkovic, S.T.D, Catholic Identity & Our Moral Life, 11-17-2014, www.truthandcharityforum.org

Without acts of penance, the human person soon forgets past resolutions, and slides back again into grave sin and/or deliberate venial sin.

Fr. Basil Cole, O.P., Forgiveness, Penance and Catholic Social Teaching, 02-19-2015, www.truthandcharityforum.org

The social injustices of this present world should be cleansed by the penance of the faithful not only during lent but even throughout the year.

Fr. Basil Cole, O.P., Forgiveness, Penance and Catholic Social Teaching, 02-19-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

Sometimes being kind is rather unloving, since that can assist or enable people in doing things that bring them great harm.

Adam Cassandra, Correcting Errant Beliefs; a A Sign of Love, 02-26-2015, Reprint by permission of www.truthandcharityforum.org

Sinful desires are not overcome by less desire but by the desire for something greater — union with God.

Bill Maguire, The Synod, the Faith and the Reluctantly Divorced, 10-16-2014, Reprint by permission of www.truthandcharityforum.org

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

The root of the modern crisis, and indeed the crisis of human existence from time immemorial, is the alienation from God.

John P. Hittinger, Celebrating the Gospel of Life, 06-13-2013, Reprint by permission of www.truthandcharityforum.org

The culture of life begins and returns to this admonition: "Be still, and know that I am God."

John P. Hittinger, Celebrating the Gospel of Life, 06-13-2013, Reprint by permission of www.truthandcharityforum.org

The abortion facility is a very concrete point of reference for the "end of the line" of futility, sin, and alienation.

John P. Hittinger, Celebrating the Gospel of Life, 06-13-2013, Reprint by permission of www.truthandcharityforum.org

Let us be clear: the Catholic Christian has no choice – We must oppose these elements of the [HHS] law and seek their repeal.

Arland K. Nichols, The Height of Injustice: The HHS Mandate, 01-23-2014, truthandcharityforum.org

His sufferings brought him to perfect obedience, redemptive obedience, and our sufferings can lead us to come to bear a likeness to him.

Fr John Speekman, Homily (excerpt) for 29th Sunday of Year B, Into the Deep, Jan. 2013, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

A family is holy not because it is perfect but because God's grace is at work in it, helping it to set out anew everyday on the way of love.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Follow the Way of Love, cda.org

As Christian families, you not only belong to the church but your daily life is a true expression of the church.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Follow the Way of Love, cda.org

The Catholic faith is not a set of doctrines. It is a lived encounter with Christ, who lives in, and teaches through, the Church.

Prof. Charles E. Rice, God is Not Dead, He Isn't Even Tired, Catholic Citizens of Illinois, Fall 2010, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

Sunday is still the day of the Lord, but the "Lord" is sports.

Fredrick W. Marks, The Apotheosis of Sports, New Oxford Review, Oct. 2014

In the case of the U.S., who can say where the athletic juggernaut is taking us? Who can say where it stands in relation to our moral anemia?

Fredrick W. Marks, The Apotheosis of Sports, New Oxford Review, Oct. 2014

That John {the Apostle} portrays her [Mary] as queen (Rev. 12:1), as well as a mother, is still further reason to view Marian veneration as Bible-based.

Fredrick W. Marks, Marian Misconceptions, New Oxford Review, May 2014

If Christ is our King, as He Himself claimed before Pilate, then Mary is our queen.

Fredrick W. Marks, Marian Misconceptions, New Oxford Review, May 2014

Fallen human nature ensures that those who wield power will always succumb to pride. They will forget the maxim that no man is fit to govern another.

Robert Lowery Clinton, The Spirit of Democracy & the Threat of Elitism, New Oxford Review, April 2014

A pew is a difficult mission field. It is hard for shepherds to bring home the sheep if they think they are already in the fold.

J. Budziszewski, This Time Will Not Be The Same, 03-2014, Reprinted with permission by First Things,

"No one can live continually in sin and continue to say the Rosary: either they will give up sin or they will give up the Rosary"

Bishop Hugh Doyle, cited by Sam Guzman, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Those who petition for divorce use the ink of their children's tears".

Cardinal Pell citing Graffiti on a Brazilian Train, No Parent Should Fail to Pass on Christ's Core Teachings, NC Register, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The pattern of life that we must live is putting into practice the words that we hear from the Church, formed by our belief in faith and action in love.

R. Jared Staudt, Does Faith Need Culture? Answers From Scripture & the Church, 04-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Catholic culture should root out the weeds of the world and our souls.

R. Jared Staudt, Does Faith Need Culture? Answers From Scripture & the Church, 04-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

The attack on human life and the family is related to a new heresy which rejects God's order and plan for creation.

R. Jared Staudt, *The Rosary: Our Response to Defend the Family*, 07-08-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The battle to overcome the crisis of family and human dignity involves more than legislation and the courts. It is a conversion of culture.

R. Jared Staudt, *The Rosary: Our Response to Defend the Family*, 07-08-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere!"

Erma Bombeck, cited by Judy Keane, *Saintly Wisdom for Worriers*, 03-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

We train our hearts for tomorrow by the actions we freely perform today.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Why Train Our Hearts*, 02-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Like St. Paul, we can only say "Death is gain" if every moment of our lives is lived striving to return generosity for divine generosity.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Returning Generosity for Generosity*, 09-24-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

If we fail to train our hearts to love the good and hate the evil, we cannot make good choices, and thus we cannot have a deep spiritual life.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Why Train Our Hearts*, 02-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Whether we realize it or not, and no matter our intentions for our actions, our freely chosen actions shape us.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Why Train Our Hearts*, 02-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

These joyful mysteries (of the Rosary) show us that true joy is not the absence of suffering or pain but joy can co-exist with suffering.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *The Rosary's Joyful Mysteries*, 02-05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

With and through Mary, let us follow Jesus along the path of the Cross marked with all the sufferings and pains of this life.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *The Rosary's Joyful Mysteries*, 02-05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

We bear Christ's light in the world so as to edify others and to give greater glory to God and not to gratify ourselves.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Disinterestedness: The Forgotten Virtue*, 02-12-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

God answers all prayers. He may not give us what we want exactly but, if we never give up, He will sustain our desire for all the good that He has for us.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Prayer is Like Life-Support*, 10-23-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Your mind and your heart are, so to speak, two wings by which your soul lifts itself to God

Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, *The Point of Prayer*, 02-13-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

While entertaining a friend, you forget everything else. When you pray, you ought also to forget earthly things; your heart should speak only to God.

Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, *The Point of Prayer*, 02-13-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

You pray well when you tell God what is in your heart. Thus, prayer is communication of spirit with spirit, of man with God.

Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, *The Point of Prayer*, 02-13-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

What a child needs more than anything else is to belong to two devoted, God-fearing parents who work together to bring about his eternal salvation.

Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, *Eight Beatitudes to Foster Love in the Home*, 07-01-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Where there is faith, there is love. Where there is love, there is peace. Where there is peace, there is God. Where there is God, there is Heaven.

Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, *Eight Beatitudes to Foster Love in the Home*, 07-01-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Our adoration and reverence for Jesus cannot limit itself to our contemplative life, but it must overflow to our active life.

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, *Find Your Philosophy of Life*, 02-05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The essence of true prayer is praising God, but also loving what God loves most—the salvation of immortal souls.

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, *Find Your Philosophy of Life*, 02-05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

When our patience is put to the test, then we should lift up our eyes, mind, heart and soul to Our Lady, and she will acquire for us heroic patience.

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Five Ways to Increase Patience, 10-18-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Sin produces war; prayer produces peace of heart, mind and soul and harmony among peoples!

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Ten Reasons to Pray the Rosary, 08-18-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

You may receive the Faith, you may accept the Faith, and you may hand down the Faith pure and entire, but you may not be its arbiter.

Leila Miller, Sorry, You're Not Allowed to Do That, 07-25-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Our faith proposes the convergence of time and eternity; a Christian looks to what is past because it may provide an image of what is timeless.

Benjamin Mann, Eternal Revolution, Not "Old Time Religion", 06-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

If our lives show no sign of Christ's transforming power, then we are witnesses against the truth rather than for it.

Benjamin Mann, Eternal Revolution, Not "Old Time Religion", 06-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Christians should care about the "permanent things" – virtue, beauty, truth – not because they are old, but because they are always new.

Benjamin Mann, Eternal Revolution, Not "Old Time Religion", 06-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

One cannot give what he does not have. How many of us have truly acquired the joy and peace of the Holy Spirit?

Benjamin Mann, The Cross and the Drug Culture, 05-12-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Humility opens the door to the hearts of others and to the heart of God.

Marcellino D'Ambrosio, PH.D., Why Humility Opens Doors, 07-30-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

As the spouse of the Holy Spirit and the Mother of God, is it any wonder that on the cross our Savior ordained Mary to be our spiritual Mother?

Tyler Blanski, This Lent, Prepare Yourself for a Marian Consecration, 02-18-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

St. Louis de Montfort, possibly the next Doctor of the Church, wrote that to truly come to know Jesus, one must discover the secret of Mary.

Sr. Joseph Mary Maximilian, FTI, How Mary Changed My Life, 08-04-2005, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The love of Christ is stronger than all the problems around us. The love of Christ is stronger than all of our weaknesses

Br. James Brent, OP, The Love of Christ is Stronger, 04-21-2008, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Let us always remember St. Maximilian Kolbe, and let us always remember that no matter what is going on around us, the love of Christ is stronger. Br. James Brent, OP, The Love of Christ is Stronger, 04-21-2008, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"Catholic Life doesn't work. There is very little cut-price Christianity; and there's no cost-free Christianity."

Cardinal George Pell, at the Sydney launch of his book, "Test Everything, Hold Fast to What is Good", ITD June 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Every unborn baby deserves a birthday.

Bumper Sticker For Life, ITD Oct. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

If it's not a baby, you're not pregnant.

Bumper Sticker For Life, ITD Nov. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion is already born."

Ronald Reagan, President, ITD Dec. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

We can't help everyone but everyone can help someone.

Ronald Reagan, FMA Focus, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women.

Ronald Reagan, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2011, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois (CatholicCitizens.org)

The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.

Michelangelo, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

All human virtues increase and strengthen themselves by the practice and experience of them.

Socrates, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Some people are going to like me and some people aren't. So I might as well be me. Then, at least, I will know that the people who like me, like me.

Hugh Prather, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Whoever is happy will make others happy too.

Anne Frank, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Life is Choices, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

"He who loses wealth loses much; he who loses a friend loses more; but he who loses courage loses all."

Cervantes, cited by Matthew Kelly, Rediscovering Catholicism, Leadership, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Tell me thy company, and I'll tell thee what thou art.

Cervantes, Accessed on Wikiquotes

He that has his father for judge goes safely to trial.

Cervantes, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

"I never knew a teacher who could be at once so patient and so unyielding, so poetical, so practical, so inventive and so orthodox."

Clare Booth Luce, Speaking about Archbishop Fulton Sheen, Cited by Donald DeMarco, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

"Custom will never conquer nature; for nature always remains unconquerable"

Cicero, cited by Donald DeMarco, Where Have all the Boys and Girls Gone? 02-02-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

"There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it behooves all of us not to talk about the rest of us."

Robert Louis Stevenson, Cited by Donald DeMarco, Two Monologues in Search of a Dialogue, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

Even with bad laws about marriage, we still have a duty to speak the truth and encourage our neighbors to live out the truth.

Ryan T. Anderson, The Defense of Marriage Isn't Over, 10-08-14, Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

Everything the pro-life movement did needs to happen again, but on this new frontier of marriage.

Ryan T. Anderson, Marriage, Where do we go From Here?, 05-22-2014, © 2015 National Review, Inc. Reprinted by permission

Religious freedom is a linchpin of the freedoms that limit the powers of the state, plant firm roots for democracy, and enable it to last.

Timothy Shah, Religious Freedom: Why Now? Defending an Embattled Human Right, 07-03-2012, Reprint with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.

C.S. Lewis, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Heaven is an acquired taste, but only because we have addicted ourselves to sin and its delusions

C.S. Lewis, Cited in "Living The Catholic Faith," Reprint by permission of Franciscan Media

Aim at Heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at Earth and you will get nothing.

C.S. Lewis, FMA Focus. Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

C.S. Lewis, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

"God, who foresaw your tribulation, has specially armed you to go through it, not without pain but without stain."

C.S. Lewis, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

There are only two kinds of people in the end: Those who say to God, "Thy will be done" and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done".

C.S. Lewis, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

Men are mirrors, or "carriers" of Christ to other men. Usually, it is those who know Him who bring Him to others.

C.S. Lewis cited by Maria Hisa Chang, Finding Christ in His Apostles, New Oxford Review, December 2013

The safest road to hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.

C.S. Lewis, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 – 3 Lines

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are – and change the ending.

C.S. Lewis, Reprint by permission of catholicreligione teacher.com

The most fatal disease of friendship is gradual decay.

Samuel Johnson

Instead of loving the Trinity of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), we tend to love a different trinity: Me, myself, and I.

Mark Hart , Reprint by permission of catholicreligione teacher.com

When there is an apparent conflict between science and religion it is either because of bad science or bad religion, or both.

Father Robert Barron, Reprint by permission of catholicreligione teacher.com

Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells toll; it tolls for thee.

John Donne, Cited by Robert P. Lockwood, Abortion's Ugly Truth, OSV, Sept. 30, 2015, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Our critical day is not at the very day of our death, but the whole course of our life.

John Donne

We are broken just like the world is, and we need God to make us whole. The more we are molded by him, the less we will break.

Kevin Tierney, The Sunday Propers: Living According to God's Will 07-16-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Let the love of God flow from us to those we meet.”

Fr. Stan Tabor

“Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessings instead of your own.”

Harold Coffin, cited by Cate Roberts, No Comparison? The You God Made ..., 01-14-2013, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

The family is the basic brick of society, but religion is the cement that holds the bricks together.

Dale Ahlquist, The Challenge of Defending the Normal, 09-09-2013, Reprint by permission of crisis magazine.com

It is easier to get rid of one's religion than to get rid of one's sins.

Dale Ahlquist. Reprint by permission of catholicreligione teacher.com

Sex emancipation is an enemy of freedom; it is especially the enemy of religious freedom.

Dale Ahlquist, The Challenge of Defending the Normal, 09-09-2013, Reprint by permission of crisis magazine.com

Ignoring reality, ignoring the law of our being, ignoring the peculiar goodness of the sexes, is always foolish, even when it is not downright evil.

Anthony Esolen, Justice Kennedy's Tenuous Grasp on Human Dignity,, 07-02-2015, Reprint by permission of crisis magazine.com

The world, besides being quite mad, is now an unspeakably drab, tawdry, and lonely place. Build outposts of normality. It will take time. Begin.

Anthony Esolen, Reform and Renewal Starts With Us, 07-21-2015, Reprint by permission of crisis magazine.com

If your children are in the sub-pagan schools, it will require almost a miracle of God to keep them from becoming sub-pagan themselves.

Anthony Esolen, Reform and Renewal Starts With Us, 07-21-2015, Reprint by permission of crisis magazine.com

Sexual love, if it is to remain sane, must be rooted in the reality of the human body, male and female.

Anthony Esolen, Such Love is Hate. 07-13-2015, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

Evil is what it is, and does what it does. That is so even in this life, let alone the life to come.

Anthony Esolen, The Curious Unseriousness of all Our Moral Debates. 03-31-2015, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

Religious consciences and religious sponsored institutions are increasingly required by law to perform acts that they consider immoral.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., Will Catholic Hospitals be the Next Target?, 09-01-2015, Reprint by permission of crisis magazine.com

In the end, as we are seeing, everything is right but what is right.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., Will Catholic Hospitals be the Next Target?, 09-01-2015, Reprint by permission of crisis magazine.com

Ironically, the state itself violates the separation of church and state by becoming in effect its own religion.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., Obama's Right to Worship" Ushers in New State Religion, 2-27-2014, Reprint by permission of crisis magazine.com

The central purpose of the Church is to see that the divine revelation that was handed down is understood and preserved in our time.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., On Pope Francis and Church Integrity, 09-10-2015, Reprint by permission of crisis magazine.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

We find that with the evaporation of Christianity in the culture, we also note that the ethic of forgiveness disappears.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., On Court-Mandated Brain Washing, 08-20-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

We cannot reconstruct the world in order to reconstruct ourselves. We always have to attend to ourselves first.

Rev James V. Schall, S.J., Benedict: From Where Does Evil Come?, 09-21-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

We will not be able to grasp the meaning of truth, love, and good with our own reason and insight if we deny their divine origin.

Rev James V. Schall, S.J., Benedict: From Where Does Evil Come?, 09-21-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

The Church's practice always results from what she receives and contemplates in revelation. Pastoral ministry cannot be detached from doctrine."

Robert Cardinal Sarah, Rev. James Schall, S.J., On Pope Francis and Church Integrity, 09-10-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

Like many other areas of American life, there is not much daylight between Catholics and secularists when it comes to television.

Tom Jay, Television: The Devil's Tabernacle, 09-09-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

Programming is not obscene, it's "daring." The inmates are running the asylum and we Catholics gave them the keys.

Tom Jay, Television: The Devil's Tabernacle, 09-09-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

We are now living de Tocqueville's prophecy that we today call the "Nanny State."

Joseph Woodard, What's New in the New Evangelization ... And Why?, 09-10-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

Modern public administration spearheads the legitimization of vice, because vice breeds dependency, and dependency is its purpose.

Joseph Woodard, What's New in the New Evangelization ... And Why?, 09-10-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind.

John F. Kennedy, Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Of Courtesy, it is much less than courage of heart or holiness. Yet in all my walks it seems to me, the grace of God is in Courtesy.

Hilaire Belloc, FMA Focus, June 2015, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of God no matter the conflict.

Anonymous, FMA Focus, June 2015, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

A bad attitude is like a flat tire. You can't go anywhere until you change it.

Anonymous, FMA Focus, Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Prayer moves the hand that moves the world.

John Aikman Wallace, FMA Focus, June 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Your future depends on many things but mostly on you.

Frank Tyger, FMA Focus, June 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

I will talk and act not on my knees but with prudence.

Lech Walesa, FMA Focus, Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

The first duty of love is to listen.

Paul Tillich, FMA Focus, Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Speak clearly if you speak at all, carve every word before you let it fall.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., FMA Focus, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

There are two ways of exerting one's strength: pushing down and pulling up.

Booker T. Washington, FMA Focus, June 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

The simple heart that freely asks in love, obtains.

John Greenleaf Whittier, FMA Focus, Feb. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on.

Eleanor Roosevelt, FMA Focus, Feb. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

Marriage is not so much about “finding the right person” as it is about “being the right person.”

Fr. Michal Twaruzek, homily 10-04-15, Reprint with permission

Every life is worth living. How is God calling you to receive, share and live this most basic message of the worth of every single human life?

Fr. Gregor Gorsic, Excerpt Sunday Bulletin, 10-04-15, Reprint with permission

What you are is God's gift to you. What you become is your gift to God.

Hans Urs Von Balthasar, cited by Matthew Kelly, Holiness is Possible, Decision Point, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

We must not allow ourselves to be contaminated by secularism and should forget about trying to be modern in a world that is anti-religious.”

Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro, Citing Jorge L. Cardinal Uros, Review: Eleven Cardinals Speak on Marriage and the Family, 09-11-2015, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

If forgiveness does not change the direction of man's life, he does not convert, so “we cannot truly say that man has been forgiven.”

Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro, Citing Carlo Cardinal Caffarra, Review: Eleven Cardinals Speak on Marriage and the Family, 09-11-2015, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

The loss of confidence in our ability to know a natural law leaves man defenseless against the arbitrary use power or ideological manipulation.

Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro, The Universality of the Moral Law, 02-11-2016, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

In general there are such things as an erring life and a just life, such things as good and evil that precede and judge our free choices”

Maike Hickson, Citing Carlo Cardinal Caffarra, Review: Eleven Cardinals Speak on Marriage and the Family, 09-11-2015, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

Becoming a physical grown-up happens automatically; becoming a mature adult takes work.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Part of the purpose of “education” is to get a realistic understanding and acceptance of the limits on our freedom.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

If we blind ourselves to the objective facts – to the way things are, sooner or later the truth will rise up and take its revenge. Count on it.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

You're free to do absolutely anything you want. But there's a hitch: You're never free of the consequences.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Morality is not based on laws; just the opposite: good laws are based on morality, and morality is based on human nature.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

The American Dream's creed of “More, more, more!” tends to get in the way of considering more important things, like what being human means.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

The beast is inside each of us. What the story (morality) asks is: Are you in charge of your wolf, or is your wolf in charge of you?

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Set yourself free, not from dreams but from impossible ones. Then take the talents you do have and make something of them.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

God respects our freedom, waiting until we are ready. It is only when the prodigal son is hungry and helpless that he heads for home.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

We're not praying to change God's mind; we're praying to understand God's mind.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

You are not in prayer to know about God but to know God – and not as a character in a novel or a personage in history, but as a friend.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Food for Thought: S-3

1 - 3 Lines

We have no government of angels and must constantly take steps to check the government itself.

President James Madison, Cited by Rev. James Schall, S.J., "Obama's Right to Worship" Ushers in New State Religion, 2-27-2014, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

"Looking to what the secular world holds up as 'manly' is in fact to look at shadows - or even at outright counterfeits - of masculinity."

Bishop Thomas Olmsted, Phoenix, AZ, Letter, Man Up!, 10-01-2015, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

There is no solution to our cultural decline apart from the Gospel of Jesus.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Phoenix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

Fasting is training in self-knowledge, a key weapon for mastery over oneself.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Phoenix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

Is this not a time to consider more deeply St. John Paul II's proclamation that the "dignity of every woman is a task given to every man?"

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Phoenix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

To know how to free oneself is nothing. The arduous thing is to know what to do with one's freedom.

Andre Gide, Cited by Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Laws that place unborn children outside the protection of the law destroy both the children killed and the common good.

Francis Cardinal George, The Church's Consistent Teaching on Life, The Catholic Citizen Fall 2015, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

Most of our problems come from not being able to sit quietly in a room with ourselves.

Blaise Pascal, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

The heart has its reasons, which reason cannot know

Blaise Pascal, cited by Charles J. Chaput, Living the Catholic Faith, Reprint by permission of Franciscan Media

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life.

Sophocles, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

"Baptize first the children; and if they can speak for themselves, let them do so. Otherwise, let their parents or other relatives speak for them."

Hippolytus 215 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

You can't say that civilization don't advance, however, for in every war they kill you in a new way.

Will Rogers, An Idea About Disarmament Plans, 12-22-1929, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.

Will Rogers, No Value in The Time We Save, 04-28-1930, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Sometimes it takes two or three conferences to scare up a war, but generally one will do it.

Will Rogers, How Conferences End, 07-05-1933, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Papers say: "Congress is deadlocked and can't act." I think that is the greatest blessing that could befall this country.

Will Rogers, Column – Weekly Article, 01-27-1924, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Anyone who has truly known God can never be cured of Him.

Francois Mauriac, cited by Charles Chaput, Living the Catholic Faith, Reprint by permission of Franciscan Media

Most men resemble great deserted palaces: the owner occupies only a few rooms and has closed off wings where he never ventures.

Francois Mauriac, Journal, 1932-1939, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

One can touch a living soul through a curtain of vice and crime no matter how dense and dark: but vulgarity is an insurmountable barrier.

Francois Mauriac, Le Noeud de Viperes (1932), Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

"The Bible does not teach us how the heavens go, but how to go to Heaven."

Galileo, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Humility, a sense of reverence before the sons of heaven — of all the prizes that a mortal man might win, these, I say, are wisest; these are best..

Euripides, Bacchae 1.1150, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Food for Thought: S-3

1 – 3 Lines

Whoso neglects learning in his youth, loses the past and is dead for the future.

Euripides, Phrixus, Frag.927, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Hidden within the dark cloud of state (U.S.) hostility to religion may be the silver lining of a reassertion of Catholic identity.

Kevin Schmiesing, The Separation of Charity and State, 12-22-2015, Reprint by permission of crismagazine.com

“This slogan (‘fight for zero-poverty’) respects neither the Gospel nor Christ.” A poor person feels dependent” on God, a rich man on himself.

Cardinal Robert Sarah, Cited by Rev James V. Schall, S.J., Will the Poor ..., 12-17-2015, Reprint by permission of crismagazine.com

Western appeasement will not garner more respect from the Muslim world, but it will bolster the jihadi recruitment campaign.

William Kilpatrick, Dominance and Submission in ..., 01-19-2016, Reprint by permission of crismagazine.com

The church is a constant reminder that government is not the ultimate authority, and should have limits. It’s a voice that needs to be protected.

Peg Luksik, Ph.D., Higher Authority, 06-20-2009, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

There can be no justice, social or otherwise, without Christ. All rights and protection spring from the King of Justice Himself.

Doreen Truesdell, Why God Can't Bless America, 08-02-2008, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

The word “politics” is derived from the word “poly,” meaning “many,” and the word “ticks,” meaning “blood sucking parasites.”

Larry Hardiman, cited by Robert Hutchinson, Which Party is Best ... , 09-19-2012, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

United we stand, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs.

Patrick Henry, Excerpt – Patrick Henry Life, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

In a country where good is evil and evil good, piety is the last sin.

George Neumayr, Immoral Authority, 01-19-2001, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

“Humility is nothing other than the conviction that God is God and only God—and that man is man, and nothing but man.”

Romano Guardini, Quote of the Day, The Rosary of Our Lady, 09-15-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

“What makes a man a Christian is his faith, that inner life that awakens in him the revelation handed down to us from the very moment he receives it.”

Romano Guardini, Quote of the Day, Meditations on the Christ, 10-05-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Time is precious, but truth is more precious than time.

Benjamin Disraeli, Speech at Aylesbury, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

A precedent embalms a principle.

Benjamin Disraeli, Speech House of Commons, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

If you are anxious and despairing and worried, here is my advice: Get a crucifix.

Elizabeth Scalia, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

“Man is not peace with his fellow man because he is not at peace with himself. And he is not at peace with himself because he is not at peace with God.”

Thomas Merton, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

I am here to tell you that it is much less important how committed you are, than what you are committed to.

Antonin Scalia, Supreme Court Justice, Reprint by permission of lepantoinstitute.org

Judges should limit themselves to identifying and interpreting the laws that are given; they should not re-shape those laws, even to make them better.”

Antonin Scalia, Supreme Court Justice, cited by Matt Hadro, 02-15-2016, Reprint by permission of catholicnewsagency.com

"We are fools for Christ's sake. We must pray for the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world."

Antonin Scalia, Supreme Court Justice, Speech 11-23-2004, Reprint by permission of catholicnewsagency.com

Food for Thought: S-3

4 – 5 Lines

We bring a message that has been shaped in the sanctuary, the choir, the cloister. For the follower of Jesus, the depth of this prayer and fidelity to it are the measure of spiritual soundness and apostolic vigor."

From constitution of Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation, Excerpt, Accessed on www.nashvilledominican.org

Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.

Patrick Henry, Excerpt – Speech at Second Virginia Convention, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

Patrick Henry, Excerpt – Speech at Second Virginia Convention, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

Once people worship the false god of pleasure as an end in itself, sadly and inevitably they are susceptible to the lure of so-called medical miracles and the promise of a longer life rather than putting their trust in the Lord God.

Fr. C.J. McCloskey, Decline in Morality Leads ..., 05-08-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

Fallen human beings now want what we want when we want it, and in order to avoid uncomfortable sensations of guilt, we want to think that what we want is good.

Fr. C.J. McCloskey, The Chance to Live a Life, 02-12-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

The underclass, the financial crisis and moral crisis will make us dig down and ask, "Can we learn something from the fact that we now have single mothers responsible for 40% of live births?"

Janet E. Smith, theologian Sacred Heart Seminary, National Catholic Register, Nov. 18 2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

We live in a culture in which human life is considered of absolutely insignificant value. Otherwise we would not be able to have abortion clinics.

Janet E. Smith, Contraception, Why Not?, 12-29-2010

The Church, however, does not condemn the use of contraception because it is an act that has bad consequences. Rather, it teaches that since contraception is an intrinsically evil action, it is predictable that it will have bad consequences.

Janet E. Smith, Humanae Vitae: A Challenge to Love, Lifeissues.net, 09-17-2003

Not only does contraception harm a woman's health and expose her to risk of unwanted pregnancy, abortion, STDs, heartbreak and a host of other harms, it also gets in the way of finding a suitable mate,

Janet E. Smith, Professor, of Moral Theology, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Column by Lori Hadacek, Chaplin, OSV, 11-4-2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

In the Catholic view of things, abortion is a justice issue, not an issue of sexual morality ... it is a civil rights issue, arguably the greatest civil rights issue of our time.

George Weigel, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Conversion means not closing in on oneself in the pursuit of one's own success, one's own prestige, one's own position, but making sure that every day, in small things, truth, faith in God and love become the most important thing.

Zenit.org, Into the Deep, Jan./Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The Christian should not be afraid to go "against the grain" in order to live his faith, resisting the temptation to "conform". In many societies God has become the "great absentee" and in his place there are many idols, first of all the autonomous "I".

Zenit.org 23-01- 2013, Into the Deep, Feb. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The first way to resist evil is to recognize it, to call it by its name, without deception. We can say that the greatest sin is not to recognize sin and to structure ways of self-justification that, in fact, frustrate the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cardinal Mauro Piacenzo, Into the Deep, Jan./Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

At the moment when all education becomes a state monopoly (discriminatory legislation), or tends to become such, at that moment the American democracy will be dead or dying.

John Courtney Murray, Separation of Church and State: True and False Concepts, 1947

Food for Thought: S-3

4 – 5 Lines

It is clear that our Lord is winning the hearts of a new generation of pro-life advocates. He's filling them with hope and animating them with zeal so that they can work to build up the Culture of Life.

Sister John Mary, O.P., Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist, 03-2015

In a world where more people are unable or unwilling to have children, the Church's message of children as a blessing and responsibility is needed now more than ever.

Editorial Excerpt OSV, 12-01-2013, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Voting for a candidate who promotes actions or behaviors that are intrinsically evil and gravely sinful makes a voter "morally complicit" and places the eternal salvation of his or her soul in "serious jeopardy."

Bishop Thomas Paprocki, Springfield, IL, National Catholic Register, 10-31-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

It is not hateful to say that an immoral action is sinful. On the contrary, the most compassionate thing we can do is help people to turn away from sin.

Bishop Paprocki, Prayers for Supplication and Exorcism in Reparation of Same-Sex Marriage, 11-20-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

If a man, then, is to be courageous he must know that which is good, that which is worth fighting for, that which is worth dying for; "he must be brave for the sake of the good."

Bishop Paprocki, Fathers in Faith and Family, 12-08-12, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

There is an intimate connection between truth and freedom, for by following the truth as given to us by God, we come to experience the authentic freedom of what it means to be a human being.

Bishop Paprocki, Humane Vitae Mass, 08-10-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

We are invited to overcome the temptation to buy in to the materialistic and self-centered culture in which we live and to turn our eyes and our hearts to those around us, especially those from whom we shy away or who are pushed away by society.

Bishop Paprocki, Nellie Gray Mass, 01-22-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

A life rooted in the regular reception of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, is a way of staying united to the love of Christ as He comes to dwell in us through the gift of grace.

Bishop Paprocki, Teammate of Christ Catholic Men's Conference, 01-24-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

"Every unborn child, though unjustly condemned to be aborted, has the face of the Lord, who even before his birth, and then as soon as he was born, experienced the rejection of the world."

Pope Francis, cited by Bishop Paprocki, Diocesan Respect Life Mass and Rosary Walk, 09-28-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

If the Christians of America could be persuaded to vote God and a clean ticket, it would bring about a moral revolution that would be incalculably beneficent. It would save the country.

Mark Twain (Colliers Mag. 1904), The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2004, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois.

More than they wanted freedom, the Athenians wanted security. Yet they lost everything—security, comfort and freedom. This was because they wanted not to give to society, but for society to give to them.

Margaret Thatcher, 1994 lecture at Hillsdale College, Reprint by permission of hli.org

Right now in the U.S., the decision to eliminate the life of an innocent human being is being made 3,500 times each and every day with a ruthlessness resembling that of the Nazi machine.

Fr. Alvaro Delgado, Modern Golgothas, New Oxford Review, January-February 2015

We all chase the dream of a perfect child, but we have to be good parents to the child we have. I help people enjoy their children for each one's intrinsic beauty and uniqueness.

Dr. Bob Naseef, Excerpt - Special Children, Challenged Parents, Father of a Special Needs Child

A nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the religion of ignorance that tyranny begins.

Benjamin Franklin, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2014, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Food for Thought: S-3

4 – 5 Lines

When out of a confused notion of charity, a soft-heartedness, or a superficial benevolence, we believe that we should leave the erring person in his error, we have ceased to take him seriously as a person and have no interest in his objective good.

Dietrich von Hildebrand, cited by Andrew M. Seddon: Orthodoxy & Orthopraxy in Right Relation, New Oxford Review, November 2014

The ideal of these progressive reformers seems to be that instead of aiming at a transformation in Christ and being a witness to the Christian revelation, a Catholic should be as little as possible distinguishable from a humanitarian philanthropist.

Dietrich von Hildebrand, cited by John A. Perricone, A Preferential Option for Whom?, New Oxford Review, May 2014

For orthodox Catholics, holiness can only come through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ within His Church, through the sacraments, and in obedience to the teaching of the Church as expressed in the Catechism.

Fr. Ken Clark, Into the Deep, 8-2014, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Christianity has it right about man, cosmos and God. If we live our lives in a way that allows us to blind ourselves to his logic, we will have to find ways also to reject reality itself.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., Q & A with Sophia Mason, National Catholic Register, 12-30-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

The things of God are now wholly subject to Caesar. And what is worse, we see in “hate-speech” type legislation that we are not even allowed to present the case against such views.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., Will Catholic Hospitals be the Next Target?, 09-01-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

Our sins and vices corrupt us, and, through them, we can occasion the corruption of others if we do not first understand that our concern for others must itself already be rooted in “the good.”

Rev James V. Schall, S.J., Benedict: From Where Does Evil Come?, 09-21-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

When it comes to marriage, abortion or other issues of concern to Catholics, it leaves us in a precarious position. The remedy must be to engage with energy and optimism in public-policy debates, and to win.

Thomas Farr, Georgetown, How Catholics Should Respond to Attacks on Religious Freedom, National Catholic Register, 12-30-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

There is a “concrete menace” to religious liberty in the United States that is advancing in part because some influential Catholic public figures and university professors are allied with those opposed to Church Teaching.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano to Univ of Notre Dame, National Catholic Register, 12-02-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

Instead of looking at possessions, success, and worldly goods as the definition of manhood, men should secure their identities in their Christian beliefs

Bishop Thomas Olmsted, Pheonix, AZ, Letter, Man Up!, 10-01-2015 Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

“In its wake (sexual freedom) is wreckage, countless broken hearts bound by fear of more pain, broken lives, broken homes, broken dreams and broken belief that love is even possible. This is the rotten fruit of the Sexual Revolution.”

Bishop Thomas Olmsted, We Need to Get Off The Sidelines, 09-30-2015, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

“This ideology (sexual revolution) is destructive for individuals and society, and it is a lie. It is harmful to the human person, and therefore, a false concept that we must oppose as Christians.”

Bishop Thomas Olmsted, We Need to Get Off The Sidelines, 09-30-2015, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

Men, your presence and mission in the family is irreplaceable! Step up and lovingly, patiently take up your God-given role as protector, provider, and spiritual leader of your home.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Let every grandfather be reminded that even when the routine of daily life may appear to be insignificant, we never know what great plans God has for the last years of our lives.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Pornography not only leaves a man in danger of Hell, but it also destroys the bonds with his spouse, a destruction wrought like adultery. In other words, think of pornography as just as serious and no less grave than adultery.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Food for Thought: S-3

4 – 5 Lines

We need to get off the sidelines and stand up for life on the front lines. We need faith like that of our fathers who defended the children of previous generations and who gave up their own lives rather than abandon their faith in Christ.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Today's attack on fatherhood, and by extension, motherhood, is multi-pronged and breathtakingly damaging. 41% of children are born into unmarried homes in our day, an increase of 700% from 1950, when the out-of-wedlock birthrate was a mere 6%.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

One of the key reasons that the Church is faltering under the attacks of Satan is that many Catholic men have not been willing to "step into the breach" – to fill this gap that lies open and vulnerable to further attack.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

The process of Christian conversion includes coming to know God's love and experiencing brotherhood with Christ who deepens our identity as sons of the Father in the Holy Spirit. This is our lifelong goal and our spiritual battle.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

The world is under attack by Satan, as our Lord said it would be (1 Peter 5:8-14). This battle is occurring in the Church herself, and the devastation is all too evident.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

Talk about the obligation of Christians and Catholics to be Christian without being partisan. Catholic politicians can identify with their party, but they should also demonstrate a Catholic difference.

Columnist Ross Douthat on Catholicism and Politics, National Catholic Register, 12-30-2012, Reprint by permission of www.NCRegister.com

A fool may be known by five things: anger without cause; speech without profit; change without progress; injury without object; and mistaking foes for friends.

Arabian Proverb

The graces we receive are given to help us live faithfully the virtues, etc., and help us forgive one another, but if we do not act on that grace, we become spiritually constipated.

Marcus C. Grodi, column in The Catholic Answer, July/August 2011

Who of us is mature enough for offspring before offspring arrive? The value of marriage is not that adults produce children but that children produce adults.

Peter DeVries, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Just to speak for myself, I'm Catholic first and American second. I don't understand how any believer of any faith could think differently. If you are lucky, you spend eighty or so years in America. Dead is a long time.

Robert Royal, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2009, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

George Washington, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2011, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

It is impossible to govern the world without God. It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits and humbly implore his protection and favor

George Washington, Letter to Brigadier General Nelson, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

The Church with its moral "thou shalt nots," remains an affront to people who do not have the moral training, nor the initiative to break the chains of slavery that dominate so many behavioral addicts today.

William A. Borst, Ph.D., Mindszenty Report, Feb. 2003, Reprint by permission of Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation

One of the greatest evils of our time is mediocrity in the questions of faith. Let us not deceive ourselves. Either we are Catholics, or we are not. If we are it must be seen in every area of our life.

Blessed Cardinal Stepanic, Quoted by Pope Benedict XV The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2011, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Food for Thought: S-3

4 – 5 Lines

Memo to conservative defeatists: Surrender on gay marriage is surrender on marriage – which is surrender on the family and, ultimately, surrender on civilization.

Don Feder, *The Catholic Citizen*, Winter 2011, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Christianity, and nothing else, is the ultimate foundation of liberty, conscience, human rights, and the democracy, the benchmarks of western civilization – everything else is postmodern chatter.

Jurgen Habermas, German Philosopher, cited by Patrick Buchanan, *Suicide of a Superpower*

One of the greatest evils, abortion is not part of my belief as a Catholic. Religion was part of my decision. I wanted to fight for my baby. (Daniella Jackson of Great Britain who refused to abort her daughter in order to begin cancer treatments.)

Daniella Jackson, OSV, June 3, 2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

When you ask the meaning of death, you ask the meaning – and value – of life. Conversely, when you avoid facing the meaning of death, you avoid facing the meaning – and value – of life.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

You are free to avoid risk, but you automatically reject joy; you are free to reject knowing, loving and growing, but the inescapable result is you will have wasted the one life you had to live.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Face it: No matter what gimmicks teachers evolve for group learning, real learning is a lonely enterprise. If you're repelled by silence and solitude, forget education.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Both perfectionism and mediocrity make us unhappy because one asks for too much and the other settles for too little. Both are against our nature, antihuman.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

People don't become your best friends because you've gone to the circus together, but because you've gone through hell together – and remained friends,

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

The gospel of Jesus does offer the consolation of forgiveness, companionship, final answers, survival of death. But let no one kid you; being a Christian costs. If that gospel doesn't make you even the slightest bit uneasy, you never really heard it.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Traditional marriage is the fundamental unit of the political order. And ultimately the very survival of the political order depends upon the procreative potential embodied in traditional marriage.

Judge Jaun-Perez-Gimenez of Puerto Rico, Reprint by permission of Lifesitenews.com

Abortion ends the life of an unborn child. It kills an innocent, unique human person. Abortion subjects the weak and vulnerable to the whims of the powerful. Changing terminology cannot change that reality.

Denise Hunnell, M.D., *The Language of Life*, 02-25-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

We can see that abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, the destruction of human embryos and the assault on marriage and the family are all symptoms of a common ailment: the rejection of the dignity and sanctity of human life.

Denise Hunnell, M.D., *The Language of Life*, 02-25-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

An ad for one church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

Unknown

While the March for Life focuses on the grave nature of abortion, it provides the perfect sounding board to voice the sacredness of life from its beginning to natural end.

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, *Marching for Life*, 01-16-2015, Reprint by permission of hli.org

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

For those Catholics who some time ago decided to remain true to the Gospel and the Magisterium both in their hearts and in how they lived their lives, this is no time to retreat into cliques of the pious and righteous.

Shenan Boquet, cited by Archbishop Cordileone: A Shepherd on the Cross, 03-13-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

We have become increasingly indifferent to evil. The natural moral law which commands us to do good and avoid evil has given way to mere subjectivism — if you feel good about it, then it must be good.

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Regaining Conscience 09-27-2013, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

The success of the culture of death depends primarily upon its ability to persuade many that terms like “pro-choice” or “the right to choose” are just about one person’s freedom, with no one else’s life at stake.

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Regaining Conscience 09-27-2013, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

A well-formed conscience allows man to hear a voice, not merely his own, calling him to love and to do what is good. This voice resonates in his heart and provides the answers that he seeks, helping him distinguish good from evil.

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Regaining Conscience 09-27-2013, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

As Catholics, we have been given the fullness of the truth about the gift of life, but with that gift comes the responsibility of cherishing, protecting and advocating for it.

Caitlin Bootsma, I Am Pontius Pilate, 03-02-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

We tend to equate kindness with love; this is a mistake. Kindness is an aspect of love, but so is rebuke and so is punishment. Mercy and patience are aspects of love, but so are insisting on what is right and setting limits.

Adam Cassandra, citing Monsignor Charles Pope, Correcting Errant Beliefs 02-26-2015, Reprint by permission of hli.org

We have the Constitution and we rightly insist on returning to the principles of the constitution. But let's understand — no constitution can survive the disappearance of the morality that produced it.

Fr. Charles E. Rice, God Is Not Dead. He Isn't Even Tired, Speech at Christendom College, 05-15-2010, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

We need to recognize that this generation, this culture has lost not only its faith but also its mind, and what they need is the truth. And they need that truth especially with respect to the right to life.

Charles E. Rice, God Is Not Dead. He Isn't Even Tired, Speech at Christendom College, 05-15-2010, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

God will take action to counter an ultimate crime, an ultimate act of self-destruction, on the part of man. He will take action against the attempt to demean mankind by the production of slave-beings. There are indeed final boundaries we cannot cross."

Charles E. Rice, God Is Not Dead. He Isn't Even Tired, Speech at Christendom College, 05-15-2010, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

The unthinkable is now taught, propagated, popularized, and legalized. The forbidden pleasures have been exalted as the highest pleasures, the most liberating experiences, and the most novel and progressive of developments.

Mitchell Kalpakgian, The Glamorization of Forbidden Pleasures, 03-16-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

Secular sex education programs thrust the innocent and the pure into the maelstrom of sexual vice and all its tragic sufferings and transmitted diseases in the name of “knowledge” or “health.”

Mitchell Kalpakgian, The Glamorization of Forbidden Pleasures, 03-16-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

The sins that St. Paul refers to as unmentionable because of their filth, the profane world flaunts before the whole world and even the young as commonplace.

Mitchell Kalpakgian, The Glamorization of Forbidden Pleasures, 03-16-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

The rejection of the traditional definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman robs matrimony of its dignity and honor and lowers a divine institution to a mere man-made construction subject to change and reinvention by judges.

Mitchell Kalpakgian, Ph.D., The Fear of Marriage, 07-29-2015, Reprint permission by www.truthandcharityforum.org

Those who fear the possible financial losses incurred by bad marriages that end in divorce fail to consider the multiplication of love’s fruits that abound in the course of a lifetime of faithful love.

Mitchell Kalpakgian, Ph.D., The Fear of Marriage, 07-29-2015, Reprint permission by www.truthandcharityforum.org

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

Marriage is not an act of gambling at a casino but a moral choice of the heart, mind, and conscience based on the knowledge of another person one has come to know over a period of time and on a belief in God's promises.

Mitchell Kalpakgian, Ph.D., The Fear of Marriage, 07-29-2015, Reprint permission by www.truthandcharityforum.org

It is not the institution of marriage that is archaic and in a state of disrepair but the human heart that needs to grow in faith, hope, and charity and to learn to say "yes" to God's call to love, marriage and children.

Mitchell Kalpakgian, Ph.D., The Fear of Marriage, 07-29-2015, Reprint permission by www.truthandcharityforum.org

The profane allows no distinction between the inviolable and the worldly. The forbidden, the illicit, and the disordered are put on the same plane as the normative, the moral, and the holy: sacred matrimony and same-sex unions are the same.

Mitchell Kalpakgian, The Glamorization of Forbidden Pleasures, 03-16-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

Contraception, abortion, and childlessness lead to the wrong road that proliferates into more wrong roads and produces nothing but death, destruction, and tragedy.

Mitchell Kalpakgian, Ph.D., The Development of Evil and the Growth of Good, 12-30-2015, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

Across the country, those dedicated to life meet regularly to pray and protest in front of the abortion facilities that most deeply symbolize and enact the culture of death, a true "Golgotha of the modern world."

John P. Hittinger, Celebrating the Gospel of Life, 06-13-2013, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

We need a deep formation in both faith and reason to know the value of life from its very origins, to develop respect for human fertility, and to gain "a wise consideration of suffering and death."

John P. Hittinger, Celebrating the Gospel of Life, 06-13-2013, truthandcharityforum.org

As Christians, our response to the onslaught of the new eugenics is simple: Pray, fast, and work for Christ, His laws, and His teachings – and never count the cost.

Judie Brown, Dehumanization at a Profit, , New Oxford Review, Jan.-Feb. 2014

Whatever new plague may come to destroy the world, remember that the church, the Catholic school and the family will always be sacred. Guard your fortress bravely!

Cardinal Mindszenty, Mindszenty Report, Feb. 2003, Reprint permission by Mindszenty Foundation (www.mindszenty.org)

In a country where the citizens fear God, they will respect the law. where they respect the law they will leave in peace. A nation filled with peace is a strong nation.

Cardinal Mindszenty, Mindszenty Report, Feb. 2003, Reprint permission by www.mindszenty.org

The creator Himself endowed families with the duty and the right to educate their children. No earthly power or social institution, including the government, may deprive parents of the right to educate their children.

Cardinal Mindszenty, Mindszenty Report, Feb. 2013, Reprint permission by www.mindszenty.org

What was so naturally understood and believed even up until a few decades ago, is being denied and distorted, primarily through the judicial branch, resulting in a civil society our Founding Fathers would not recognize today

Alan Sears, Defending God-Given Freedoms, 12-19-2012, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

Ronald Reagan wisely warned, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

Alan Sears, Defending God-Given Freedoms, 12-19-2012, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites; in proportion as they are disposed to listen to the counsels of the wise and good in preference to the flattery of knaves.

Edmund Burke, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2015, Reprint permission by www.CatholicCitizens.org

Society cannot exist, unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without.

Edmund Burke, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2015, Reprint permission by www.CatholicCitizens.org

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

“The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children, those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

Hubert H. Humphrey, cited by Donald DeMarco, Reprint permission by hli.org, 02-24-2015

A practicing Catholic cannot invoke “conscience” to defy or disregard what the Church definitely holds as true — for a practicing Catholic doesn’t create his own truth but forms his conscience according to the Truth.

Thomas Wenski, Bishop of Orlando, Politicians and Communion, 05-03-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

The family is the place where different generations come together and help one another to grow in wisdom and harmonize the rights of individuals with other demands of social life; as such it constitutes the basis of society.

Second Vatican Council. *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, cda.org\

If society seeks to help children, it has to support families, since children's lives are nurtured or neglected, enhanced or diminished by the quality of family life.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Putting Children and Families First, cda.org

We are changed when we participate in the Eucharist, because the gifts we make of ourselves are taken by the Lord and offered with His gift, Himself, to the Father.

Bishop J. Peter Sartain, Of You My Heart Has Spoken, Reprint permission by therealpresence.org

Mary would be the first to step aside if she felt she were standing in the way of Christian duty. But she has appeared many times over as a divine messenger, always pointing to her Son and encouraging greater devotion to Him.

Fredrick W. Marks, Marian Misconceptions, New Oxford Review, May 2014

The deep truths of democracy, that no man is really fit to govern another and that people ought to have a meaningful say in the decisions that determine how they live, give lie to utopian schemes.

Robert Lowery Clinton, The Spirit of Democracy & the Threat of Elitism, New Oxford Review, April 2014

The systematic protection of homosexual behavior and the blacklisting of dissenters should be seen as the consequence of a greater lie: the modern pretense that there are no real differences between the sexes.

Tom Bethall, The Conservative in the Culture Wars, New Oxford Review, Sept. 2014

One of the major mistakes Christians make about Islam is to fail to understand its political nature. Unlike Christianity, subjugation of other religions and cultures is at its core.

William Kilpatrick, The Catholic Muslim Faith Alliance, New Oxford Review, Jan.-Feb. 2014

Within the short space of a century, Western society has degenerated from a Christian culture to a despiritualized one, and from there it has further degenerated into a dehumanized one.

Michael D.O'Brien, The Diabolization of Culture Has Begun, Reprint permission by lifesitenews.com

To love genuinely means to love at a depth where you can no longer lie, because you are alone before yourself, alone before the mirror of your conscience, under the gaze of God.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, ITD, 04-08-2011, May 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“For a genuine renewal and transformation to occur, the Church must once again understand her identity and mission. Once she understands her true identity and mission she can then become an effective instrument and witness within the modern world.

Bishop Robert Vasa, Diocese of Santa Rosa, CA , Into the Deep, Apr. 2013, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

There are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God’s plan for marriage and family.

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 2003, Into the Deep, Apr. 2013, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Those who would move from tolerance to the legitimization of specific rights for cohabiting homosexual persons need to be reminded that the approval or legalization of evil is something far different from the toleration of evil.

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 2003, Into the Deep, Apr. 2013, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

From a Christian perspective, indeed, old age is not the decline of life, but rather its fulfillment: the synthesis of what one has learned and lived, the synthesis of how much one has suffered, rejoiced, and withstood.

Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, President of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, *Into the Deep*, Nov. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"The challenge is that each man finds in Jesus is the center and the foundation of his life. Each man has to know that in life and in the life thereafter he must put his trust in the Incarnate Son of God.

Cardinal Gerhard Müller, Prefect of the Cong. for the Doct. of the Faith, *ITD*, May. 2015, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

In a world that is angrily individualistic and subjectivist, marriage is not perceived anymore as an opportunity for the human being to achieve his completeness sharing love.

Cardinal Gerhard Muller, *The Catholic Citizen*, Fall 2014, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

"Pastoral care has to keep in view the eternal salvation," as opposed to a desire to be popular or accepted in the world.

Cardinal Muller, Prefect of Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 09-08-2015, Reprint by permission of www.lifesitenews.com

"We may not deceive the people, when it comes to the sacramentality of marriage, its indissolubility, its openness toward the child, and the fundamental complementarity of the two sexes,"

Cardinal Muller, Prefect of Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 09-08-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

No matter how many years we have struggled in this life with sin or with issues and hardships in life, there will always be new moments of grace before us, divine invitations to victory over the forces of darkness and pain.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Responding to Divine Grace*, 07-01-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Our ability to differentiate our wants from our needs is the key to overcoming worry in this life. We constantly worry when we are only aware of our wants and fail or refuse to distinguish between our wants and our needs.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Know Your Needs, Conquer Your Worries*, 03-04-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

"Lord, let your will be done and not mine." Our Lord usually rewards this type of prayer by enlightening us to our deepest needs and preparing us to receive that which we really need at the moment to be what He has created us to be.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Know Your Needs, Conquer Your Worries*, 03-04-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

We must ask ourselves, "Are we going to worship the things we pray for and do their bidding or are we going to use them to "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness?"

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Know Your Needs, Conquer Your Worries*, 03-04-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Mary's intercession for us with God is accompanied by her enlightening us on what we truly need to ask for and do. We need this if we are going to know our needs from our wants and thus conquer worries.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Know Your Needs, Conquer Your Worries*, 03-04-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If Christ Jesus fulfills His promise to us to the point of giving Himself completely to us under the form of bread and wine in this Eucharist, what need of ours will He deny us to fulfill His loving plan and come to share in His eternal joy?

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Know Your Needs, Conquer Your Worries*, 03-04-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If we seek to train our hearts faithfully and without respite today by our free choices, we will develop an affinity for good choices tomorrow according to the divine will and it is then and only then that we will have life.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Why Train Our Hearts*, 02-19-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If we want to experience Jesus' deep love for us too by sharing in His sufferings and staying close to Him to the last like Mary did, then let us do what Jesus asks us to do – Behold your Mother!

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *Returning Generosity for Generosity*, 09-17-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Just as Jesus "did not come to be served but to give His life as a ransom for many," so too in Him as our Lord we too can and should serve, love, forgive, and lay down our lives for others.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, *When Jesus Truly Becomes my Lord*, 09-17-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

When we fail to realize that we come from a common womb, a common life source, we have a diminished sense of brotherhood and we act in ways that wound the solidarity that we should have with each other.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, Being Our Brother's Keeper, 09-21-2012, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Just as Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven after a life of heroic charity, so shall we be in heaven like her if we too live and act as people who have a bond of brotherhood with all of humanity

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, Being Our Brother's Keeper, 09-21-2012, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

St. Maximilian is a model and testimony for all of us of how we need to recognize Mary as our Mother, our common spiritual womb with Jesus Christ and with all of humanity if we are going to be people who love others as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, Being Our Brother's Keeper, 09-21-2012, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Mary's life shows us what our true destiny is if we too allow ourselves to be led by Jesus along the path of that obedience that does not flow from desire for things of this world but is rooted in the love of God.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, Our Journey Back to God, 05-29-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

This is not heaven so there will be suffering and pain in one form or another in this life. It is futile to desire true joy in this world without recognizing God's loving presence in us and our response of sharing this presence with others.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, The Rosary's Joyful Mysteries, 02-05-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If we recognize Him always with us in good and bad times and strive to bring Him to others, we shall indeed find joy even in the midst of all our suffering and pain in this world.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, The Rosary's Joyful Mysteries, 02-05-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The disinterested person leaves the results to God however it may turn out after honestly and generously doing all that can be done with the graces of the present moment.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, Disinterestedness: The Forgotten Virtue, 02-12-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Unfavorable results or lack of results disturb our peace and make us lose focus on what matters most – the call to be faithful to the gifts received from God and leave the results to God.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, Disinterestedness: The Forgotten Virtue, 02-12-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Where is your brother Abel?" Man's actions seem to reply like Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen 4:9) We make a similar response too when we become guilty of connivance or complacency in the face of these evils of our times.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, Being Our Brother's Keeper, 09-21-2012, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

We see even Catholics allowing themselves to be seized by a kind of passion for change and novelty," he (Pope Paul VI) said, and lamented the "disturbance and perplexity in many faithful souls" because of harm being done to the deposit of faith.

Daniel Blackman, Bl. Paul VI's "Solemn Utterance" 47 Years Later, 06-30-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

To the extent that parents are moral relativists they deprive themselves of any adequate foundation to argue for their religious and moral traditions with their children.

Cardinal Pell – cited by Edward Pentin, No Parent Should Fail to Pass on Christ's Core Teachings, NC Register, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

In a pansexual individualist society, it is easier to reject or avoid Christ's harder teachings and take refuge in the occasional piece of social work or advocacy.

Cardinal Pell – cited by Edward Pentin, No Parent Should Fail to Pass on Christ's Core Teachings, Reprint permission by www.NCRegister.com

Even when sins have been defined out of existence, the wages of sin are real, even when there is no subjective guilt on the part of those making mistaken decisions.

Cardinal Pell, No Parent Should Fail to Pass on Christ's Core Teachings, NC Register, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

While the statistics varied from country to country (in Europe) married couples with three or more children had a divorce rate at least half the divorce rate of those with one child.

Cardinal Pell citing Graffiti on a Brazilian Train, No Parent Should Fail to Pass on Christ's Core Teachings, NC Register, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

The Catholic family is the heart of the Church and we need to encourage that heart to have a strong prayerful beat, so its members can be effective witnesses to the New Evangelisation.

Cardinal George Pell, New Evangelisation address, Scotland 01-12-2012, Into the Deep, Feb. 2013, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“This (HHS mandate) is a flagrant attempt to use the power of the government to impose a set of beliefs on communities and individuals who hold very different beliefs, and to restrict them from upholding and acting on what they believe.”

George Cardinal Pell, cited by Arland K. Nichols, The Height of Injustice: The HHS Mandate, 01-23-2014, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

Those who play down the demands of faith, forgiveness and family, which Christ enjoined, are increasing and hastening the exodus (from our Church)..

Cardinal Pell – cited by Edward Pentin, No Parent Should Fail to Pass on Christ's Core Teachings, Reprint permission by www.ncregister.com

Jesus said: “Be merciful as your Heavenly Father is merciful... and forgive...” Therefore, if we want to experience God’s infinite mercy in our lives, we must extend our hand in forgiveness towards those who have offended us.

Fr. Ed. Broom, OMV, Five Ways to Practice Forgiveness, 03-10-2015, Reprint permission given by www.catholicexchange.com

The Holy Spirit speaks to a heart that is ready to listen in silence. With Samuel in the temple we should pray: “Speak O Lord for your servant is listening.”

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Ten Ways to Open up to The Holy Spirit, 06-10-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If we do not read the Bible, especially the Gospels, then we cannot know who Jesus is; then we cannot really love Him; then consequently it will be hard to follow Him as His friend and disciple.

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Ten Ways to Fall in Love With the Bible, 10-07-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The father should be the teacher to the child especially in prayer. He should be always mindful of the immortal saying of Father Patrick Peyton: “The family that prays together stays together.”

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, The Essential Role of The Father, 07-07-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Bad actions are preceded by bad thoughts; good actions are preceded by good thoughts. Jesus says that we can know the tree by the fruits that are produced.

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Find Your Philosophy of Life, 02-05-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

St. Louis de Montfort states unequivocally that Mary is the quickest, shortest and easiest path to arrive at God. Jesus came into the world through Mary and we should choose Mary as the pathway to Jesus.

Fr. Ed Broom, Make This Your Best Year, 01-23-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

In Fatima Our Lady appeared six times to the Shepherd children—Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. In each and every apparition Our Lady insisted upon the praying of the most Holy Rosary. Six times!!!!

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Celebrate Mary's Month, 05-06-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

By praying the Rosary, God pierces the hardened shell of our hearts and opens up a place for Him. He will speak to us, to the problems of our own lives, through the Rosary.

Br. Patrick Mary Briscoe, O.P., The Rosary: The Best Prayer for Men, 10-20-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

As Pope Leo XIII remarked, “Truth cannot contradict truth”; hence, let us join the “teacher of everything” by allowing everything we study to lead us to the contemplation of God, the Supreme Truth.

Br. Humbert Kilanowski, OP, St. Albert: The Teacher of Everything, 11-14-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Pride kills because the proud person cannot stand others who disagree. Not only does the proud person have to be right, but as their pride grows they must also destroy everyone else who is wrong.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, When Being Right is Wrong, 10-29-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Satan hates true human love. That’s why he distorts it through lust. It is our joy and our battle not to give him the satisfaction of being lured into the swamp of lust, but to walk in the radiant and fresh highlands of chastity.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Longing for Love, 10-01-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

The seven deadly sins are called “deadly” not only because they cut us off from the eternal life of God, but because they really are deadly to ourselves and to others.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, *Worshiping Mammon*, 09-17-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The blessed person is: “He who walks without fault and does what is right; he who tells the truth in his heart; he who works no deceit with his tongue; he who does no wrong to his neighbor; he who does not slander his neighbor

Fr. Dwight Longenecker citing St. Benedict, *The Little Way of St. Benedict*, 06-25-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The seven deadly sins (wrath, greed, sloth, lust, pride, envy and gluttony lead us on the path to hell which is a state of eternal separation from God’s love and life.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, *Distorted Desires: The Seven Deadly Sins*, 09-10-2014, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

The virtue that counters wrath is patience. Patience is not simply putting up with an offense with a kind of determined forbearance. Instead patience is a fruit of the spirit growing in the human heart.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, *Impotent and Irrational Rage*, 10-08-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If there is no dogma (doctrines necessary for Christians to believe) there is nothing to believe – just something to feel and do, therefore Christianity without dogma ends up being nothing but a religion of “spirituality and sentimentality” just “feeling good and doing good.”

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, *Christianity Without Dogma, Into the Deep*, Aug. 2014, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“ Each morning of life marks a new beginning. Leave all your dead past to God’s mercy and the future to His Providence and loving care. Concentrate now only on doing His Will and work in the world, just as you can, just for today.”

Alaska Radio Mission, Reprint permission by therealpresence.org

In our relationship with Mary, she helps give new life to our souls, prays for us, and provides us with what we need to grow in grace. In return, she deserves our honor and love, just as our earthly mothers do. She deserves our devotion.

Mark Miravalle, *Devotion to Mary*, 05-22-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

To become a true believer means to receive the risen Christ within us. To live the life of faith is to make room for Him, so that He may express Himself and grow within oneself.

Romano Guardini, *Christ in us Through the Rosary*, 05-20-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

“Faith, however, is not only a blessed certainty; it is also a matter of practice and self-conquest. You must therefore learn to speak to God as Father. You must learn it from the attitude of Christ.”

Romano Guardini, *Quote of the Day, The Lord’s Prayer*, 01-25-2016, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

To avoid dangers in this life and arrive safely in the life to come, we need a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Happily, God has provided one for us in Sacred Scripture. We need only to make use of it.

Patrick Madrid – *Columbia Magazine, The Catholic Citizen*, Fall 2015, Reprint permission by catholiccitizens.org

Only by giving us the Mother whose “Yes” to the Angel Gabriel inaugurated His life on earth—the Mother who gave Him the body He offered up for us—could Jesus’ work on the Cross be complete.

Stephen Beale, *The Last Thing Christ Did for Us on The Cross*, 04-14-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

It is not the sufferings or the consolations of life that directly affect character, but the thoughts that men call around them at such times. No external thing can in itself affect the inner life of the soul. Men are material; the soul is spiritual.

Fr. Basil W. Maturin, *Learn to Control Your Thoughts*, 04-01-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

It is thus in the thoughts men choose as their companions on their way through the world that the key to their interpretation of life is to be found. Different men view the same things in different ways.

Fr. Basil W. Maturin, *Learn to Control Your Thoughts*, 04-01-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The effort of the soul must be to fill the mind so full of healthy thoughts that there is no room for others — trying not so much not to think of what is evil as to think of what is good.

Fr. Basil W. Maturin, *Learn to Control Your Thoughts*, 04-01-2014, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

Frequent confessions should be the means of sharpening our spiritual vision to see the malice of sin, and thus of inspiring us with a greater hatred of sin.

John A. Kane, Combat Pride Through Confession 03-18-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

God is the source of all peace and joy. Prayer unites us with God. Hence, you cannot find a better means of relaxing your body and mind than by lifting up your mind and heart to God in prayer.

Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, The Point of Prayer, 02-13-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The true cause of your unhappiness is that your longings are not for God, but for things other than God. You do not “seek first the kingdom of God and His justice.”

Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, The Point of Prayer, 02-13-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Your life must have one controlling aim: you cannot afford to be in conflict and at cross-purposes with yourself. You will find the secret of this unity of plan in prayer.

Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, The Point of Prayer, 02-13-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Christianity is principally a revolution from within: a renewal and reshaping of man’s inner life – and consequently, his entire way of living – through communion with the Incarnate God.

Benjamin Mann, Eternal Revolution, Not “Old Time Religion”, 06-19-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Our culture can be salvaged, and the eclipse of God overcome. But it will require a turn away from cynicism, toward appreciation. For in the end, only the eyes that are open in gratitude will see God.

Benjamin Mann, Building A Culture of openness to God, 04-11-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Making homosexual “marriage” legal will not make it normal, but it will add to the confusion of the times. And it will add to the downward spiral of our civilization.

Dale Ahlquist, It's Not Gay and It's Not Marriage 09-2013, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

It is normal to believe in God. It is normal to believe that a family is composed of a father, mother, and children. It is normal to protect life. But it is surprisingly difficult to defend the normal.

Dale Ahlquist, The Challenge of Defending the Normal, 09-09-2013, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

We want to embrace God’s love without taking into account his wrath and justice. We want the benefit of the good news without acknowledging the bad news.

Ken Connor, The Good News/Bad News Bible, 07-07-2013, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Chastity clears the way for the innocent pleasures of ordinary boyhood and girlhood, and for those habits of gentleness, self-restraint, and farsightedness that prepare young people for marriage.

Anthony Esolen, Chastity and the Child, 08-08-2012, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Has not the last century given us proof of the depths to which man can deceive himself, and bring down upon the world the vengeance of heaven? The Christian must always be wary of errors in permissibility. The broad way leads to destruction.

Anthony Esolen, The Curious Unseriousness of all Our Moral Debates. 03-31-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

It is true that the Holy Spirit will call young men to the priesthood, but He expects us also to raise young men fit and ready to be so called. *He desires our work too.*

Anthony Esolen, Excuse me, but I Really Have to Ask: 02-24-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

It has taken a hundred years to turn Americans from masters of government to its servants. It would take longer for us to reclaim our rule, even if a sufficient number of us had the will to do so.

Anthony Esolen, Master, Peer, Ward, Puppet, 10-06-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

The revolution in mores and in family life that struck the west with terrific force within my lifetime has hurt everyone. That revolution ought never to be called merely sexual. It is the *Lonely Revolution*.

Anthony Esolen, Our Hearts are Restless 07-22-2014, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

A whole society may go in for sexual sin because people must do something, anything, to keep away the loneliness, and then become a lonelier society than ever because of it.

Anthony Esolen, *Our Hearts are Restless* 07-22-2014, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

“What virtue do we honor, other than what we call tolerance, which turns out not to be tolerance at all but the ‘virtue’ of demanding that there should be no honor granted to virtue?”

Anthony Esolen, *How to Identify a Healthy Culture*, 06-19-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

I live in a nation conceived in liberty, raised high in empire, and fallen into moral lassitude, impotence, and automatism. God help me, but I still believe that my countrymen are better than the follies they believe.

Anthony Esolen, *Unreal Nation*, 08-19-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

Nowadays *professors* at Princeton and Yale scoff at the very idea of greatness. You are far more likely at Princeton to take a course in tawdry novels for teens than in Shakespeare.

Anthony Esolen, *Unreal Nation*, 08-19-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

The idea that marriage requires a man and a woman is *not peculiar to us*. It is universal in human culture. Its universality is based upon the obvious functions of the reproductive organs, and the obvious need to propagate the species.

Anthony Esolen, *Marriage is not a Water Fountain*, 09-29-14, Reprint with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

Dignity—the reverence that it rightly demands—springs from the reality of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God. Reality, not fantasy, not social convention.

Anthony Esolen, *Justice Kennedy's Tenuous Grasp on Human Dignity*, 07-02-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

Marian Consecration is nothing less than devoting your life exclusively to Jesus through Mary. It's nothing less than giving all that you are and that everything you have into the gentle hands of the Mother of God.

Tyler Blanski, *This Lent, Prepare Yourself for a Marian Consecration*, 02-18-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

It's strange how Christians can talk so glibly about being the “Bride of Christ” or the “Body of Christ,” but then balk at Mary being the spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Tyler Blanski, *This Lent, Prepare Yourself for a Marian Consecration*, 02-18-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Blessed Mother Teresa, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Louis de Montfort, St. John Paul II, and many more will tell you: offering yourself to Christ through Mary will bring suffering, but it will also bear fruit.

Tyler Blanski, *This Lent, Prepare Yourself for a Marian Consecration*, 02-18-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Words are a fearful and terrible thing. It is here that the devil is fighting God, and the battlefield is the human heart. Hell loves a silent Christian. Will we break the silence?

Tyler Blanski, *The Lost Art of Talking About Jesus*, 09-09-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

When it comes to the Gospel, is silence golden? For Jesus Christ, there is no dichotomy between speech and action. Our Lord's actions speak as loud as his words.

Tyler Blanski, *The Lost Art of Talking About Jesus*, 09-09-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

In order for grace to do its work, we need to approach it, and we need to allow it to work. The more it works, the less we fall, and if we do fall, we know how to get back up.

Kevin Tierney, *The Sunday Propers: Living According to God's Will* 07-16-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If we can keep our hearts fixed on the sublime hand of God in all things, like Joseph (of Cupertino) did, maybe we can fly our weird selves into the heart of Christ, which is big enough to hold us all, oddballs included.

Cari Donaldson, *The Saint Who Didn't Fit In*, 09-18-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Even if academically he was a failure, who can doubt the wisdom of St. John Vianney about the things of God? It is a wisdom the world does not understand, and is given by God alone.

Fr. Christopher Foeckler, M.J., *As God Calls, He Also Equips*, 09-04-2005, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Food for Thought: S-3

4 – 5 Lines

His (Jesus) death was the clear and undeniable manifestation of the triumph of obedience over disobedience, love over selfishness, humility over pride.

Marcellino D'Ambrosio, PH.D, Lift High the Cross, 09-14-2012, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Once the human being is untethered from God, he becomes, in very short order, an object among objects, and hence susceptible to the grossest manipulation by the powerful and self-interested.

Bishop-elect Robert Barron, The Death of God and the Loss of Human Dignity, 07-29-2015, Reprint by permission of NCRRegister.com

If a single living cell was found on a distant planet, scientists would exclaim that we have found life elsewhere in the universe. So why is a single living cell found in the womb of a pregnant woman, not considered life?

The Endowment for Human Development, ITD Aug. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Human life is precious – our greatest value, asset and resource and must be protected as sacred from the moment of conception to its natural end. Otherwise we are on the slippery slope to barbarism.

Fr Bernard McGrath, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, Excerpt, Slippery Slope to Barbarism, ITD Aug. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Once found, forgiveness frees. It liberates you from feverishly keeping score and remembering wrongs. It propels you into a new, higher way of living. A life of grace. A life of second chances.

Allen Hunt, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

William Penn, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be.

Anne Frank, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Life is Choices, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

"Lord this is what I have. Take whatever you want to take from me and give me whatever you want to give me." God invites you to empty yourself so that he can fill you up.

Henri Nouwen, cited by Matthew Kelly, Rediscovering Catholicism, What Sets Them Apart, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Those are babies that are being killed. Millions of them. And you need to use your voice to protect them. That's what a man does. He protects children — his own children, and other children. That's what it means to be a man.

Ruben Navarette, Jr., cited by Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop Chaput's Column; 08-10-2015, Reprinted by Permission of catholicphilly.com

Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion.... are undermining... the best security for the duration of free governments."

Charles Carroll, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Our Moral Obligation to Vote, 05-09-2014

Many men have abandoned Rome because they wished to worship at the altar of man's self-sufficient intellect; nobody ever left the Church because the best in him could not find fulfillment there."

Gretta Palmer, cited by Donald DeMarco: The Truth in Hiding: Converts and Archbishop Fulton Sheen, 08-26-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

The Culture of death does not merely stop at trying to destroy the conscience of women who may be facing an unplanned pregnancy. It also seeks to extinguish the conscience of doctors as well.

Joe Kral, Conscience, Legislation and the Culture of Death, 08-27-2015, truthandcharityforum.org

The education of the conscience is a lifelong task". If, however, man were to come to embrace the falsehood that there is no moral truth, then he will quickly reject the idea of conscience since there is no understanding of morality to judge."

Joe Kral, Conscience, Legislation and the Culture of Death, 08-27-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

"In the depths of his conscience, man detects a law which he does not impose upon himself, but which holds him to obedience. Always summoning him to love good and avoid evil..." (*Gaudium et Spes*,

Joe Kral, Conscience, Legislation and the Culture of Death, 08-27-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

Food for Thought: S-3

4 - 5 Lines

The “ruling class,” those who shape public opinion in politics, in education, in communications, in entertainment, is using the civil law to impose its own form of morality on everyone.

Cardinal Francis George. O.M.I., A tale of two Churches, 09-10-2014
Reprinted by permission of catholicphilly.com

It takes no moral courage to conform to government and social pressure. It takes a deep faith to “swim against the tide,” as Pope Francis recently encouraged young people to do at last summer’s World Youth Day.

Cardinal Francis George. O.M.I., A tale of two Churches, 09-10-2014
Reprinted by permission of www.CatholicPhilly.com

Now is the time for institutions of civil society to redouble their efforts at teaching their own members the truth about marriage and encouraging their own members to live out that truth.

Ryan T. Anderson, The Defense of Marriage Isn’t Over, 10-08-14,
Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

Marriage is too important to allow unelected judges to redefine it without a fight. Even if the umpires are colluding with the other team, that’s no reason to allow them an unopposed victory.

Ryan T. Anderson, The Defense of Marriage Isn’t Over, 10-08-14,
Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

“Closing of debate can close minds, and it will have a consequence on how this new institution is accepted. People feel very differently about something if they have a chance to vote on it than if it’s imposed on them by the courts.”

Chief Justice Roberts, Cited by Ryan T. Anderson, Supreme Court Debates Meaning of Marriage and Consequences of Judicial Redef ...
04-30-14, Reprint permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

The knowledge of God without a perception of man’s misery causes pride, and the knowledge of man’s misery without a perception of God causes despair.

Pascal, From The Angel’s Blackboard, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyin mission.org

The sweetly attractive human Jesus is a product of nineteenth century skepticism, produced by people who were ceasing to believe in His divinity, but wanted to keep as much Christianity as they could.

C.S. Lewis, cited by Charles J. Chaput, Living The Catholic Faith,
Reprinted by permission of www.franciscanmedia.org

TV provides a falsified alternate reality where God is not “all in all” and virtue is never required. Catholics who spend too much time in this false world are lulled into a moral numbness

Tom Jay, Television: The Devil’s Tabernacle, 09-09-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

We need to stop sleeping under the birds like Tobit, allowing the fecal matter of modern American TV programming to blind us to the truth, goodness, and beauty of God’s designs for us.

Tom Jay, Television: The Devil’s Tabernacle, 09-09-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

How do you bring the promise of redemption to those with no sense of sin? How do you awaken a sense of the tragedy of the Fall, to people who have no wonder in existence?

Joseph Woodard, What’s New in the New Evangelization ... And Why?,
09-10-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

This age is fatally more corrupt, because—unique to these days—post-modern revolutionaries enshrine their viciousness in the sanctuary of law, the Promethean legal positivism.

Joseph Woodard, What’s New in the New Evangelization ... And Why?,
09-10-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

Thinkers from Aristotle to de Tocqueville always saw that regulation itself cheapens the Rule of Law; “a virtuous people need few laws,” while the multiplication of statutes is a symptom of popular corruption.

Joseph Woodard, What’s New in the New Evangelization ... And Why?,
09-10-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

Today, with the “Consent of the Ruled” and the persistent perversion of positive law against nature, the entire culture rejects the Gospel Promise. Western Civilization as such is guilty of the “sin against the Holy Spirit.”

Joseph Woodard, What’s New in the New Evangelization ... And Why?,
09-10-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

No excuse can hide the fact that Planned Parenthood’s practices blatantly contradict human decency as well as Catholic beliefs, which ought to be at the heart of Catholic education.

Patrick Reilly and Justin Petrisek, Catholic Colleges and Planned Parenthood: New Proof of Collusion, 08-19-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

Food for Thought: S-3

4 – 5 Lines

The Church's teaching will remain confused—and the commitment of Catholic education to that teaching will be in doubt—until every Catholic college takes a no-tolerance position toward any association with Planned Parenthood.

Patrick Reilly and Justin Petrisek, Catholic Colleges and Planned Parenthood: New Proof of Collusion, 08-19-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

A society that allows cloning has, whether it knows it or not, tacitly said yes to converting procreation into manufacture and to treating our children as pure projects of our will."

Leon Kass, Views on Bioethics, Human Cloning, Accessed on Wikipedia Quotes

In recent decades, the reasoning of many Supreme Court jurists has become "curiouser and curiouser," and it is impossible not to wonder whether, in their deliberative process, predilections and prejudices sometimes replace facts and truth.

Philip Hawley, Jr., On Abortion, Medical Science is Still Waiting to be Heard, 09-15-15, Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

Not only do [sexual orientation] laws violate religious liberty, they harm children because they force high-quality, compassionate social service agencies to shut down

Sarah Torre & Ryan T. Anderson, Protecting the Religious Liberty of ..., 08-01-2014, Reprint permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

Someone who breaks marital unity and enters a new union is not acting according to God's will: he commits adultery." This has remained an unequivocal, binding teaching of the Church.

Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro, Citing Paul Joseph Cardinal Cordes, Review: Eleven Cardinals Speak on Marriage and the Family, 09-11-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

Nothing is more existentially necessary or more historically urgent than to return to an acknowledgment of the natural law that founds, supports, and orders marriage, above and beyond any historical constellation of factors."

Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro, Citing Antonio Maria Rouco Varela, Review: Eleven Cardinals Speak on Marriage and the Family, 09-11-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

Some friendships need to be terminated lest one become cooperative by seeming acceptance of the homosexual condition. Friendliness is a virtue when prudence dictates its expression.

Fr. Basil Cole, O.P., Hate the Sin, Love the Sinner, 08-17-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

When life is seen as disposable in the most defenseless stages of its beginnings, it doesn't take long for life to be seen as disposable when it is nearing its end.

Allison LeDoux, Life is a Place Where God Manifests Himself..., 05-15-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love Thee. I ask pardon for all those who do not believe in Thee, do not adore Thee, do not hope in Thee, do not love Thee."

John de Marchi, I.M.C., The True Story of Fatima, Taken directly from Lucia's Memoirs, Reprint permission by Servants of Jesus and Mary

"Experience itself will show you, if you will make trial of it, that this path of charity and love toward God and our neighbor is the most clear and plain road leading to eternal life."

Lorenzo Scupoli, Quote of the Day, Spiritual Combat, 09-11-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

We have been horrified and uncomprehending witnesses for over two generations to America's decline from "a mansion to a dirty house in a gutted world"

Cardinal James Stafford, Address to Catholic Univ. Of America, Reprint by permission of www.catholicnewsagency.com

Food for Thought: S-3

6 - 9 Lines

Serenity and peace from within us does not come from the removal of the outward causes of worry and trouble which are always around. Instead, serenity and peace within us comes from the discovery of God as our genuine source of happiness.”

Alaska Radio Mission, station KNOM, therealpresence.org

For politicians, St. Thomas More stands as a role model. He did not draw any false distinction between his personal morality and his public responsibilities: he was his king's good servant, but God's first. Today, some self-identified Catholic politicians prefer to emulate Pontius Pilate's "personally opposed but unwilling to impose" stance.

Thomas Wenski, Bishop of Orlando, Politicians and Communion, 05-03-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

If the whole of point of being a Catholic is to grow in holiness -- admittedly by practicing a whole lot and making some errors along the way - then it would be as John Paul II reminds us "a contradiction to settle for a life of mediocrity, marked by a minimalist ethic and a sentimental religiosity"

Thomas Wenski, Bishop of Orlando, Politicians and Communion, 05-03-2004, Reprint permission by EWTN.com

Although fighting the tide of secularism in general and current threats to religious liberty in particular can seem like a daunting task, we know that with God all things are possible; and we know that prayer is the ultimate source of our strength in this fight.

Bishop Lori, Bridgeport, Conn., National Catholic Register, 12-30-2012, Reprint permission by www.NCRegister.com

"It will be conceded that a Christian's first duty is to God. It then follows, as a matter of course, that it is his duty to carry his Christian code of morals to the polls and vote them. Whenever he shall do that, he will not find himself voting for an unclean man, a dishonest man.

Mark Twain, The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2004, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

If Christians would vote their duty to God at the polls, they would carry every election and do it with ease. Their prodigious power would be quickly realized and recognized, and afterward there would be no unclean candidates upon any ticket, and graft would cease.

Mark Twain (Colliers Mag. 1904), The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2004, Reprint permission by Catholic Citizens of Illinois

"Legality too easily becomes confused with morality, especially in our sex-permeated culture; and morality for that matter, too easily becomes a private affair that one may not promote for fear of being thought judgmental. Many citizens in their apathy have succumbed to the relentless barrage of pro-abortion propaganda."

Fr. Paul Marx, The Apostle of Life, Reprint by permission of www.hli.org

Bad men cannot make good citizens. It is impossible that a nation of infidels or idolaters should be a nation of free men. It is when people forget God, that tyrants forge their chains. A vitiated state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, is incompatible with freedom."

Patrick Henry, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2004, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Politics, Catholic View:

"Those who are directly involved in lawmaking bodies have a grave and clear obligation to oppose any law that attacks human life. For them, as for any Catholic, it is impossible to promote such laws or to vote for them. Democracy must be based on the true and solid foundation of non-negotiable ethical principles, which are the underpinning of life in society.

Participation of Catholics in Political Life, Vatican, 11/24/2002

Catholics seem to have trouble understanding the unity of Catholic teaching. It is not just a series of "thou shalt nots," nor is it two competing partisan ideologies. It is a moral ecosystem of interrelated principles that arise from the Gospel and reinforce each other.

Greg Erlandson, OSV president and publisher, 11-11-2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Authentic married love is caught up into divine love and is directed and enriched by the redemptive power of Christ and the salvific action of the church, with the result that the spouses are led to God and are helped and strengthened in their lofty role as fathers and mothers.

Second Vatican Council. Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

Food for Thought: S-3

6 - 9 Lines

Although fighting the tide of secularism in general and current threats to religious liberty in particular can seem like a daunting task, we know that with God all things are possible, and we know that prayers the ultimate source of our strength in this fight.

Archbishop William Lori, Fight Against HHS Mandate. National Catholic Register, 17-30 2012, Reprint permission by www.NCRegister.com

This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the government. Instead, it is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception or sterilization, even if it violates their religious beliefs.

Bishop Lori- Bridgeport, Conn, National Catholic Register, 12-30-2012, Reprint permission by www.NCRegister.com

Liberty is the highest political end of man. but no country can be free without religion. It creates and strengthens the notion of duty. If men are not kept straight by duty, they must be by fear. The more they are kept by fear, the less they are free. The greater the strength of duty, the greater the liberty.

Lord Acton, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2010, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

To raise the question of whether the unborn child is already a human being or not, is merely to confuse the issue. The simple fact is that God certainly intended to create a human being, and that this nascent human being has been deliberately deprived of his life. And that is nothing but murder.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, cited by Charles Chaput, Citizenship, community and Public Life., Reprinted by Permission of archden.org

When the Church confronts a culture that is in some way weak or defective, or failing – as our culture is – Her mission is to call the culture to conversion and to teach ever more strongly the truth about marriage and to help, of course, individuals according to that truth.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, Into the Deep, 8-2014, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

God who gave us Life, gave us Liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only form basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my Country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.

Thomas Jefferson, U.S. Pres., The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2012, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

And when properly understood (John Paul 11's Theology of the Body), it sheds light on the root causes of some of our culture's most pressing concerns: the spread of pornography, the rise in out-of-wedlock births, the culture of divorce, support for abortion and embryo-destructive procedures and the push for same-sex marriage.

Emily Stimpson, OSV contributing editor, 9/26/2010. Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Religion has more power over men than any other social force or institution. For religion does not rule by intimidation or terrorize men into obedience. Its power comes from inside the human heart. Religion maintains order by teaching men to govern their instincts and passions.

Cardinal Mindszenty, Mindszenty Report, Feb. 2003, Reprint by permission of www.mindszenty.org

Without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience ... without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be one nation gone under.

President Ronald W. Reagan, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2010, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Lord Jesus, you prayed that your people would be one; forgive us Lord and take away the pride and arrogance which divides your Church. Break down the walls which separate us; unite us with your bonds of love and accomplish your will. I pray that by the power of your Spirit your healing would work in the body of your Church and through me, to bring about the purpose of your will. Amen.

Author Unknown, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Food for Thought: S-3

6 - 9 Lines

To choose to take away a baby's life by abortion is to take away all that baby's present and future rights. Government has no right to do that. Government exists, instead, to secure the rights of people. For this reason, a government which deprives some of its people of their very right to live has abused its very reason for existing.

Unknown

Only when our dwelling is in the heavens can we hope to fulfill our vocations on earth ... If we do not understand the world and why it was made, what right have we to meddle with it? If we do not know that man is made in the image of God, how dare we ... attempt to fashion his life?

Fr. John Courtney Murray, Cited by Charles J. Chaput, *Life in The Late Republic*, Reprinted by Permission of www.archden.org

Laws should seek "to establish and maintain only that minimum of actualized morality that is necessary for the healthy functioning of the social order." Beyond this, a nation must look to other, non-legal institutions in civil society to maintain its moral standards.

John Courtney Murray, cited by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, *Law and Morality* in www.thepublicdiscourse.com, 08-06-2014, Reprinted by permission of www.CatholicPhilly.com

What is wrong with millions of Americans today is that they lack the peace of soul, necessary for good citizenship. There is so much crime and abject violence in society because religion and its moral principles have been chased from the public and educational marketplace.

William A. Borst, Ph.D., *Mindszenty Report*, Feb. 2003, Reprint by permission of www.mindszenty.org

"There is an inseparable link between the two meanings of the marriage act: the unitive meaning [making love] and the procreative meaning [making babies]. This connection was established by God himself, and man is not permitted to break it on his own initiative." (H.V, no. 12)

Bishop Victor Galeone, St. Augustine, FL, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

What you do in your family to create a community of love, to help each other to grow, and to serve those in need is critical, not only for your own sanctification but for the strength of society and our church. It is a participation in the work of the Lord, a sharing in the mission of the church. It is holy.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Follow the Way of Love*, cda.org

Our families are the starting point and the center of a vocation for justice. How we treat our parents, spouses, and children is a reflection of our commitment to Christ's love and justice. We demonstrate our commitment to the Gospel by how we spend our time and money and whether our family life includes an ethic of charity, service and action for justice.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Everyday Christianity*, cda.org

Manners are more important than laws. Upon them, in a great measure, the laws depend. Manners are what vex or soothe, corrupt or purify, exalt or debase, barbarize or refine us ... According to their quality, they aid morals ... or they totally destroy them.

Edmond Burke, British Statesman, *The Catholic Citizen*, Spring 2007 Reprinted by permission of www.catholiccitizens.org

Great nations rise and fall. The people go from bondage to spiritual truth, to great courage, from courage to liberty, from liberty to abundance, from abundance to selfishness, from selfishness to complacency, from complacency to apathy, from apathy to dependence, from dependence back again to bondage.

Often attributed to Alexander Fraser Tyler, *The Catholic Citizen*, Spring 2007 (Tyler authored several books from the late 1700's to early 1800's) Reprinted by permission of www.CatholicCitizens.org

Gay marriage proponents use the language of openness, tolerance and diversity, yet one foreseeable effect of their success will be to usher in an era of intolerance and discrimination the likes of which we have rarely seen before. Every person and every religion that disagrees will be labeled as bigoted and openly discriminated against. The ax will fall most heavily on religious persons and groups that don't go along.

Mary Ann Glendon, U.S. Ambassador to Vatican, *The Catholic Citizen*, Summer 2008, Reprinted by permission of www.CatholicCitizens.org

Food for Thought: S-3

6 - 9 Lines

Whatever the law or culture may say, we must commit now to witness to the truths about marriage: that men and women are distinct and complementary, that it takes a man and a woman to bring a child into the world, and that children deserve a chance to grow up with a mom and a dad.

Ryan T. Anderson, Marriage, Where do we go From Here?, 05-22-2014, © 2015 National Review, Inc. Reprinted by permission

No matter what, the church will play a central role in shaping opinions on marriage. If it chooses to remain rather silent, it will shape opinion by default. On the other hand, it can rise to the occasion in developing a compelling response to the sexual revolution. And it alone possesses the only fully satisfying response.

Ryan T. Anderson, Marriage, Where do we go From Here?, 05-22-2014, © 2015 National Review, Inc. Reprint permission by nationalreview.com

Marriage increases the odds that a man will be committed both to the children that he helps create and to the woman with whom he does so. Marriage, rightly understood, brings together the two halves of humanity (male and female) in a monogamous relationship. Husband and wife pledge to each other to be faithful by vows of permanence and exclusivity. Marriage provides children with a relationship with the man and the woman who made them.

Ryan T. Anderson, Marriage: Where do we go From Here?, 05-22-14, © 2015 National Review, Inc. Reprint permission by nationalreview.com

The judicial usurpation of politics on the marriage issue provides an opportunity to remind citizens of the importance of elections and the importance of judicial nominees. Millions of Americans have had their voices and their votes discarded by a small handful of unelected judges—judges appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Ryan T. Anderson, The Defense of Marriage Isn't Over, 10-08-14, Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

For too many, politics is the ultimate horizon of their thinking and acting. As we know, fidelity to Christ in his body the Church calls for two responses on the part of those who would call themselves his disciples; orthodoxy in belief and obedience in practice.

Cardinal Francis George, The Catholic Citizens of Illinois, Fall 2014, Reprinted by permission of www.CatholicCitizens.org

As a nation, we've grown used to abortion, at least in the abstract. Talking about the grisly business of abortion and fetal tissue sales in all their bloody immediacy and concrete detail is understandably something that Planned Parenthood and its apologists shy away from most circumstances.

Stephen J. Heaney, Keeping the Spotlight on Planned Parenthood, 09-14-15, Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

First they came for the socialists and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me.

Martin Niemöller, Reprint permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

If you will not fight when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory is sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves.

Sir Winston Churchill, Catholic Citizens of Illinois, Fall 2013, Reprint permission by www.CatholicCitizens.org

A different social life and a different mental life have formed among them (today's young people). Technology has bred it ... The fonts of knowledge are everywhere, but the rising generation is camped in the desert, passing stories, pictures, tunes, and texts back and forth, living off the thrill of peer attention... The autonomy has a cost: the more they attend to themselves, the less they remember the past and envision the future.

Mark Bauerlein, Cited by Edmund B. Miller, The Fundamental Evil of Fragmentation, New Oxford Review, Sept. 2014

If we as a culture, continue to allow ourselves to be conditioned by broadcast media, either by elite corporations that seek to perpetuate their ideologies or by the common Facebook "friend" who seeks to turn ordinary experiences into over-dramatized sound bites, we will inevitably reduce the most intimate forms of communication to mere emotive responses not integrated with our souls.

J. Jacob Tawney, The Fourfold Problems of Facebook, New Oxford Review, July-Aug. 2014

Food for Thought: S-3

6 - 9 Lines

There can be no contradiction between revealed truth and science, but only between revealed truth and certain philosophical speculations, interpretations, deductions, or presuppositions that somehow become illegitimately associated with certain scientific discoveries.

Dietrich von Hildebrand, Cited by D.Q. McInerney: On Science Sans Content, New Oxford Review, Dec. 2013

Once we fully realize the grandeur and mysterious sublimity of Christian marriage, the question of the proper motive for entering marriage assumes great importance. Only one motive can be admitted as completely adequate for marriage: mutual love and the conviction that this union will lead to the eternal welfare of both spouses.

Dietrich von Hildebrand, Love & the Mystery of Sacramental Marriage 07-02-2015, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

It is characteristic of the pagan errors of our epoch to believe that the nation and state rank higher than the family and higher even than marriage, and, above all, to consider interest in the nation or in the state as something more unselfish than the surrender of self to the family or to the marriage relationship.

Dietrich von Hildebrand, Love & the Mystery of Sacramental Marriage, 07-02-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Hope in the classic Christian sense is not mere wishing something to be true. Hope is confidence in Truth. Hope is serenity in Truth. Hope is firmness and constancy in Truth. Hope is certainty in Truth, that if man is faithful to God, God will be faithful to man.

Robert P. Lockwood, Catholic Journal, OSV, 12-02-2012, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

It falls upon those of us who believe in the truth of Christ to expose the lies, the horrors, and the degradation of the human person in the culture of death that has been woven into the fabric of everyday life. We must raise our voices with great urgency, denouncing child-killing from the pulpit, and stand in the breach in defense of the unborn. It is not a job for the squeamish.

Fr. Alvaro Delgado, Modern Golgothas, New Oxford Review, Jan./Feb. 2015

People do not need to be convinced that they are lost, and they do not need to be convinced that they are wounded. All that is needed is for them to believe that they are known at a deep level and they are loved at a deep level. When they are convinced of these things they are ready enough to reveal their wounds and their sense of being lost.

Janet E. Smith, Are We Obsessed?, *First Things*, 9-25-2013, Reprinted with permission by *First Things*

The world divorced from the God who created and redeemed it inevitably comes to a bad end... It's on the wrong side of the only history that finally matters... entire societies, especially in the West, have placed themselves on the wrong side of history..."

Francis Cardinal George, Cited by Fr Robert McTeigue, S.J., Cardinal George: A Reluctant Prophet of the Resurrection, Reprint by permission of www.thewandererpress.com, 04-22-2015

"In Christ, even our failures become a source of grace when we accept them in imitation of His humility and courage; even our anxieties become a path to holiness when we ally them with His sufferings. All that we do and say, if it is done and said in Christ, is done and said well, for true wellness is life in Christ."

Clayton C. Barbeau, The Father of the Family, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Contraception mocks Our Blessed Mother who said Yes to pregnancy. Abortion mocks Our Lord who humbled Himself to enter this world as an innocent vulnerable baby. Euthanasia mocks both the Crucifixion and the Resurrection by saying "save yourself from this suffering and escape into the finality of Death. To this the Resurrection responds, "Where O Death, is your Victory?"

J. M. Royal, Bundaberg West, QLD, Australia, The Devil, Into the Deep, July 2014, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

So often we today can find our faith challenged by the world, and in countless ways we are asked to compromise our faith, to water down the radical demands of the Gospel and to conform to the spirit of this age. Yet the martyrs call out to us to put Christ first and to see all else in this world to Him and His eternal Kingdom.

Pope Francis, Seoul, Martyrs Challenge Us, Zenit.org 16-08-2014, ITD, Oct. 2014, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Food for Thought: S-3

6 - 9 Lines

A Church or a Christian who does not give witness is sterile... The Church has overcome evil thanks to the courageous, concrete and humble witness of her children. She has conquered evil thanks to proclaiming with conviction: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God".

Pope Francis, (excerpt) Homily for Feast of Sts Peter and Paul, 06-28-2015 Zenit.org 30-06-2015, ITD Aug. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"The Pill" is more than just a moral question; it is about the social health of the nation, the country we want to live in, and has political repercussions; there are plenty who want to crush our Christian values and structures so that they can remold us into a different type of society indeed.

S.C., Melbourne, Australia, More than a Moral Question, Into the Deep, Feb. 2013, Reprinted by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The Holy Year [of Mercy] shall serve to remind the people that mercy cannot exist without the truth. The mercy of God takes us as we are, but it leaves us not in that same state in which it has found us. ... We cannot pronounce the Resurrection without the Cross. There is not a second or third way.

Cardinal Gerhard Müller, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Into the Deep, May. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

If someone has doubts about Eternal Life, to that person the Church cannot simply say: 'It does not matter after all, the main thing is that you sometimes do something good.' Or, when people are Catholic, but do not attend Holy Mass, we cannot say: 'One can be a good Christian without [going to] Mass.' No, both belong to one another.

Cardinal Gerhard Müller, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Into the Deep, May. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"Silence is like a white screen upon which we can project the film of our daily life so as to see it more clearly. If we projected it on a wall full of pictures, books and other objects, and with a background noise, we would perceive little. Only in silence can we make our choices with greater awareness. In silence we hear the voice of God, and thus become genuine bearers of His Word."

Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, ITD, Jan. 2011, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

We [must] explain the importance of faith. Often we can be very, very understated about the importance of faith, prayer, conversion." "The secrets for religious prosperity, lie in the Gospels and in the Catholic tradition. We've just got to go to them... And adapting more and more to the society – they'll all say that's good, but they won't join, and it will put us out of business if we do it long enough."

Cardinal George Pell, Adapting to Society, Zenit.org, Into the Deep, June. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

No parent should forget to show and teach his children that the way to growth, personal and communal, is through fidelity to the core teachings of Christ and the Church. Those who play down the demands of faith, forgiveness and family, which Christ enjoined, are increasing and hastening the exodus.

Cardinal Pell citing Graffiti on a Brazilian Train, No Parent Should Fail to Pass on Christ's Core Teachings, NC Register, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Ideologies come and go, and they have the idea of changing humanity, of changing human nature. Human nature cannot be changed; it can be distorted. But the elevation of perversion (homosexuality) to the level of a fundamental value that has to be nurtured and nourished and promoted – this is absolutely sick.

Rev. Wojciech Giertych, Papal Theologian, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2013, Reprint by permission of www.CatholicCitizens.org

The church teaches that our sexual instincts are given for the procreation of children and the loving unity between man and wife. Taking the sexual pleasure for its own sake is an abuse of God's gift of sexuality, and it is this selfish abuse which leads to lust

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Longing for Love, 10-01-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

"The point is that, just as God dwells in His fullness here in your private study, here in the walk by the river, here in the little schoolroom, here in the hearty family celebration, here in the holy joining of bride and groom, here in the quiet chamber of death, so too every moment is the turning point, every moment the acceptable time, every moment the moment when we are to hear His voice."

Anthony Esolen, Reflections on the Christian Life, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

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Food for Thought: S-3

6 - 9 Lines

There is no good reason to be suspicious of people of faith. There is every reason to encourage them and to be grateful for them, because even by worldly standards they make good citizens. But the State does not want to keep separate from the churches. It wants to absorb them.

Anthony Esolen, Public and Religious Education, 10-29-2012, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Kermit Gosnell was not sentenced to life imprisonment for sloppiness, for insensitivity, for bad keepsakes, for a backed-up drain, for fleas, or even for making women suffer. *He was sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering three babies.* He was sentenced to life imprisonment for doing just what his perhaps slightly more presentable colleagues do every day, in every large city in the nation.

Anthony Esolen, Negligence, Insensitivity, or Murder? 05-28-2013, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

If in a republic the government fears the people, in a tyranny the people fear the government. And in America we do indeed fear the government, not simply because, as Jefferson said, the power to tax is the power to destroy. We have reversed the relationship that (President) Cleveland – giving up an opportunity to be a political hero – urged us to maintain. We have allowed the government to support us, and have paid dearly for that support, in money and in real political power.

Anthony Esolen, Master, Peer, Ward, Puppet, 10-06-2015, Reprint permission of www.crisismagazine.com

Paul VI was fully aware of the dire situation the Church and the world found itself in. Perhaps today's Catholics will sympathize, as they look around at the rampant rates of abortion, rising cohabitation, divorce, the legalizing of same-sex marriage, and declining practice of the faith.

Daniel Blackman, Bl. Paul VI's "Solemn Utterance" 47 Years Later, 06-30-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

St. Paul reminds us: *"the sufferings of the present cannot be compared to the glory that awaits the sons and daughters of God...."* And *"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard nor has it entered into the mind of man the wonderful things that God has prepared for those who love Him."*

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Rejoice in The Lord at All Times, 04-30-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Exercises that have radically transformed thousands of lives, transforming sinners into great saints, is permeated with the presence of Mary, the Mother of God, the Mother of the Church and our Mother in the order of grace.

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Find Your Philosophy of Life, 02-05-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

May Our Lady who is the Daughter of God the Father, the Mother of God the Son and the Mystical Spouse of God the Holy Spirit intercede for us so that we might have an ever-deepening, personal and loving relationship to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, False Concepts of God and Truth 04-21-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Let's pray and offer sacrifice for the return to right judgment and morals among the leaders and people of our nation, for an end of the sin of abortion in our time and for a courageous witness to our Catholic Faith ... especially among those politicians who claim to be Catholic and have wandered from the teachings of Jesus.

Francis Cardinal George, The Church's Consistent Teaching on Life, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2015, Reprint permission by catholiccitizens.org

"Life has many sides to it. There are always sorrowful and joyful sides to the reality we live, and so we always have a choice to live the moment as a cause for resentment or as a cause for joy. Each moment offers the chance to choose between cynicism and joy."

Fr. Henri Nouwen (Dutch Priest), cited by Benjamin Mann, Building A Culture of openness to God, 04-11-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

"Every good Christian ought to be more ready to give a favorable interpretation to another's statement than to condemn it. But if he cannot do so, let him ask how the other understands it. And if the latter understands it badly, let the former correct him with love. If that does not suffice, let the Christian try all suitable ways to bring the other to a correct interpretation so that he may be saved."

Benjamin Mann, Two Big Myths About Relativism, 02-20-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Food for Thought: S-3

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Some of our substitutes for God are more disordered than others. But the fundamental problem is the same: we roam the world in search of that supreme joy whose scent we have caught, whose light we have glimpsed; but no finite thing provides more than a semblance of it for long.

Benjamin Mann, *The Cross and the Drug Culture*, 05-12-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

We must choose: there is the path of material simplification, regained wisdom, and spiritual awareness; or there is our present course of *“practical materialism,”* in which *“man not only loses sight of the mystery of God, but also of the mystery of the world and the mystery of his own being.”*

(*Evangelium Vitae*, 22).

Benjamin Mann, *Building A Culture of openness to God*, 04-11-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Cohabitation and pre-marital sex are more than a violation of Church teaching or a failure to practice modesty or to avoid occasions of sin. On the contrary, they both confirm the heart in that attitude of lacking self-control and ability to delay self-gratification.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, *OMV, Why Train Our Hearts*, 02-19-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Maybe devotion to Mary is not very popular today becomes it goes against every inclination of our pride and self-seeking. Our devotion to Mary, if it is authentic, moves us to surrender the self-centered and self seeking attitude in our life as Christ's disciples.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, *OMV, Disinterestedness: The Forgotten Virtue*, 02-12-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

At La Salette, France, Mary called all of us back to the fold from our sins, back to the arms of God, back to the glory of heaven. We can choose not to go, because free will remains ours to use. At La Salette, Mary also tells us, just as any loving mother would, of the consequences we'll face.

Sarah Reinhard, *Small Town Mary: Our Lady of La Salette*, 01-31-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

“The present state of the world and the whole of life is diseased ... The Word of God cannot be heard in the noisy world of today. And even if it were blazoned forth with all the panoply of noise so that it could be heard in the midst of all the other noises, then it would no longer be the Word of God.”

Soren Kiergaard cited by Benjamin Mann, *Building A Culture of ...*, 04-11-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

There is no question that the good news of the Gospel centers on the love of God; but, to deny God's wrath eliminates the need for the good news. It also minimizes the culpability of sinners, denies the justice of God's punishment, and trivializes God's love for us.

Ken Connor, *The Good News/Bad News Bible*, 07-07-2013, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

You can choose to accept the whole of Christianity and her teachings, or you are free to reject them. You are even free to start your own religion, teaching whatever you'd prefer. But you do not have the right to speak in the name of Christ's Church and define authentic Christian belief for yourself or others. You do not have that right, *because you do not have that authority.*

Leila Miller, *Sorry, You're Not Allowed to Do That*, 07-25-2013, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

As Chrysostom said of Christ's fasting in a homily, it was “to instruct thee how great a good is fasting, and how it is a most powerful shield against the devil; and that after baptism thou shouldst give thyself up, not to luxury, but to fasting; for this cause Christ fasted, not as needing it Himself, but as teaching us.

Steven Rummelsburg, *St. Thomas Aquinas on Christ's Temptation*, 07-20-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

“The Christian religion, by confining marriage to pairs (man and woman), and rendering the relation indissoluble, has by these two things done more toward the peace, happiness, settlement and civilization of the world than by any other part in this whole scheme of divine wisdom.”

Edmund Burke, cited by Donald DeMarco, *The Erosion of Marriage*, 09-28-2014, Reprint permission by www.truthandcharityforum.org

Food for Thought: S-3

6 - 9 Lines

Salvation First

Christianity does not begin by telling man what he must do, but what God has done for him. Jesus did not begin to preach saying: 'Repent and believe in the Gospel so that the Kingdom will come to you'; he began by saying: 'The Kingdom of God is among you: repent and believe in the Gospel.' Not conversion first and then salvation, but salvation first and then conversion."

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Pontifical Household preacher, ITD July 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The Church Exists in Order to Evangelize

"Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection."

Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii nuntiandi*, n.14, ITD Dec. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

When parliamentarians lose the sense of sin, they cannot govern a country justly. Our cycle of life is: Birth, Life, Death, Judgment, Heaven or Hell for eternity. A country that slaps God in the face and says, "Lord, Your teachings are out of date", has a very bleak future, if any future at all.

Brian Rooney, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Excerpt, *Bleak Future*, ITD Aug. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

It has become apparent that those who wish to push the "abortion right" also wish to dictate that medical students must be trained in the destructive practice of abortion. Those who would object taking such courses simply would not be allowed to graduate and become a doctor. In essence, if this were to be enacted, those who believe life is sacred need not apply to medical school.

Joe Kral, *Conscience, Legislation and the Culture of Death*, 08-27-2015, Reprint permission by www.truthandcharityforum.org

To expect to find happiness in sin is to look for good in evil.... To keep God in your married life, to trust in his wisdom and love, and to obey his laws... will deepen your love for each other and will bring to you that inner peace of mind and heart which is the reward of a good conscience."

Bishop Glennon Flavin, Cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln, Neb., Pastoral Letter on Contraception, 09-12-2014

The order of the family perfects and civilizes man in virtue and goodness so that he learns to live *well* and not as a barbarian, for, as Aristotle explains, "if he is without virtue, he is a most unholy and savage being, and worse than all others in the indulgence of lust and gluttony."

Mitchell Kalpakjian, Ph.D., *The Presence of a Mother and Father in a Home* 08-31-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

As a traditionalist I see the false concepts of a remnant theology devastate my brothers, just as Catholics of all stripes have watched the self-referential Church leave behind at the same time a Church more educated and yet more ignorant than ever, a group whose certainty of mission is only rivaled by their certainty to avoid actually having to carry it out.

Kevin Tierney, *Are We A Remnant Church*, 06-02-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The growth of government means the loss of liberty as the state replaces the role of the parent. But it also means further assaults on those who are still functioning as families, as the state forces private businesses to provide contraception and abortion, as state education forces falsehoods into minds of our school children, and now as new laws and layers of bureaucracy enforce the redefinition of marriage and family.

Dale Ahlquist, *The Challenge of Defending the Normal*, 09-09-2013, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

The difference between Jefferson's hypothesis and the situation today is, at bottom, that the modern state is not just a "temporal order" but itself a quasi-established religion that enforces what it will or will not allow in ultimate questions about human life and death.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., *Obama's Right to Worship* Ushers in New State Religion, 2-27-2014, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

For the tradition of Hobbes, "rights," including religion, were under the control of the state to give whatever content it chose. It is this understanding of "rights" that currently forms the core of a new civil religion that is being imposed on society against any real freedom of philosophy and religion.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., *Obama's Right to Worship* Ushers in New State Religion, 2-27-2014, Reprint permission by crisismagazine.com

Food for Thought: S-3

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What we are dealing with is an effort to think out of existence any notion of sin or disorder of soul caused by human freedom. This effort requires the prohibition of reason and the reinterpretation of Scripture because it says we can sin and it tells us what those sins are.

Rev. James Schall, S.J., On Court-Mandated Brain Washing, 08-20-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com

In God's name, you people are the real thing. We are the illusion! So turn off your television sets. Turn them off now. Turn them off right now. Turn them off and leave them off. Turn them off right in the middle of this sentence I'm speaking to you now. Turn them off!

Howard Beale in Network—1976, Cited by Tom Jay, Television: The Devil's Tabernacle, 09-09-2015, Reprint by permission of www.crisismagazine.com (Please read entire article)

The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God – it is not “produced” by the parents – and also that it is immortal: it does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection

Editor, FMA Focus, Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

With crime, victims are treated as obstacles to overcome or things to exploit. Abortion sees people as disposable because he or she is inconvenient. Pornography treats people as objects in service of self-gratification. We've become this “use or be used” society

John Stonestreet, Pornography, Here are the Numbers. 09-09-2014, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

One of the first things to realize is that rampant pornography use can't be isolated from its larger cultural context. So many of our social ills stem from the fact that society is losing or abandoning the ability to see people as beings made in the image of God.

John Stonestreet, Pornography, Here are the Numbers. 09-09-2014, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

“Since this infamous agency (Planned Parenthood) receives around half a billion dollars each year from the U.S. Government, funds to carry on their slaughter of innocents, no American citizen, and certainly no man, can remain silent about this travesty of our times. We need to get off the sidelines and stand up for life on the front lines.”

Bishop Thomas Olmsted, We Need to Get Off The Sidelines, 09-30-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

The complementarity of masculinity and femininity is key to understanding how human persons image God. Without knowing and appreciating this, we cannot know ourselves or our mission as men, nor can women embrace their own vocations, confident in the Father's love.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

This is our enemy's underlying plan: to remove our reliance on God, the benevolent Father. To do this, Satan's primary strategy is to damage and abolish human fatherhood, in the man and relationship where each of us first glimpses what God's fatherhood might be like.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Pheonix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

When fidelity towards the [marriage] bond is broken, our merciful Lord is ready to forgive the one who repents. But repentance requires sorrow of the soul, together with the resolution not to sin again. This firm resolution to sin no more therefore implies the intention to live in a form of life that is no longer in contradiction with the indissolubility of marriage.

Monsignor Ignacio Barreiro, Review : Remaining in the Truth of Christ: Remarriage and Communion in the Catholic Church, 10-09-2014, Reprint permission by www.truthandcharityforum.org

Physical courage—something you find on athletic fields, for example—is very common, but moral courage is not. It is not easy to stand up for what is right when that might mean losing one's job, one's family or even one's life. It is far easier to keep quiet and let things slide.

Alice von Hildebrand, cited by Ryan Shinkel, The Courage to Be on the Wrong Side of History: Lessons from Burke and Nietzsche_06-18-2015 Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

Food for Thought: S-3

6 - 9 Lines

The decision to have children is an act of faith. It will come with costs and sacrifice, especially fiscally and emotionally. But God's mandate to "fill the earth" starts with those willing to believe that, just as the Lord is faithful to those who develop innovations to feed millions, He is faithful to families trying to feed their children. Not only does He provide all that we need, He shows us that not all that is good can be measured in dollars and cents.

Eric Tetsel and Andrew T. Walker, *The Value of Children: Economics ...*, 04-20-2015, Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com,

Perhaps it is now time for the Church—including the laity—to stand up to the bullying by the various committees of the United Nations—including the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It is time to expose the real agenda of the United Nations—most notably the UNFPA—to expand the lucrative contraceptive and abortion industry throughout the world, and remind others that the true protector of children remains the Catholic Church.

Anne Hendershott, *What's Behind The UN Attack on The Church?*, 02-10-2014, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

Almost every important aspect of human life has been trivialized: work, sex, politics, entertainment, even death. And almost every trivial aspect of human life has been given an importance it doesn't objectively merit: gossip, bodies and complexions, styles and athletics.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

I strongly suspect that if we saw all the difference even the tiniest of our prayers to God make, and all the people those little prayers were destined to affect, and all the consequences of those effects down through the centuries, we would be so paralyzed with awe at the power of prayer that we would be unable to get up off our knees for the rest of our lives.

Peter Kreeft, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

The culture of death is a multi-headed dragon that must be destroyed at its heart. Just as there are organizations, and groups of organizations, who prudently target a single facet of the culture, there must be others who address the whole picture. It would be a mistake to redefine the entire pro-life cause as purely an abortion abolition movement. It is essential, but not enough, to oppose abortion.

Denise Hunnell, M.D., *The Language of Life*, 02-25-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

In order to see the true beauty of the wisdom of God, we need to allow ourselves to experience it by allowing our lives to be conformed to His will and His plan for us. We have to go beyond what we think or feel about a certain teaching and follow it in faith, trusting that what God calls us to is better than anything we can think of on our own

Bishop Paprocki, *Humanae Vitae* Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

As Catholics, we willingly exercise that faith in what we cannot see or fully understand each time we come to Mass. This is one of the great mysteries of our faith and we live by it. If Christ is able to make good on that promise which, according to human logic, is impossible, why should we doubt that following His teachings for how we live our lives will bring us anything but true peace and happiness?

Bishop Paprocki, *Humanae Vitae* Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

With regards to living the teachings of *Humanae Vitae*, there is no question that it carries challenges. In reality, this is true of any of the teachings of Christ and His Church. They are challenging because they invite us to step out of ourselves where we are most comfortable. As Pope Benedict XVI said so beautifully, "You were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness."

Bishop Paprocki, *Humanae Vitae* Mass, 08-16-2015, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Since the legal redefinition of marriage is contrary to God's plan, those who contract civil same-sex marriage are culpable of serious sin. Politicians responsible for enacting civil same-sex marriage legislation are morally complicit as co-operators in facilitating this grave sin.

Bishop Paprocki, *Prayers for Supplication and Exorcism in Reparation of Same-Sex Marriage*, 11-20-2013, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Pope St. John Paul II, in his Encyclical Letter on the Gospel of Life, wrote that the freedom that is being claimed is rooted in a self-centered concept of freedom that is unwilling to accept the responsibility of one's actions. This view of freedom is the logical result when one defines truth according to one's standard of thinking in opposition to the true standard which comes from God.

Bishop Paprocki, *Humane Vitae* Mass, 08-10-2014, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Reflections: S-3

Mary, our mother

And mother of the Redeemer,
Gate of Heaven and Star of the sea,
come to the aid of your people,
who have sinned,
Yet also yearn to rise again!
Come to the Church's aid,
Enlighten your devoted children,
strengthen the faithful throughout the world,
Let those who have drifted
Hear your call,
And may they who live as prisoners of evil
Be converted!

Pope John Paul 11, Into the Deep, Jan./Feb. 2015. Reprint permission
by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Intrinsic Value

A well known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 dollar bill. In a room of 200, he asked, "who would like this \$20 dollar bill?" Hands started going up.

He said, "I'm going to give this \$20 dollar bill to one of you, but first, let me do this ." He crumpled the bill up. Then he asked, "who still wants it?" Still the hands remained up. Well he continued, "what if I do this?" He dropped the bill on the floor and started to grind it with his shoe. He picked it up crumpled, dirty and slightly torn. "Now who still wants it?" Still the hands remained up.

He said, "My friends you have learned a valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you wanted it because it did not decrease in value."

Remember, no matter what has happened, or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. To Him, dirty or clean, crumpled, torn or finely creased, you are still priceless, today and forever.

Unknown

Prayer to Our Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard,
to rule and guide. Amen

Begin To Wonder

When I begin to wonder how
I've carried on this far,
And wonder where I'll get the strength
To finally cross the bar ...
When I begin to wonder where
I've yet to journey to,
And wonder with a weary heart
What I have yet to do ...
When I begin to wonder who
will help me on my way,
With no one near to lift me up
With cheerful words to say ...
When I draw near to helpless tears
And can no longer see,
In suddenness, I realize ...
My Saviors carrying me.

Denise A. DeWald, Reprinted with permission

Fear

A tough looking, scowling man on horseback rode into town of the old West. "You!" he snarled at a man at the towns inn. "Take my horse, rub him down and see that he is stabled and warm. Then, get me a room for the night and have someone fix me a good dinner. I'll also need some food for tomorrow. Move! If you don't so as I say, I will do to this town what I did to those fools in the last two-bit town."

Trembling, everyone in town did the strangers bidding.

As the stranger was leaving next morning, the innkeeper got enough courage to ask, "What did you do to the people in the last town?"

"Why nothing at all," the stranger replied as he rode off. They wouldn't listen to me so I came here."

In the midst of life's "storms" of fear that paralyze us, remember we have options, and God remains with us. Yes, He is perhaps unseen in the darkness that surrounds us. However, if we stop, pray and listen, we may see His hand pointing to the possibilities on the other side of our fears and doubts.

Reflections: S-3

Eternal Father

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me,
Body of Christ, save me,
Blood of Christ, inebriate me,
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds, shelter me.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
From the evil one, protect me.
In the hour of my death, call me,
and bid me to come to You.
That with Your saints I may praise you,
forever and ever. Amen.

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Words of Life

Lord, when I drift and fail to read
Your precious words of Life,
My days get cluttered in no time
With many forms of strife.

Little things soon make me worry,
and grow to monstrous heights -
and joy is dimmed within my heart,
Like someone dimmed the lights.

But worst of all, I fail to work
And use my hands for Thee -
For how can I shine forth your light
When all is dark in me?

So show me my priorities
Oh, let my heart be stirred!
May I begin each day with You,
... Immersed within Thy Word.
Denise. DeWald

Attitude

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact
of attitude on life.

Attitude to me is more important than facts. It
is more important than the past, than
education, than money, than circumstances,
than failures, than success, than what other
people say or do.

It is more important than appearance,
giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a
company – a church – a home – a person.

The remarkable thing is that we have a choice
every day regarding the attitude we will
embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past – we cannot
change the fact that people will act in a certain
way. We cannot change the inevitable. The
only thing we can do is play the one string we
have, and that is our attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens
to me and 90% of how I react to it.

And so it is with you – we are in charge of our
attitudes.

Charles Swindoll

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

We've had enough exhortations to be silent! Cry out with a hundred thousand tongues. I see that the world is rotten because of silence.

St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380), *The Catholic Citizen*, Summer 2008, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

"The two most important moments of our lives are now and at the hour of our death."

St. Catherine of Siena, cited by Fr. Ed. Broom, OMV, *Remember the Last Things*, Reprint permission given by www.catholicexchange.com

"Lord, take me from myself and give me to Yourself."

St. Catherine of Siena, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

If you are what you should be you will set the world ablaze.

St. Catharine of Siena, cited by Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, A New Level of Thinking*, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

"Ignorance of Sacred Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

St. Jerome – cited by Fr. Ed Broom, *Ten Ways to Fall in Love With the Bible*, 10-07-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Good, better, best. Never let it rest, till your good is better and your better is best.

St. Jerome, cited by Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, The Bible*, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Let sleep find you holding your Bible, and when you head nods let it be resting on the sacred page.

Saint Jerome, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

"You may see a number of women who are widows before they are wives. Other, indeed, will drink sterility and murder a man not yet born."

St. Jerome, "Letter 22," 396 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

Today we live in a time that urgently needs to be renewed at the hidden springs of God-fearing souls.

Edith Stein, *St. Benedicta of The Cross*, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Do not accept anything as truth if it lacks love.

Edith Stien, *St. Benedicta of The Cross*, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Whoever surrenders unconditionally to the Lord will be chosen by him as an instrument for building his kingdom.

Edith Stein, *St. Benedicta of The Cross*, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, www.OSV.com

Anyone who seeks truth seeks God, whether or not he realizes it.

St. Edith Stein, cited by Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, The Bible*, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

"Man is created to praise, reverence and serve God our Lord and by this means to save his soul"

St. Ignatius, Cited by Fr. Hardon, *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

It is not the finest wood that feeds the fire of Divine love, but the wood of the Cross.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, cited by Sam Guzman, *Our Only Hope*04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to God's deepening His life in me.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, cited by Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, The Holy Spirit*, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

The goal of our life is to live with God forever. God, who loves us, gave us life. Our own response of love allows God's life to flow into us without limit.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, cited by Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, The Holy Spirit*, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Stand firm and immovable as an anvil when it is beaten upon.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, *Into the Deep*, Oct. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

It is not hard to obey when we love the one whom we obey.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, *Into the Deep*, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The man who sets about making others better is wasting his time, unless he begins with himself.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, [Excerpt, *Thoughts of St. Ignatius Loyola*] Reprint by permission of fordhampress.com

If you want to be of use to others, begin by taking pains with yourself: the fire that is to enkindle others should be lighted at home.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, [Excerpt, *Thoughts of St. Ignatius Loyola*] Reprint by permission of fordhampress.com

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

There is no better wood for feeding the fire of God's love than the wood of the Cross.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, [Excerpt, Thoughts of St. Ignatius Loyola] Reprint by permission of fordhampress.com

Let he who is rich strive to possess his goods, not be possessed by them.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, [Excerpt, Thoughts of St. Ignatius Loyola] Reprint by permission of fordhampress.com

The sharper you are at noticing other people's failings, the more apt will you be to overlook your own.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, [Excerpt, Thoughts of St. Ignatius Loyola] Reprint by permission of fordhampress.com

If we were to die now, what would happen to us? What account should we give of the many riches, graces, and companions left to perish through our means?

St. Ignatius of Loyola, [Excerpt, Thoughts of St. Ignatius Loyola] Reprint by permission of fordhampress.com

Conquer yourself; for if you do this you will gain a brighter crown in heaven than others who are meeker by nature.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, [Excerpt, Thoughts of St. Ignatius Loyola] Reprint by permission of fordhampress.com

"Heretics abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the Flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ."

St. Ignatius of Antioch, "Epistle to the Smyrneans," c. 105 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"There is One Physician who is possessed of both flesh and spirit....both of Mary and of God."

St. Ignatius of Antioch, "Epistle To The Ephesians," c. 105 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on www.catholicnewsagency.com

Make no mistake, my brothers, those who corrupt families will not inherit the kingdom of God.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to Ephesians, Into the Deep, Jan./Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshouts.com/wp

My spirit is given over to the humble service of the cross which is a stumbling block to unbelievers but to us a salvation and eternal life.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to Ephesians, Into the Deep, Jan./Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/

Those who risk all for God will find that they have both lost all and gained all.

St. Teresa of Avila, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

It is a dangerous thing to be satisfied with ourselves.

St. Teresa of Avila, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Oh, strong love of God! And how true is it that nothing is impossible to the one who loves.

St. Teresa of Avila, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

"Never address your words to God while you are thinking of something else."

St. Teresa of Avila cited by Fr. Joseph M. Esper, Are You Distracted During Prayer? 03-13-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

It constantly happens that the Lord permits a soul to fail so that it may grow humbler.

St. Teresa of Avila, FMA Focus, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

"In the presence of Jesus in the Holy Sacrament we ought to be like the Blessed in heaven before the Divine Essence,"

St. Teresa of Avila, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

These days it is fashionable to talk about the poor. Unfortunately, it is not fashionable to talk to them.

Bl. Mother Teresa, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.

Bl. Mother Teresa, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.

Bl. Mother Teresa, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

God has not called me to be successful; he has called me to be faithful.

Bl. Mother Teresa, FMA Focus, Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

To keep a lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it.

Bl. Mother Teresa, FMA Focus, Feb. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

"If I can give you any advice, I beg you to get closer to the Eucharist and to Jesus... We must pray to Jesus to give us that tenderness of the Eucharist."

Bl. Mother Teresa, Into the Deep, Mar. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"We cannot separate our lives from the Eucharist; the moment we do, something breaks.

Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Be humble and you will never be disturbed. It is very difficult to practice because we all want to see the result of our work. Leave it to Jesus.

Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Into the Deep, Apr. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Give something, however small, to one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.

St. Gregory of Nazianus, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist.

St. Gregory the Great, Into the Deep, June 2014, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"Meditate daily on the words of your Creator. Learn the Heart of God in the words of God, that your soul may be enkindled with greater longings for heavenly joys.

St. Gregory the Great, Into the Deep, June 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

There is no saint without a past, and no sinner without a future.

St. Augustine, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com.

God is more anxious to bestow his blessing on us than we are to receive it.

St. Augustine, FMA Focus, June 2014, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore, don't seek to understand so that you may believe, but believe so that you may understand.

St. Augustine, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

As our body cannot live without nourishment, so our soul cannot spiritually be kept alive without prayer.

St. Augustine, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Let us understand that God is a physician, and that suffering is a medicine for salvation, not a punishment for damnation.

St. Augustine, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

The things that we love tell us what we are.

St. Augustine, Excerpt {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

A good listener never heard a bad sermon.

St. Augustine, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Whatever else we say when we pray, if we pray as we should, we are only saying what is already contained in the Lord's Prayer."

St. Augustine, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Lord, guard our hearts united forever so that in following your path our affection becomes charity.

St. Augustine, Into the Deep, May 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Complete abstinence is easier than perfect moderation.

St. Augustine, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, www.OSV.com

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.

St. Augustine, cited by Bill Maguire, The Synod, the Faith and the Reluctantly Divorced, 10-16-2014, www.truthandcharityforum.org

God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.

St. Augustine, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Be sure that our praising the Lord with our lips will not be contradicted by the way we live!

St. Augustine – cited by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Find Your Philosophy of Life, 02-05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.

St. Augustine, Excerpt {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

In failing to confess, Lord, I would only hide You from myself, not myself from You.

St. Augustine, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.

St. Augustine, Excerpt {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Untie by love that which your fear has bound.

St. Augustine, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

"The procreation of children is the first, natural, and legitimate purpose of marriage."

St. Augustine, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

If you believe what you like in the Gospels and disregard what you don't like, it's not the Gospels you believe but yourself.

St. Augustine, cited by John Royal, Bundaberg West, QLD, ITD, Mar. 2015, Zenit.org, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Do not follow any road, but that which Christ trod.

This road seems hard, but it is safe.

St. Augustine, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Forgiveness is what happens when we "surrender our natural desire for revenge."

St. Augustine, cited by Dr. Gregory Popcak, The Secret of Forgiving Yourself, 03-1014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

"Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe."

St. Augustine, Into the Deep, July 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The world being unworthy to receive the Son of God directly from the hands of the Father, he gave his Son to Mary for the world to receive him from her.

St. Augustine, ITD March 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"He who prays well lives well; he who lives well dies well; and he who dies well, all is well."

St. Augustine, Cited by Fr. Ed Broom, O.M.V., Ten Reasons to Pray the Rosary, 08-18-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Start doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

St. Francis of Assisi, FMA Focus, Feb. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

It is in giving that we receive.

St. Francis of Assisi, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

If God can work through me he can work through anyone.

St. Francis of Assisi, FMA Focus, Feb. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received, only what you have given."

Francis of Assisi, FMA Focus, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

When we pray, the voice of the heart must be heard more than the proceedings from the mouth.

St. Bonaventure, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

"Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of hell fear the name and protection of Mary."

St. Bonaventure, cited by Sam Guzman May is Mary's Month, 10 Ways..., 05-07-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

He became what we are, so that He might make us what He is.

St. Athanasius, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

You will not see anyone who is truly striving after his spiritual advancement who is not given to spiritual reading.

St. Athanasius of Alexandria, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

As sailors are guided by star to the port, so are Christians guided to Heaven by Mary.

St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, FMA Focus, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards a man's progress, or the nature of the task, but the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken.

St. Francis Xavier, Into the Deep, Sept. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The glory of God is man fully alive."

St. Irenaeus, cited by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Of Human Dignity, 03-17-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicphilly.com

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

"Christ Jesus, our Lord, the Son of God, became the son of man so that man could become a son of God".

St. Irenaeus, cited by St. Pope John Paul II, Letter to Families, 02-02-1994, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Christ brought all newness by bringing himself"

St. Irenaeus, cited by Fr. Robert P. Imbelli, Christ brings All Newness, 12-13-2015, Reprint by permission of thecatholicthing.org

Why should we find it strange that others have imperfections since we ourselves have so many

St. Francis De Sales, Peace of Soul and Humility, 08-28-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

To be criticized, denounced, and despised by good men, by our own friends and relatives is a severe test of virtue.

St. Francis de Sales, Into the Deep, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Have patience with all things but chiefly have patience with yourself.

St. Francis de Sales, FMA Focus, 09-2013, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Mount Calvary is the academy of love.

St. Francis de Sales, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicgentleman.net

"The greatest method of praying is to pray the Rosary."

St. Francis de Sales, cited by Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: 15 Quotes on ..., 10-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

"The chief exercise of prayer is to speak to God and to hear God speak in the bottom of your heart."

St. Francis de Sales – cited by Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, The Point of Prayer, 02-13-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your world seems upset."

St. Francis de Sales, cited by Sam Guzman, Catholic in The Cubicle, Part 3, 04-15-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

It is everything to have a heart that is meek toward our neighbor and humble toward God.

St. Francis de Sales, Peace of Soul and Humility, 08-28-2014, Excerpt, Roses Among Thorns - Sophia Press, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

We shall steer safely through every storm, so long as our heart is right, our intentions fervent, our courage steadfast, and our trust fixed on God.

St. Francis de Sales, Excerpt {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of catholicgentleman.net

To the extent to which we have less self will, we shall more easily observe the will of God

St. Francis de Sales, Are You Too Busy to Pray, 07-01-2014, Excerpt from Roses Among Thorns from Sophia Press, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

"We must visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament a hundred thousand times a day."

St. Francis de Sales, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Be ashamed when you sin, not when you repent.

St. John Chrysostom, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

It is simply impossible to lead, without the aid of prayer, a virtuous life.

St. John Chrysostom, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Rouse your conscience to accuse you within your own house, lest it become your accuser before the judgment seat of the Lord.

St. John Chrysostom, From homily, Into the Deep, Oct. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Poor human reason, when it trusts itself, substitutes the strangest absurdities for the highest divine concepts.

St. John Chrysostom, Into the Deep, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

This Sacrifice, no matter who offers it, be it Peter or Paul, is always the same as that which Christ gave His disciples and which priests now offer:

St. John Chrysostom, The Early Christians Believed in the Real Presence, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

It is not the man who is responsible for the offerings as they become Christ's Body and Blood; it is Christ Himself who was crucified for us.

St. John Chrysostom, Quotes on The Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

Do not let your weakness make you impatient.
Instead, let the serenity of your spirit shine through
your face. Let the joy of your mind burst forth.”

St Peter Damian, Into the Deep, Aug. 2013, Reprint by permission of
www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The higher, the more gifted, the more spiritual are
minds, the more difficult to shape.

Blessed John Henry Newman, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book
(Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor
Publishing

“We are contented with ourselves till we contemplate
Him.

Cardinal John Henry Newman, Into the Deep, Nov. 2013,
www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

To be deep in history is to cease to be Protestant.

Bl. John Henry Newman, Reprint by permission of
www.catholicreligionteacher.com

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary Is the ordinary
way to Heaven, and the absence of it is at least a
bad symptom of the state of our faith.

Bl. John Henry Newman, cited by Editor, New Oxford Notes, New Oxford
Review, Jan.-Feb. 2014

We can believe what we choose. We are
answerable for what we choose to believe.

Bl. John Henry Newman, Reprint by permission of
catholicreligionteacher.com

Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ.

Bl. John Henry Newman, Reprint by permission of
catholicreligionteacher.com

“Conscience has rights because it has duties”

Bl. John Henry Newman, cited by Stephanie Mann, Why the State
Must ..., 03-06-2012, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

I praise, bless, and give myself wholly to Him, who is
the true Bread of my soul, and my everlasting joy,”

Venerable John Henry Newman, Quotes on the Most Blessed
Sacrament. Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Those who think that Christianity can simply model
itself after what is fashionable usually end up
abandoning the supernatural claims of the Faith.

Bl. John Henry Newman, cited by L. Verriccho, The Father of Vatican II ,
02-10-2010, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

If we are intended for great ends, we are called to
great hazards.

St. John Henry Cardinal Newman

Must you continue to be your own cross?

St. Jeanne de Chantal, Reprint by permission of
catholicreligionteacher.com

Do not put off till tomorrow the good you can do
today. You may not have a tomorrow.

St. John Bosco, Into the Deep, June 2014, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The longer you stay away from Communion, the
more your soul will become weak, and in the end you
will become dangerously indifferent.

St. John Bosco, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Eucharist,
Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

“Whatever you do, think of the Glory of God as your
main goal.”

St. John Bosco, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

The principle trap that the devil sets for young people
is idleness.

St. John Bosco, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

"Do you want the Lord to give you many graces?
Visit Him often. Do you want Him to give you few
graces? Visit Him rarely.

St. John Bosco, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by
permission of therealpresence.org

Do you want the devil to attack you? Visit Jesus
rarely in the Blessed Sacrament. Do you want him to
flee from you? Visit Jesus often.

St. John Bosco, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by
permission of therealpresence.org

Do you want to conquer the devil? Take refuge often
at the feet of Jesus.

St. John Bosco, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by
permission of therealpresence.org

“God is not a slot machine. We don't go to God to get
something; we go to give something.”

Mother Angelica, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

If we are not united, if we are not holy, it is because
we are not faithful to Him.

Pope Francis, 27-08-2014, Into the Deep, Oct. 2014, Reprint by
permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

Let's ask ourselves: Are we open to the Holy Spirit?

Pope Francis, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Holy Spirit,
Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

“The Church must be a place of mercy, freely given, where everyone can feel loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the life of the Gospel.”

Pope Francis, cited by John Burger, Mercy in a Culture of Death, 01-27-2014 Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

Every time that we go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we sing a hymn to the patience of God!

Pope Francis, Into the Deep, May 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Money has to serve, not to rule.

Pope Francis, FMA Focus, June 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

We are fully ourselves when we become fully our Father's children, and this is thanks to Jesus.

Pope Francis, 08-21-2014, Into the Deep, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“The Lord has turned all our sunsets into sunrises.”

St. Clement of Alexandria, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

In times of desolation, God conceals Himself from us so that we can discover for ourselves what we are without Him.

St. Margaret of Cortona, Into the Deep, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Better to pray one psalm with devotion and compunction than a hundred with distraction.

St. Romuld, Into the Deep, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Oh cherished cross! Through thee my most bitter trials are replete with graces!

St. Paul of the Cross, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ..., 04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicgentleman.net

The Passion of Christ is the greatest and most stupendous work of Divine Love. The greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love.

St. Paul of the Cross, cited by Sam Guzman, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

The Cross is the way to Paradise, but only when it is borne willingly.

St. Paul of The Cross, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Tribulations, if we bear them patiently for the love of God, appear bitter at first, but they grow sweet, when one becomes accustomed to the taste.

St. Philip Neri, Into the Deep, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

“He who does not in his thoughts and fears go down to hell in his lifetime, runs a great risk of going there when he dies.”

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip Neri, 05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Excessive sadness seldom springs from any other source than pride.”

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip Neri, 05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

If you want to come where I am going, that is, to glory, you must come to this road, that is, through thorns.”

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip Neri, 05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“The true servant of God recognizes no other country but Heaven.”

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip Neri, 05-2014 Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“In giving alms to the poor we must act as good ministers of the Providence of God.”

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip Neri, 05-2014 Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“There is nothing the devil fears so much, or so much tries to hinder, as prayer.”

St Philip Neri, ITD Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

Without mortification, nothing, can be done.

St. Philip Neri, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

The true way to advance in holy virtues is to persevere in a holy cheerfulness.

St. Philip Neri, OSV, 01-13, 2013, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

“The wisdom of the scriptures is learned rather by prayer than by study.”

St Philip Neri, Into the Deep, Apr. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“It is part of your vocation to shout the Gospel from the rooftops, not by your words, but by your life.”

Bl. Charles de Foucauld, July 2014, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

“One of the things we absolutely owe our Lord is never to be afraid,”

Bl. Charles de Foucauld, Cited by Sam Guzman, Be Not Afraid, 09-16-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Love consists not in feeling that we love, but in wanting to love.

Bl. Charles de Foucauld, cited by Linda O'Brien, FTI, A Cry From The Heart ..., 11-30-2007, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Communion is more than life, more than all the goods of this world, more than the entire universe. It is God Himself, it is Jesus.

Bl. Charles de Foucauld, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Our devotion to the Eucharist must be profound, honest, totally embraced as essential.

Bl. Charles de Foucauld, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

A single Mass gives more glory to God than the martyrdom of the whole of humanity, united with the praises of all the angels and the saints.

Bl. Charles de Foucauld, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

No one heals himself by wounding another.

St. Ambrose, FMA Focus, June 2013, Reprint by permission of ranciscanmissionassoc.org

This is the bread of everlasting life which supports the substance of your soul.”

St. Ambrose, cited by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Ten Ways to Fall in Love with ... 06-24-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

We speak to God when we pray; we listen to Him when we read the Scriptures.

St. Ambrose, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

“We have no reason to be afraid; fear comes only from a lack of faith.”

St. Pope John XXIII, Into the Deep, June 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The Rosary is a summary of the whole of the Gospel.

Pope St. John XXIII, Cited by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Ten Reasons to Pray The Rosary, 08-18-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“What we love we shall grow to resemble.”

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

As a searching investigator of the integrity of your own conduct, submit your life to a daily examination.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, cited by Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Are You Spiritually Healthy?, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

We are to love God for Himself, because of a twofold reason: nothing is more reasonable, nothing is more profitable.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Confirmation, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

When God forgives a sinner who humbly confesses his sin, the devil loses his dominion over the heart he had taken.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

“As patience leads to peace, and study to science, so are humiliations the path that leads to humility.”

St Bernard of Clairvaux, ITD Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

When God forgives a sinner who humbly confesses his sin, the devil loses his dominion over the heart he had taken.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Should anger, or avarice, or fleshly desire violently assail the frail vessel of thy soul, look at the star, call upon Mary.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux., cited by Fr. Edward Looney, 10 Marian Facts About ... 08-20-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name leave thy lips, never suffer it to leave thy heart.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, cited by Fr. Edward Looney, 10 Marian Facts About ... 08-20-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

“What would be the good of learning without love? It would puff up. And love without learning? It would go astray”

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, cited by Stephen Beale, The Most Influential Saint ... 08-20-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.c

God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry.

St. John Vianney, Into the Deep, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“Happy is he who lives and dies under the protection of the Blessed Virgin.”

St. John Vianney, Cited by Tom Perna, 10 Quotes About the BI Virgin Mary, 08-26-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“Let us humble ourselves like the Blessed Virgin and we shall be exalted

St. John Vianney, Cited by Tom Perna, 10 Quotes About the BI Virgin Mary, 08-26-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, trying to please God only in all that we do.”

St. John Vianney, Cited by Tom Perna, 10 Quotes About the BI Virgin Mary, 08-26-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“The Blessed Virgin is like a good mother who, not content with looking after all her children in general, watches over each one separately.”

St. John Vianney, Cited by Tom Perna, 10 Quotes About the BI Virgin Mary, 08-26-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The Blessed Virgin’s life was full of sorrow... Every time her tender glance fell upon her Divine Son, she suffered.”

St. John Vianney, Cited by Tom Perna, 10 Quotes About the BI Virgin Mary, 08-26-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“It is impossible to meditate with devotion upon the Mysteries of the Rosary and live in a state of sin.”

St. John Vianney, Cited by Tom Perna, 10 Quotes About the BI Virgin Mary, 08-26-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

How easily we could win Heaven day-by-day just by doing what we have to do – but doing it for God!

St. John Vianney, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

You must accept your cross: If you bear it courageously, it will carry you to heaven.

St. John Vianney, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Sin is the assassin of the soul.

St. John Vianney, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

“The Blessed Virgin is that beautiful creature who never disappointed the Good Lord.”

St. John Vianney, Curé of Ars, ITD May 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“The more one prays, the more one wants to pray.”

St. John Vianney, Curé of Ars, ITD Aug. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

When we go before the Blessed Sacrament, let us open our heart; our good God will open His.

St. John Vianney, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

“Prayer is a sweet friendship, a surprising familiarity... it is a sweet conversation of a child with his Father.”

St. John Vianney, Curé of Ars, Into The Deep, June 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

If we could comprehend all the good things contained in Holy Communion, nothing more would be wanting to content the heart of man.

St. John Vianney, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

“The surest way of knowing the will of God, is to pray to our good Mother.”

St. John Vianney - Curé of Ars, ITD Dec. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Once the demands of necessity and propriety have been met, the rest that one owns belongs to the poor.

Pope Leo XIII, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

Nothing emboldens the wicked so greatly as the lack of courage on the part of the good.

Pope Leo XIII, 1890, Into the Deep, Jan. 2013, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Learn to hate your faults, but to hate them calmly.

St. (Padre) Pio, Into the Deep, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“My past, O Lord, to Your mercy; my present, to Your love; my future to Your providence.”

St. Padre Pio, cited by Judy Keane, Sainthood for Warriors, 03-19-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

“The Rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times.”

St. Padre Pio, cited by Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: Quotes on the Holy ..., 10-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

My past, O Lord, to Your mercy; my present, to Your love; my future to Your providence.”

St. Padre Pio, cited by Judy Keane, Sainthood for Worriers, 03-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Pray, hope, and don't worry.

St. Padre Pio, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Invoke your Guardian Angel, who will enlighten you and guide you. God has given him to you for your protection, therefore, you should use him accordingly.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Into the Deep, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“Those who love God will find pleasure in everything; those who do not love God will never find true pleasure in anything.”

St. Alphonsus Liguori, cited by Fr. Joseph Esper, The Saints & ..., 05-27-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Nothing but self-will can separate us from God.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Into the Deep, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Realize that you may gain more in a quarter of an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament than in all other practices of the day.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Into the Deep, May 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“The world's thy ship and not thy home.”

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Into the Deep, Mar. 2015, Zenit.org, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Sufferings gladly borne for others convert more people than sermons.

St. Therese of Lisieux, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

"I want to shine like a little candle before His altar.

St. Therese of Lisieux, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother.

St. Therese of Lisieux, FMA Focus, June 2014, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Jesus Christ, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ..., 04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

“Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet” (Diary 699).

Jesus to St. Faustina, cited by Judy Keane, The Power of The Divine Mercy ... 04-16-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Everything is possible for the one who believes.

Jesus of Nazareth, cited by Matthew Kelly, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Do not be afraid.

Jesus of Nazareth, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

The battle for the heart is waged in the mind.

Desert Fathers, cited by Charles J. Chaput, Living the Catholic Faith Reprint by permission of Franciscan Media

Love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing (www.osv.com)

I tell you, that is why her many sins are forgiven -- because of her great love. Little is forgiven the one whose love is small..

Luke 7:47, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing www.osv.com

The prayers of the lowly pierce the clouds.

Sirach 35:17

"You shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill one who has been born."

The Didache [The Teaching Of The Twelve Apostles] c. 80-140 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

Better a dry crust and with it peace than a house full of feasting with strife.

Proverbs 17:1, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

"What does the Lord require of you? But to live justly, love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Bible, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.

Mark 2: 27-28, June 2015, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

The gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few"

Matt 7:14 RSV, Cited by Dr. Mark Giszczak, Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve, 08-21-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14, FMA Focus, June 2015, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Seek first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all else will be given in addition.

Matthew 6:33, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, The Bible, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

First Letter of St. John 4:8-9, cited by:Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Relationships, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:28, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Catechism 1831

The three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity.

Catechism 1841

"All the strength of Satan's reign is due to the easygoing weakness of Catholics."

Pope St. Pius X, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2004, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

To seek to reconcile the faith with the modern spirit leads much further than people think, not only to the weakening of the faith, but to its total loss.

Pope St. Pius X, Into the Deep, Dec. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament surpasses all of the other works of piety."

Pope Pius X, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"The daily adoration or visit to the Blessed Sacrament is the practice which is the fountainhead of all devotional works"

Pope St. Pius X, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"It is great wisdom to know how to be silent and to look at neither the remarks, nor the deeds, nor the lives of others."

St. John of the Cross, Reprint by permission of olmlaycarmelites.org

In the first place it should be known that if a person is seeking God, His beloved is seeking him much more.

St. John of the Cross, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Whenever anything disagreeable or displeasing happens to you, remember Christ crucified and be silent.

St. John of the Cross, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Silence is God's first language.

St. John of the Cross, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

When public judicatories are swayed by avarice or partiality, justice, the grand sinew of society, is lost.

St. Thomas More, Excerpt {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprinted by permission of catholicgentleman.net

Give me thy grace, good Lord, to set the world at nought', to set my mind fast upon thee and not to hang upon the blast of men's mouths.

St. Thomas More, cited by Richard Becker, God in the Quiet, 10-18-2013, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

The world suffers nothing from Christians but hates them because they reject its pleasures.

St. Justin Martyr, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

"Each man goes to everlasting punishment or salvation according to the value of his actions."

St. Justin Martyr, "First Apology," c. 160 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

Who but God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart?

St. Gerard Majella, Into the Deep, Oct. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Repentance is the returning from the unnatural to the natural state, from the devil to God, through discipline and effort.

St. John of Damascus, column by Carl Olson, OSV, 03-03-2013, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.

St. Anthony of Padua, FMA Focus, Feb. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

Prayer is the experience of love of man towards God ... Who loves, always prays.

St. Anthony of Padua, FMA Focus, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

"Today Christ stands at our door and knocks in the person of his poor. It is to him that we open when we give...those in need."

St. Anthony, FMA Focus, June 2014, Reprint by permission of www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Nothing is difficult for the humble.

Bl. Faustina Kowalska, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

O Christ, let my greatest delight be to see You loved and Your praise and glory proclaimed, especially the honor of Your mercy

St. Faustina Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they're just one thing, and we shouldn't complicate the matter."

St. Joan of Arc, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

A family is holy not because it is perfect but because God's grace is at work in it, helping it to set out anew every day on the way of love.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Follow the Way of Love

As Christian families, you not only belong to the Church but your daily life is a true expression of the Church.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Follow the Way of Love

"Let every knee bend before Thee, O greatness of my God, so supremely humbled in the Sacred Host.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"My greatest happiness is to be before the Blessed Sacrament, where my heart is, as it were, in Its center."

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Reprint by permission of www.therealpresence.org

"It is our sweet duty to honor and adore, in the Blessed Host, which our eyes see, the Incarnate Word Himself whom they cannot see."

Pope Paul VI Credo of the People of God, 1968, ITD Nov. 2011, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

The cross is the school of love.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

"Christian perfection consists in the union of our will with the will of God."

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited by Sam Guzman, Fire of Love: Lessons ..., 08-14-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

"Not in mortification, not in prayer, not in labor, not in rest, but in obedience is the essence and merit of holiness."

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited by Sam Guzman, Fire of Love: Lessons ..., 08-14-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

"Do not forget that holiness consists not in extraordinary actions, but in performing your duties towards God, yourself, and others as well."

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited by Sam Guzman, Fire of Love: Lessons ..., 08-14-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

"If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion."

St Maximilian Kolbe, ITD Sept. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

SAINTS & SAGES S.4

1 - 3 Lines

Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

The most deadly poison of our times is indifference.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar."

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"No one in the world can change Truth. What we can do and should do is to seek truth and to serve it when we have found it."

St Maximilian Kolbe, Into The Deep, June 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"He remains among us until the end of the world. He dwells on so many altars, though so often offended and profaned.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

St. Paul, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

St. Paul, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Supernatural remorse leads to an abiding and salutary change of heart, whereas the world's remorse leads to death.

St. Paul, On Being Human, Copyright permission given by the Estate of Fulton J. Sheen/The Society for the Propagation of the Faith/www.onefamilyin mission.org

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

St. Paul, cited by Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Fathers in Faith and Family, 12-08-12, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

The crosses with which our path through life is strewn associate us with Jesus in the mystery of His crucifixion.

St. John Eudes, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Our Savior's passion raises men and women from the depths, lifts them up from the earth, and sets them in the heights.

St. Maximus of Turin, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world."

Blessed Pope Pius IX, cited by Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: 15 Quotes on..., 10-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Taste the Lord, and you will see. After you have received Communion, you will understand.

St. Peter Julian Eymard, Your Spirit Finds Joy in Communion, 10-09-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Let us never forget that an age prospers or dwindles in proportion to its devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

St. Peter Julian Eymard, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

If we did not have the adorable Eucharist here below, Jesus our God-with-us, this earth would be much too sad, this life too hard, and time too long.

St. Peter Julian Eymard, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

In one day the Eucharist will make you produce more for the glory of God than a whole lifetime without it."

St. Peter Julian Eymard, cited by Fr. Ed Broom, O.M.V., Ten Ways to Fall in Love with the Eucharist, 06-24-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The Eucharist, behold the Christian's treasure, his delight on earth.

St. Peter Julian Eymard, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Since Jesus is in the Eucharist for him (Christian's treasure) personally, his whole life ought to be drawn to it like a magnet to its center."

St. Peter Julian Eymard, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

1 – 3 Lines

“The true religion has shone forth with greater splendour the more it has been oppressed.”

St Symmachus, c.506, ITD Sept. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“Do not try to have your struggles taken away, rather ask for the grace to carry them well.”

St. André Bessette (canonised 17-10-2010), ITD Nov. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“It is better to be the child of God than king of the whole world.”

St. Aloysius Gonzaga, ITD Aug. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Mary is the supreme masterpiece of Almighty God and He has reserved the knowledge and possession of her for Himself.

St. Louis de Montfort, True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin

“Those who love Mary, the Holy Spirit flings Himself into their souls.” Our Lady’s prayers open the gateway to the Divine Invasion of the Holy Spirit. “

St Louis de Montfort, Cited by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Holiness in a Nutshell, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

We never give more honor to Jesus than when we honor his Mother, and we honor her simply and solely to honor Him all the more perfectly.

St. Louis de Montfort. Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

“There is nothing more certain than our faith, nothing safer, nothing more holy, nothing that rests on firmer principles.”

Pope Pius XI, 1846, ITD July 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The judgment of reason is the immediate foundation of morality in human actions.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Morality is found in every truly human act. Every deliberate, controlled act of a man will take him toward happiness or away from it.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Man's task is to control his action in the direction of good so that he may grow from time to eternity, from the smallness of himself to the greatness of God.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

The vision of God is not brought to us on a serving platter. The kingdom of Heaven is won by violence -- that is, by effort.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Love, under the control of right reason, is the force that will make the world fit for man and man fit for God.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

It is the role of the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity to fit man's reason and will for the task of seeking successfully the vision of God.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

By bringing the passions under the control of reason they enable man to employ all his force in the pursuit of real happiness.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

By faith man accepts truth from God, in fact he accepts God, Who is Truth.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Where there is no real hope in God, there is no love of God, Where there is no love of God, there is no real love of men.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Without hope man is a slave to his passions, to what is lowest in him. Without hope man can never achieve his true destiny.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

The happiness of society then demands both charity and justice; charity as the motive of justice and justice as the strong bulwark of charity.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

1 - 3 Lines

As justice establishes peace and order among men, so religion establishes peace and order between man and God.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Where justice reigns under wisdom, there men will establish peace and order. In peace and order it is possible for men to find happiness.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Man's problem is to use the things of this world to lead him to God. He must be the master of his animal nature, or he will be its slave.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

As long as grace and charity remain in man's soul, man is the image and the likeness of God.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

The Incarnation is God's answer to the misery of men without God. God stoops to man to raise him to Himself.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

The secret of each man's final destiny lies in the proper use of his freedom, in the proper direction of his control over his own acts.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Man perishes in the darkness for he was made for truth's kingdom of light.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

The least are lead to God by the greatest; talent is not a mere personal favor but a social responsibility.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

We begin to be at home in the family of God when the Trinity makes its home within the house of our soul.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

The really dangerous enemies of man's freedom come from within himself. They are fear, concupiscence and ignorance.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

No man comes to the end of his days devoid of influence on the lives of others; in this sense, no man lives alone, no life is a purely a private affair.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Love builds on justice or it is not love at all; just as truly, justice rests ultimately on mercy or it has no field in which to work.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

There is no man God does not wish to be saved; but there is no man God will save against that man's will.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Our hearts can wander far from God, but God is not far from our hearts for we are more His than our own.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

Man makes his way to the illusory havens offered by false gods, but always through a sea of tears shed by his own individual nature.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.

St. Thomas Aquinas, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of catholicgentleman.net

The measure of our holiness is not the perfection of our personality or the avoidance of all faults but the extent of our love.

St Thomas Aquinas, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

We can't have full knowledge all at once. We must start by believing; then afterwards we may be led on to master the evidence for ourselves."

St Thomas Aquinas, Into the Deep, Apr. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

1 - 3 Lines

For law to be good, it should make us good.

St. Thomas Aquinas, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Poverty, Justice and the Fight for Freedom, 01-10-2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

In giving Him to the world by bringing Him forth, she, so to speak, gave grace itself to the world, because she gave Him Who is the source of it"

St. Thomas Aquinas, cited by Br. Timothy Danaher, O.P., Man of Our Lady, 05-27-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The love of our neighbor requires that not only should we be our neighbor's well-wishers, but also his well-doers."

St. Thomas Aquinas cited by Dr. Kevin Vost, Love God Through Your Neighbor, 03-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

"The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life,"

St. Thomas Aquinas, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament. Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.

St. Thomas Aquinas, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Relationships, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

"O how unspeakable is this Sacrament which sets our affections ablaze with charity. ... It is the fulfillment of Christ's Mystical Body."

St. Thomas Aquinas, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"The ordinary acts we practice every day at home are of more importance to the soul than their simplicity might suggest."

St. Thomas, cited by Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Fathers in Faith and Family, 12-08-12, Reprint by permission of Diocese of Springfield, IL

Trials, tests and battles are meant to strengthen us, not weaken us.

St. Cyprian, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint permission by www.catholicgentleman.net

The house of God is one, and there can be no salvation to anyone except in the church."

St. Cyprian of Carthage, "Letter 61," c. 250 A.D, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

St. Peter, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

You say you can't do more? Couldn't it be ... that you can't do less?

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #23, Character, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Don't argue. Arguments usually bring no light because the light is smothered by emotion.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #25, Character, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Faith, joy, optimism. But not the folly of closing your eyes to reality.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #40, Character, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

If you don't have a plan of life, you'll never have order.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #76, Direction, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Don't neglect your spiritual reading. Reading has made many saints.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #116, Direction, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Holy purity is granted by God when it is asked for with humility.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #118, Holy Purity, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Decency and modesty are "little brothers" of purity.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #128, Holy Purity, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Put your heart aside. Duty comes first. But, when fulfilling your duty, put your heart into it. It helps.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #162, Heart, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

It is true, whoever said it, that the soul and body are two enemies that cannot be separated, and two friends that cannot get along.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #195, Mortification, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

1 - 3 Lines

How little penance is worth without constant mortification!

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #223, Penance, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Make few resolutions. Make specific resolutions. And fulfill them with the help of God.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #249, Resolutions, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

I forbid you to think any more about it. Instead, bless God, who has given life back to your soul.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #261, Scruples, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

If you accustom yourself, at least once a week, to seek union with Mary in order to go to Jesus, you will have more presence of God.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #276, Presence of God, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

To reform. Every day a little. This has to be your constant task if you really want to become a saint.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #290, Supernatural Life, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Withdraw into yourself. Seek God within you and listen to Him.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #319, More About Interior Life, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

I don't understand how you can call yourself a Christian and lead such an idle, useless life. Have you forgotten Christ's life of toil?

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #356, Study, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Don't forget, my son, that for you there is but one evil on earth: sin. You must fear it and avoid it with the grace of God.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #386, Forming the Spirit, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Don't fear God's justice. It is no less admirable and no less lovable than His mercy. Both are proofs of His love.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #431, Love of God, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

If you have so many defects, why are you surprised to find defects in others?

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #446, Charity, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

The Mass is long," you say, and I reply: "Because your love is short."

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #529, Holy Mass, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

You will find it easier to do your duty if you think of how many brothers are helping you, and of the help you fail to give them when you are not faithful.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #549, Communion of the Saints, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Humbly ask God to increase your faith. Then, with new lights, you'll clearly see the difference between the world's paths and your way as an apostle.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #580, Faith, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Self-knowledge leads us by the hand, as it were, to humility.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #609, Penance, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

If obedience doesn't give you peace, it's because you're proud.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #620, Obedience, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Don't forget it: he has most who needs least. Don't create needs for yourself.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #630, Poverty, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Don't seek to be "understood." That lack of understanding is providential: so your sacrifice may pass unnoticed.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #647, Discretion, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

You are unhappy? Think: there must be an obstacle between God and me. You will seldom be wrong.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #662, Joy, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

All right: that person has behaved badly toward you. But, haven't you behaved worse toward God?

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #686, Tribulations, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Depend on Jesus for everything. You have nothing, are worth nothing, are capable of nothing. He will act, if you abandon yourself to Him.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #731, Interior Struggle, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

1 – 3 Lines

Many great things depend – don't forget it – on whether you and I live our lives as God wants.

Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*, #755, *The Will of God*, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Winning new apostles. It's the unmistakable sign of true zeal.

Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*, #793, *Winning New Apostles*, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Have you noticed how human love consists of little things? Well, divine love also consists of little things.

Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*, #824, *Little Things*, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

The efforts of each one of you individually have little effect. But if you're united by the charity of Christ you'll be amazed at their effectiveness.

Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*, #847, *Tactics*, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Don't forget that our Lord has a predilection for little children and for those who become as little children.

Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*, #872, *Spiritual Childhood*, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Never be men or women generous in action and sparing in prayer.

Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*, #937, *The Apostle*, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

You strayed from the way and did not return because you were ashamed. It would be more logical if you were ashamed not to return.

Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*, #985, *Perseverance*, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

"The holy Rosary is a powerful weapon. Use it with confidence and you'll be amazed at the results."

St. Josemaria Escriva, cited by Sam Guzman, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

"Say the Holy Rosary. Blessed be that monotony of Hail Mary's which purifies the monotony of your sins!"

St. Josemaria Escriva, cited by Sam Guzman, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"He who is guilty of unseemliness with males will be under discipline for the same time as adulterers."

St. Basil the Great, "Letters" c. 367 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

What is the mark of those who eat the Bread and drink the Cup of Christ? That they keep in perpetual remembrance Him who died for us and rose again."

St. Basil the Great, *The Morals*, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"You shall not be a corrupter of boys, nor like unto such."

St. Barnabas, "Epistle of St. Barnabas" c. 70-100 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"The way of light, then, is as follows. If anyone desires to travel to the appointed place, he must be zealous in his works."

St. Barnabas, "Epistle of St. Barnabas," c. 70-130 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"We are justified by our works, not by our words."

St. Clement of Rome, "First Epistle to Corinthians," c. 96 A.D. Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Savior of our souls, the Governor of our bodies, and the Shepherd of the Catholic Church throughout the world."

St. Polycarp, "The Martyrdom of St. Polycarp," c. 135 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"Though still a virgin she carried a child in her womb, and the handmaid and work of his wisdom became the Mother of God."

St. Ephraim of Syria, "Songs of Praise," c. 351 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

If thou didst know the whole Bible by heart, and the sayings of all the philosophers, what would it all profit thee without the love of God and His grace?

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

There are many things, the knowledge of which is of little or no profit to the soul.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

The humble knowledge of thyself is a surer way to God than the deepest search after science.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

All Holy Scripture ought to be read with that spirit with which it was made.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

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1 – 3 Lines

Esteem not thyself better than others, lest perhaps,
thou be accounted worse in the sight of God, who
knows what is in man.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Although thy opinion be good, yet if for God's sake
thou leave it to follow that of another it will be more
profitable to thee.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

If every year we rooted out one vice we should soon
become perfect men.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

We often know not what we can do; but temptation
discovers what we are.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Ah! if man had but one spark of perfect charity he
would doubtless perceive that all earthly things are
full of vanity.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

If thou canst not make thyself such a one as thou
wouldst, how canst thou expect to have another
according to thy liking?

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Would to God that advancement in virtue was not
wholly asleep in thee who hast so often seen many
examples of the devout!

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Now, if he that makes a strong resolution often fails,
what will he do who seldom or but weakly resolves?

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

In silence and quiet the devout soul goes forward
and learns the secrets of the Scriptures.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Busy not thyself with other men's affairs, nor
entangle thyself with the causes of great people.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

As long as we carry about this frail body we cannot
be without sin nor live without uneasiness and
sorrow.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Strive now so to live that in the hour of thy death
thou mayst rather rejoice than fear.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Think of nothing but thy salvation, care for nothing
but the things of God.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Learn at present to suffer in little things that then
thou mayst be delivered from more grievous
sufferings.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Always remember thy end and that time once lost
never returns. Without care and dilligence thou shalt
never acquire virtues,

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

All things pass away and thou along with them.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Be not much concerned who is for thee or against
thee, but let it be thy business and thy care that God
may be with thee in everything thy dost.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Keep thyself first in peace and then thou will be able
to bring others to peace.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

A pure heart penetrates heaven and hell.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

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1 – 3 Lines

We blame little things in others and pass over great things in ourselves.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

The joy of the just is from God and in God, and they rejoice in the truth.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

What can the world profit thee without Jesus?

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Be grateful then for the least and thou shalt be worthy to receive greater things.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Jesus has now many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few that are willing to bear His cross.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

In the cross is salvation; in the cross is life; in the cross is protection from thy enemies.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

If thou fling away one cross, without doubt thou shalt find another and perhaps a heavier.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Know for certain that thou must lead a dying life, and the more a man dies to himself the more he begins to live to God.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Blessed is that soul which heareth the Lord speaking within her and from His mouth receiveth the word of comfort.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

They show the way, but Thou givest strength to walk in it.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

They rejoice more in running after vanity than thou in the pursuit of truth.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Some have Me in their mouths, but little in their hearts.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Love often knows no measure, but is inflamed beyond measure.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the protector of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?”

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

It is better to have little knowledge with humility and a weak understanding, than greater treasures of learning with self-conceit.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Oh, that I were able, if it were but for one day, to serve Thee worthy!

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Delight in the Lord and He will give thee the requests of thy heart.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

I became the most humble and the most abject of all, that thou mightst learn to overcome thy pride by My humility.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Grant that I may die to all things that are in the world, and for Thy sake love to be despised and not to be known in this world.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Let temporal things serve thy use, but the eternal be the object of thy desire.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

1 – 3 Lines

Keep me only from all sin and I will fear neither death nor hell.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

He is not truly a patient man who will suffer no more than he thinks good and from whom it pleases him.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Open, O Lord, my heart to Thy law and teach me to walk in Thy commandments.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Always wish and pray that the will of God may be entirely fulfilled in thee.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Give me fortitude that I may stand my ground; patience, that I may endure, and constancy, that I may persevere.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Know that the love of thyself is more hurtful to thee than anything in the world.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

It is no small prudence to be silent in the evil time, and to turn within to Me, and not to be disturbed with the judgment of men.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

When thou thinkest I am far from thee, I am often nearest to thee.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Son, thou canst not possess perfect liberty unless thou wholly deny thyself.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

If thou seek rest in this life how then wilt thou come to rest everlasting?

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

A man's true progress consists in denying himself, and the man who has renounced himself is much at liberty and very safe.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Truly vain-glory is an evil plague, a very great vanity, because it draws us away from true glory, and robs us of heavenly grace.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

A man draws nearer to God the farther he withdraws himself from all earthly comfort.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Behold a temporal loss is greatly bewailed; for a small gain men labor and toil, but the loss of the soul is little thought of, and hardly returns to mind.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Thou must oftentimes do that which is against thy inclination, and forego that to which thou art inclined.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

If thou perfectly overcome thyself thou shalt with more ease subdue all things else.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Nature loves idleness and bodily rest: But grace cannot be idle and willingly embraces labor.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Not even faith, nor hope, nor any other virtues, are acceptable to Thee without charity and grace.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Remember me, O my God, and direct me by the straight road to Thy kingdom.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Many examine who is the greatest in the kingdom of God, who know not whether they shall be worthy to be numbered among the least.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

1 – 3 Lines

“He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood,
abideth in Me, and I in Him.”

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

“Come to Me, all you that labor and are burdened,
and I will refresh you.”

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Thou the Lord of all things, who standest in need of
no one, hast been pleased by this sacrament
(communion) to dwell in us.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Behold in Thee is all whatsoever I can or ought to
desire. Thou art my salvation and redemption, my
hope and my strength, my honor and my glory.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Great is this mystery, and great the dignity of priests,
to whom that is given which is not granted to angels.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Whatsoever thou givest besides thyself I regard not;
for I seek not thy gift, but thyself.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Forgive, O my God, forgive me my sins for Thy holy
name's sake; save my soul, which Thou hast
redeemed with Thy precious Blood.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

What doth it avail thee to delay thy confession for a
long time, or to put off the Holy Communion?

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

If thou will have Me come to thee, and remain with
thee, purge out the old leaven and make clean the
habitation of thy heart.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

For the devil tempts not unbelievers and sinners,
whom he already surely possesses; but the faithful
and devout he many ways tempts and molests.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Ah! Lord God, when shall I be wholly united to Thee,
and absorbed in Thee, and altogether forgetful of
myself?

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Peace is what all desire; but all care not for those
things which appertain to true peace.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

We must not be easy in giving credit to every word
and suggestion, but carefully and leisurely weigh the
matter according to God.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

A bad custom, and the neglect of our spiritual
advancement, are a great cause of our keeping so
little guard upon our mouth.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

“As often as I have been amongst men” said a
philosopher, “I have returned less a man;” this we
often experience when we talk long.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

If thou wouldst oftener think of thy death than of a
long life, no doubt thou wouldst more fervently
amend thyself,

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Ah! long life does not always make us better, but
often adds to our guilt.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

And this must be our business, to strive to overcome
ourselves, and daily to gain strength over ourselves,
and to grow better and better.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

1 – 3 Lines

God often gives in one brief moment that which He has for a long time denied.

Thomas a Kempis, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Christ will come to thee, discovering to thee His consolation, if thou wilt prepare Him a fit dwelling within thee.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood,(www.tanbooks.com)

If thou consider well what thou art within thyself thou wilt not care what men say of thee.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood,(www.tanbooks.com)

We would have others strictly corrected; but we are not willing to be corrected ourselves.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood,(www.tanbooks.com)

Let all things be loved for Jesus' sake, but Jesus for His own sake.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood,(www.tanbooks.com)

It is a greater task to resist vices and passions than to toil at bodily labor.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Do not take pride in thy ability or talent, lest thou displease God, to whom belongs every natural good quality and talent which thou hast.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood,(www.tanbooks.com)

Jesus has many lovers of the heavenly kingdom but few bearers of His cross.

Thomas à Kempis, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

“Every time we look at the Blessed Sacrament our place in heaven is raised forever.”

St. Gertrude, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

O Jesus, here present in the Holy Eucharist, Thy Heart is all aglow with love for me! Thou dost call me, Thou dost urge me to come to Thee ...”

St. Ildephons, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"Any time spent before the Eucharistic presence, be it long or short, is the best-spent time of our lives."

St. Catherine of Genoa, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

The Eucharist bathes the tormented soul in light and love. Then the soul appreciates these words, "Come all you who are sick, I will restore your health."

St. Bernadette Soubirous, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Nothing is nearer to Our heart than that devotion to the Holy Eucharist grow from day to day throughout the world,"

Pope Benedict XV, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

“We must speak to them with our hands before we speak to them with our lips.

St. Peter Claver, Reprint by permission of Ignatianspirituality.com

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

"I have a burning thirst to be honored by men in the Blessed Sacrament, and I find hardly anyone who strives, according to My desire, to allay this thirst by making Me some return of love."

Words of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

A man is never entirely secure from temptations as long as he lives; because we have within us the source of temptation, having been born in concupiscence.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Verily, when the day of judgment comes, we shall not be asked what we have read, but what we have done; nor how learnedly we have spoken, but how religiously we have lived.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

The devil never sleeps, neither is the flesh yet dead: therefore thou must not cease to prepare thyself for battle, for on the right hand, and on the left, are enemies that never rest.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

In temptations and tribulations a man is proved as to what progress he has made; and in them there is a greater merit, and his virtue appears more conspicuous.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Let the enemy rage at the gate; let him knock, pound, scream, howl; let him do his worst. We know for certain that he cannot enter our soul except by the door of our consent.

St. Francis de Sales, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

All the science of the saints is included in these two things: To do, and to suffer. And whoever had done these two things best, has made himself most saintly.

St. Francis de Sales, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

When we do not know what to do and men's help is lacking to us in our perplexities, then God inspires us. If we are humbly obedient, He does not permit us to fall into error.

St. Francis de Sales, Adapted, Be Open to God's Inspirations, 01-24-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

As to humility, this virtue sees to it that we are neither troubled by our imperfections, nor in the habit of recalling those of others, for why should we be more perfect than our brothers?

St. Francis de Sales, Peace of Soul and Humility (sermon excerpt), 08-28-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Self-love is one of the sources of our anxiety; the other is our high regard for ourselves. Why are we troubled to find that we have committed a sin or even an imperfection?

St. Francis de Sales, Peace of Soul and Humility (sermon excerpt), 08-28-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

There are three things we must do to be at peace: have a pure intention to desire the honor and glory of God in all things; do the little that we can unto that end, following the advice of our spiritual father; and leave all the rest to God's care.

St. Francis de Sales, Peace of Soul and Humility (sermon excerpt), 08-28-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

If we continue to deny ourselves and desire that everything should be done in accord with God's good pleasure, and if we fulfill our duties in spite of our bitterness, then we preserve our peace.

St. Francis de Sales, Peace of Soul and Humility (sermon excerpt), 08-28-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Thoughts that give us anxious and restless minds are not from God, who is the Prince of Peace; they are, therefore, temptations from the enemy, and we must reject them.

St. Francis de Sales, Peace of Soul and Humility, 08-28-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

"Resist your impatience faithfully, practicing, not only with reason, but even against reason, holy courtesy and sweetness to all, but especially to those who weary you most."

St. Francis de Sales, cited by Fr. Joseph M. Esper, The Patience of the Saints, 07-22-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Work tires you physically and leaves you unable to pray. But you're always in the presence of your Father. If you can't speak to him, look at him every now and then like a little child .. and he'll smile at you.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #895, Life of Childhood, Reprint by permission of sceptorpublishers.org

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

May no attachment bind you to earth except the most divine desire of giving glory to Christ and, through him and with him and in him, to the Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #786, The Glory of God, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Serenity. Why lose your temper if by losing it you offend God, you trouble your neighbor, you give yourself a bad time ... and in the end you have to set things aright, anyway?

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #8, Character, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

The “stuff” of saints. That’s what is said about some people -- that they have the stuff of saints. But apart from the fact that saints are not made of “stuff,” having “stuff” is not sufficient.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #56, Direction, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

In your particular examination you have to go straight toward the acquisition of a definite virtue or toward the rooting out of the defect which is dominating you.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #241, Examination of Conscience, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

Compromising is a sure sign of not possessing the truth. When a man yields in matters of ideals, of honor or of faith, that man is without ideals, without honor, and without faith.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #394, Your Sanctity, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

An upright heart and good will. With these, and your mind intent on carrying out what God wants, you will see your dreams of love come true and your hunger for souls satisfied.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #490, The Means, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

“For those who use their intelligence and their study as a weapon, the Rosary is most effective. Because that apparently monotonous way of beseeching Our Lady as children do their Mother, can destroy every seed of vainglory and pride.”

St. Josemaria Escriva, cited by Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: 15 Quotes on ..., 10-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

“You always leave the Rosary for later, and you end up not saying it at all because you are sleepy. If there is no other time, say it in the street without letting anybody notice it. It will, moreover, help you to have presence of God.”

St. Josemaria Escriva, cited by Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: 15 Quotes on ..., 10-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

All the sins of your life seem to be rising up against you. Don't give up hope! On the contrary, call your holy mother Mary, with the faith and abandonment of a child. She will bring peace to your soul.

Josemaria Escriva, The Way, #498, Our Lady, Reprint by permission of www.scepterpublishers.org

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 ...

St. John Henry Newman, Excerpt {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Conscience is not a long-sighted selfishness, nor a desire to be consistent with oneself, but it is a messenger from Him, who, both in nature and in grace, speaks to us behind a veil, and teaches and rules us by his representatives,

Cardinal John Henry Newman, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2011, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

“I am created to do or to be something for which no one else is created: I have a place in God’s counsels, in God’s world, which no one else has. Whether I be rich or poor, despised or esteemed by man, God knows me and calls me by my name.”

Bl. John Henry Newman, Into the Deep, July 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Better that only a few Catholics should be left, staunch and sincere in their religion, than that they should, remaining many, desire as it were, to be in collusion with the Church’s enemies and in conformity with the open foes of our faith.”

St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597), The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2006, Reprint by permission of www.CatholicCitizens.org

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

“Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you. Everything is passing, only God remains. Patience overcomes everything. Nothing is lacking to those who have God. God alone suffices”

St. Teresa of Avila, *The Catholic Citizen*, Spring 2007, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

“You are mine ... You came into the world for me; for me You underwent severe trials; For me You suffered many lashes; for me You remain in the most Blessed Sacrament.”

St. Teresa of Avila, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"Thus, every soul which receives the bread which comes down from heaven is a house of bread, the bread of Christ, being nourished and having its heart strengthened by the support of the heavenly bread which dwells within it."

St Ambrose of Milan, *The Early Christians Believed in the Real Presence*, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

“Not without reason you say Amen recognizing that you take the body of Christ; when you show up to receive it, the Bishop says, “The body of Christ!” And you say, Amen! Namely: it is true! Let your mind guard what your word recognizes.”

St. Ambrose, ITD Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"Imitate her [Mary], holy mothers, who in her only dearly beloved Son set forth so great an example of material virtue; for neither have you sweeter children [than Jesus], nor did the Virgin seek the consolation of being able to bear another son."

St. Ambrose, "Letter 63," c. 388 A.D., Accessed on: catholicnewsagency.com

Let the mouth also fast from disgraceful speeches and railings. For what does it profit if we abstain from fish and fowl and yet bite and devour our brothers and sisters? The evil speaker eats the flesh of his brother and bites the body of his neighbor.

Saint John Chrysostom, Reprint by permission catholicreligionteacher.com

"All of these affections [in Rom. 1:26-27] . . . were vile, but chiefly the mad lust after males; for the soul is more the sufferer in sins, and more dishonored than the body in diseases."

St. John Chrysostom, "Homilies on Romans" c. 391 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"To destroy the fetus 'is something worse than murder.' The one who does this 'does not take away life that has already been born, but prevents it from being born.'"

St. John Chrysostom "Homilies on Romans," c. 391 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

Nothing so becomes a church as silence and good order. Noise belongs to theaters and market places: but [in church] ... there should be stillness, and quiet and calm reflection, and a haven or much repose.

St. John Chrysostom, ITD Dec. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“As long as we are lambs we will conquer; even if we are surrounded by many wolves, we will succeed in overcoming them. But if we become wolves, we will be defeated, because we will be deprived of the help of the Shepherd.”

St. John Chrysostom, ITD Nov. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much time you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing good.

St. John Chrysostom, *Into the Deep*, Feb./Mar. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Not to oppose error is to approve it, and not to defend truth is to suppress it, and indeed to neglect to confound evil men when we can do it, is no less a sin than to encourage them.”

Pope Felix 111, *The Catholic Citizen*, Spring 2004, Reprint by permission of www.catholiccitizens.org

Love in its ultimate perfection is realized only in God: in mutual love of the Divine Being, in self-surrendering divine existence. Love is God's being, God's life, God's nature.

Edith Stein, *St. Benedicta of The Cross*, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing (www.osv.com).

If God is within us and if God is love, it cannot be otherwise than that we love our brothers and sisters., Therefore our love of human beings is the measure of our love of God.

Edith Stein, *St. Benedicta of the Cross*, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing.

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

To be a child of God means to walk at the hand of God, to do Gods will to put all worries and all hopes in God's hands ... God in us, and we in Him, that is our portion in the divine realm for which the incarnation laid the foundation.

Edith Stein, St. Benedicta of The Cross, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing (www.osv.com)

Helping Christ carry his cross fills one with a strong and pure joy, and those who may and can do so, the builders of God's kingdom, are the most authentic children of God.

Edith Stein, St. Benedicta of the Cross, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing (www.osv.com)

The passion and death of Christ consume our sins in fire. Therefore, as long as we accept this truth, through our faith, and try to follow Jesus, He will lead us through His passion and cross to the glory of His resurrection.

Edith Stein, St. Benedicta of The Cross, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing.

Like dry flour cannot be become one lump of dough, one loaf of bread, without moisture, we who are many cannot be made one in Christ Jesus without the water that comes from heaven.

St. Irenaeus, Into the Deep, 8-2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The Spirit prepares man for the Son of God, the Son brings him to the Father, and the Father bestows on him incorruptibility for eternal life, which comes to everyone from his beholding God.'

St Irenaeus, cited by David Clayton, The Liturgy and the Trinity and the ..., 12-28-2012, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

As a tree is known by its fruits, so they who belong to Christ are known by their actions; for this work of ours does not consist in just making professions, but in a faith that is both practical and lasting.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2006, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizens.org

"I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the bread of God, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, who was of the seed of David; and for drink I desire His blood, which is love incorruptible."

St. Ignatius of Antioch, "Epistle to the Romans," c. 105 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"All the pleasures of the world, and all the kingdoms of this earth, shall profit me nothing. "It is better for me to die in behalf of Jesus Christ, than to reign over all the ends of the earth."

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Cited by Benjamin Mann, Feast of Early ..., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"Every effect turns naturally to its cause" that "the natural order requires that he who has received a favor should, by repaying the favor, turn to his benefactor according to the mode of each"

St. Thomas Aquinas, Cited by Caitlin Bootsma, Gratitude Directed to the Void, 11-26-20153, Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

To reject any article of the faith is to reject faith itself. This is like pulling one stone out of an arch; it is like putting one hole in the hull of a ship. The whole arch tumbles down; the whole ship sinks.

St. Thomas Aquinas, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2011, Reprint by permission of www.catholiccitizens.org

Hence, it is entirely incorrect to say that a man may have lifeless or formless faith in some article of the Creed while rejecting others, such a man has not the faith at all, living or lifeless.

St. Thomas Aquinas, The Catholic Citizen, Reprint by permission of www.catholiccitizens.org

It is absurd for the Evolutionist to complain that it is unthinkable for an admittedly unthinkable God to make everything out of nothing, and then pretend that it is *more* thinkable that nothing should turn itself into everything.

St. Thomas Aquinas, cited by G.K. Chesterton, The Dumb Ox, 1933, Reprint by permission of www.catholicreligionteacher.com

It was not unworthy of our Redeemer to wish to be tempted, who came also to be slain; in order that by His temptations He might conquer our temptations just as by His death He overcame our death."

St. Thomas Aquinas, cited by Steven Rummelsburg, St. Thomas Aquinas on Christ's Temptation, 07-20-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The tragedy of man is not that he cannot find happiness, but that he looks for it in the wrong places. Because the desires of man are boundless, no particular good, whether outside himself, or in himself can perfectly satisfy him..

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

Since sin is chiefly due to our own bad will, unhappiness is our own making. If we use our free wills and the grace of Christ to build up the virtues within our souls, we can avoid unhappiness.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

When a man loves himself without loving God then he can brook no opposition to his own judgment or arbitrary will. He can tolerate goodness in no one else. He will even, by the sin of scandal, by his own words and example, lead other men into sin.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

It has been said that vigilance is the price of liberty. We might paraphrase the statement and say that prudence is the price of the freedom of the sons of God.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) used with permission

If we are to have a chance at Heaven, we must run the risk of Hell; no man is in Hell who did not have, time after time, the chance of taking Heaven in his grasp.

Excerpt from [My Way of Life] Tan Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com) Used with permission

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

St. Augustine, Excerpt {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

“The times are bad! The times are troublesome!” This is what humans say. But we are our times. Let us live well and our times will be good. Such as we are, “such are our times.

St Augustine, Into the Deep, Feb. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

He died, but he vanquished death; in himself he put an end to what we feared; he took it upon himself and he vanquished it, as a mighty hunter he captured and slew the lion.

St. Augustine, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

“Every morning you put on your clothes to cover your nakedness and to protect your body from the inclement weather. Why don't you also clothe your soul with the garment of Faith?

St. Augustine – cited by Fr. Joseph M. Esper, The Saints & Depression, 02-27-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine and acts according to them, I shall liken him to a wise man who builds his house on a rock.” When the storms of life come, the house stands.

St Augustine, cited by Steven Rummelsburg, Commentary on Sermon on ..., 08-28-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The law of sin (he confesses) is the fierce force of habit, by which the mind is drawn and held even against its will, and yet deservedly because it had fallen willfully into the habit.”

St. Augustine, Quotes on the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

He died, but he vanquished death; in himself he put an end to what we feared; he took it upon himself and he vanquished it, as a mighty hunter he captured and slew the lion.

St. Augustine, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Remember every morning the truths of your creed, and look at yourself in the mirror of your Faith. Otherwise, your soul will soon be naked with the nakedness of oblivion.”

St. Augustine – cited by Fr. Joseph M. Esper, The Saints & Depression, 02-27-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“Among these [apostles] Peter alone almost everywhere deserved to represent the whole Church. Because of that representation of the Church, which only he bore, he deserved to hear 'I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven.'”

St. Augustine of Hippo, "Sermon 295," c. 411 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

Trials and tribulations offer us a chance to make reparations for our past faults and sins. On such occasions the Lord comes to us like a physician to heal the wounds left by our sins. Tribulation is the divine medicine.

St. Augustine, Excerpt from {Be Not Afraid} by Sam Guzman. Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

If we do not pray, we have no excuse, because the grace of prayer is given to everyone... if we are not saved, the whole fault will be ours; and we shall have our own failure to answer for, because we did not pray.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Vatican.va, Into the Deep, Jan. 2013, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

When our dear Savior left this world, he did not wish to leave us alone, and therefore he devised a means of remaining with us in the Holy Eucharist to the end of time, that even here below we may enjoy his sweet company.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Enjoy His Company, Into the Deep, Jan. 2013, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“The Devil is never busier trying to distract us than when he sees us praying and asking God for grace. And why? Because the enemy sees that at no other time do we gain so many treasures of heavenly goods as when we pray.”

St. Alphonsus Liguori cited by Fr. Joseph M. Esper, Are You Distracted During Prayer? 03-13-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to Him and if they were to allow His grace to mold them accordingly.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Into the Deep, Feb. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace.”

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Into the Deep, Apr. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

If charity and sweetness have not truth for their companion they do not deserve the names of charity and sweetness, but those of hypocrisy and vanity.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Into the Deep, July 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“We should not prefer a long life over a short life; health over sickness, riches over poverty, honor over humiliations. Rather, we should choose the means that is most conducive to the end for which we were created—the eternal salvation of our soul.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, cited by Fr. Ed. Broom, OMV, Remember the Last Things, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not count the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

St. Ignatius, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Made For Mission, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

It is an absurd dichotomy to love Christ without the Church; to listen to Christ but not the Church; to be with Christ at the edge of the Church. It can't be done. It is an absurd dichotomy.

Pope Paul VI, Cited by Pope Francis, Belong to the Church, Zenit.org, Into the Deep, Apr. 2014, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Oh! That there would be reborn in us the esteem for silence, that wonderful and indispensable atmosphere of the spirit: while we are deafened by so many noises, sounds and clamorous voices in the frantic and tumultuous times of modern life.

Servant of God Paul VI, Address at Nazareth, 01-05-1964, Into the Deep, Dec. 2013, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

In our time more than ever before, the chief strength of the wicked, lies in the cowardice and weakness of good men ... All the strength of Satan's reign is due to the easy-going weakness of Catholics.

Pope St. Pius X (Cardinal Sarto), The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2007, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

“These saints, before whom we are assembled, despised the world and trampled it under their feet when peace, riches and health gave it charms.” Like them, we are called to seek God's Kingdom first, and not the wealth and success this world offers.

St. Gregory the Great, Today's Saint, Sts. Nereus & Achilleus (Martyrs), 05-12-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

And so it happened that the woman who stayed behind to seek Christ was the only one to see him. For perseverance is essential to any good deed, as the voice of truth tells us: “Whoever perseveres to the end will be saved.”

St. Gregory the Great, cited by Stephen Beale Lessons from St Mary Mag..., 04-09-2012, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

“When the priest gives the absolution, we should think of only one thing: that the blood of the good Lord is poured out on our soul to wash it, purify it and make it as beautiful as it was after baptism.”

St. John Vianney, Curé of Ars, ITD June 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“A most powerful and efficacious remedy for all evils, a means of correcting all imperfections, of triumphing over temptation, and preserving our hearts in an undisturbed peace, is conformity with the will of God.”

St Vincent de Paul, Into the Deep, July 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Concerning distractions and temptations that occur during holy prayer, you don't need to be the least bit disturbed. Withdraw completely into the upper part of your spirit to relate to God in spirit and truth..”

St. Paul of the Cross, cited by Fr. Joseph Esper, Are You Distracted ...? 03-13-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“Stop listening to your fears! God is your guide and your Father, Teacher, and Spouse. Abandon yourself into the divine bosom of His most holy good pleasure. Keep up your spiritual exercises and be faithful in prayer.

St. Paul of the Cross, cited by Judy Keane, Saintly Wisdom for Wor-riers, 03-19-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

O souls! seek a refuge, like pure doves, in the shadow of the crucifix. There mourn the Passion of your divine Spouse, and drawing from your hearts flames of love and rivers of tears, make of them a precious balm with which to anoint the wounds of your Saviour.

St. Paul of the Cross, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

The road is narrow. He who wishes to travel it more easily must cast off all things and use the cross as his cane. In other words, he must be truly resolved to suffer willingly for the love of God in all things.

St. John of the Cross, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Go to the Madonna. Love her! Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it as often as you can! Be souls of prayer. Never tire of praying, it is what is essential. Prayer shakes the Heart of God, it obtains necessary graces!”

St. Padre Pio, cited by Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: 15 Quotes on ..., 10-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Let us not waste our time reflecting so much upon our troubles, either past or present. We must think about them as little as possible, for they have less power to harm us when we disregard and ignore them.

St. Margret Mary Alacoque, Into the Deep, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying.”

Pope Leo XIII, cited by Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: 15 Quotes on the Holy , 10-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

“For victims of love there will be no judgement, but rather the good God will hasten to reward with eternal delights the love for Him that He will see burning in their hearts. The fire of love is more sanctifying than the fire of Purgatory.”

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, The Little Catechism of St. Thérèse, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“How I love the feasts!... I especially loved the processions in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. What a joy it was for me to throw flowers beneath the feet of God!... I was never so happy as when I saw my roses touch the sacred Monstrance.”

St. Therese the Little Flower, cited by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Ten Ways to Fall in Love with the Eucharist, 06-24-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

“Beginners in religion ought to exercise themselves principally in meditation on the last four things.”

Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell ought to always be at the forefronts of our minds and in our hearts if we are to end as God intends us to end.

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip ... 05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“Fathers and mothers of families should bring up their children virtuously, looking at them rather as God’s children than their own; and to count life and health, and all they possess as loans which they hold of God.”

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip Neri, 05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“The sanctity of a man lies in the breadth of three fingers, (the forehead,) that is to say, in mortifying the understanding, which would fain reason upon things.”

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip Neri, 05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“Certain voluntary attachments of self-love must be cut through, and then we must dig round the, and then remove the earth, till we get down deep enough to find the place they are rooted and interlaced together.”

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip Neri, 05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“To obtain perfectly the gift of humility, four things are required: to despise the world, to despise no person, to despise one’s self, to despise being despised.”

St. Philip Neri cited by Stephen J. Rummelsburg, 12 Sayings from St. Philip Neri, 05-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Were it not for the constant presence of our divine Master in our humble chapel, I would not have found it possible to persevere in sharing the lot of the afflicted in Molokai...the Eucharist is the bread that gives strength.

St. Fr. Damien cited by Sam Guzman, St. Damien of Molokai, 06-23-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now.”

Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, cited by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Ten Ways to Fall in Love with the Eucharist, 06-24-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

To offer a home to the homeless Christ, start by making your own homes places where peace, happiness and love abound, through your love for each member of your family and for your neighbors

Mother Teresa, The Catholic Parent Wisdom Book (Wendy Leifeld, editor), Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, www.osv.com

“Let us love our loving Father with all our hearts. Jesus Christ crucified is our sublime guide toward growth in God’s love. We will learn this lesson more quickly through the Immaculate Virgin whom God has made the dispenser of His mercy.”

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited in Food for Thought, A Life Dedicated to Jesus and Mary, 08-14-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

“The most resplendent manifestation of God’s glory is the salvation of souls. To work for the salvation and sanctification of souls is the preeminent purpose of the apostolic life.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited in Food for Thought, A Life Dedicated to Jesus and Mary, 08-14-2013, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Let us let ourselves be led, then; let us not attempt to do more than that which [Mary] wills or more quickly. Let us let ourselves be carried by her; she will think of everything and take care of all our needs, of the soul and of the body.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited by Sam Guzman, Fire of Love: Lessons ..., 08-14-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Let us give every difficulty, every sorrow to her, and have confidence that she will take care of it better than we could. Peace then, peace, much peace in an unlimited confidence in her....

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited by Sam Guzman, Fire of Love: Lessons ..., 08-14-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

Above all, never let yourselves be troubled, never be frightened, never fear anything. The Immaculate, in fact, is she perhaps not aware of everything? If this were not the case, it would really be a problem.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited by Sam Guzman, Fire of Love: Lessons ..., 08-14-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Paul of Damascus (St. Paul), From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

What is God promising me? A life of persecution and mistreatment, of tireless preaching, peril, and temporal hungers, humiliation and persecution. How can I refuse?

St. Paul, Cited by Tucker Cordani, The Prophetic Calling of St. Paul, 01-27-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me. (*Galatians 2:20*)

St. Paul, Cited by Maurice Blumberg, Conversion in the Life of St. ... 01-30-2007, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

St. Paul, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ..., 04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

“Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice to the extent that you share in the suffering of Christ’.”

St. Peter, First Epistle, Cited by Bishop Olmsted, Reprint by permission of www.catholicnewsagency.com

My son, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more the greater you are, and you will find favor with God.

Sirach, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare – not for woe! Plans that will give to you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you.

Jeremiah 29: 11-12, FMA Focus, June 2015, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

“The words of our Lord Jesus Christ are plain that He sent His Apostles and gave to them alone the power that had been given to Him by His Father. And we have succeeded to them, governing the Lord's Church with the same power.”

Seventh Council Of Carthage, c. 256 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.... I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you to myself, that where I am you also may be.... I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

John 14: 1-6, FMA Focus, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

Luke 18:15-17, FMA Focus, Nov. 2014, Reprint by permission of franciscanmissionassoc.org

As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains and was gathered together and became one, so let thy Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into thy kingdom

The Didache, 2nd century, A.D.

“In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph, the Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me. It will be converted and a period of peace will be given to mankind.”

Our Lady of Fatima, cited by John de Marchi, I.M.C., The True Story of Fatima, Taken directly from Lucia's Memoirs, Reprint by permission of Servants of Jesus and Mary

“I am always awaiting the Consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart. Without the consecration, Russia will not be able to convert, nor will the world have peace.”

Virgin Mary appearing to Sister Lucia – 1952, cited by John de Marchi, I.M.C., The True Story of Fatima, Taken directly from Lucia's Memoirs, Reprint by permission of Servants of Jesus and Mary

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 Lines

When fidelity towards the bond is broken, our merciful Lord is ready to forgive the one who repents. But repentance requires sorrow of the soul, together with the resolution not to sin again.

Pope Francis, cited by John Burger, *Mercy in a Culture of Death*, 01-27-2014 Reprint by permission of truthandcharityforum.org

Lord, thank you so much for my faith. Preserve my faith, increase it. May my faith be strong and courageous. And help me in the moments when, like Peter and John, I must make it public.

Pope Francis, recommended daily prayer, *Into the Deep*, May 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect" (July 28, 2013).

Pope Francis, cited by Donald DeMarco, *The Sanctity of Life for Dummies*, Reprint by permission of Truth and Charity Forum.org, 03-12-2015

The Hour of Adoration prepares one for Holy Mass and Holy Communion. Frequent encounters and familiar conversation with Jesus produce friendship, resemblance, and identity of thought, of feeling and of willing with Jesus.

Bl. James Alberione, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

"It is well that they should be cut off from the lusts of the world, since 'every lust wars against the spirit' and 'neither fornicators, nor sodomites will inherit the kingdom of God.

St. Clement of Rome, "First Epistle to the Corinthians," c. 96 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"By the word of his might God established all things, and by his word he can overthrow them. `Who shall say to him, 'What have you done?' or who shall resist the power of his strength?' (Wisdom 12:12)."

St. Clement of Rome, "Letter to the Corinthians" c. 80 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"Let those who are not found living as He taught, be understood not to be Christians, even though they profess with the lips the teachings of Christ. For it is not those who make profession, but those who do the works, who will be saved."

St. Justin Martyr, c. 160 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

This food we call Eucharist, of which no one is allowed to partake except one who believes that the things we teach are true, and has received the washing for forgiveness of sins for rebirth, and who lives as Christ taught us.

St. Justin Martyr, Cited by Constance Hull, *A Saint for Our Times*, 06-01-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"The bread and the wine of the Eucharist before the holy invocation of the adorable Trinity were simple bread and wine, but the invocation having been made, the bread becomes the Body of Christ and the wine the Blood of Christ."

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, "Catechetical Lectures," 350 A.D., The Eucharist, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"If anyone will not confess that the Emmanuel is very God, and that therefore the Holy Virgin is the Mother of God, inasmuch as in the flesh she bore the Word of God made flesh [John 1:14]: let him be anathema."

St. Cyril of Alexandria, "Third Letter to Nestorius," c. 430 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"A woman who deliberately destroys a fetus is answerable for murder. And any fine distinction as to its being completely formed or unformed is not admissible amongst us."

St. Basil the Great, "Epistle 138," c. 375 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

In the beginning God made. That which was begun in time is condemned to come to an end in time. If there has been a beginning do not doubt of the end."

St. Basil of Caesarea, Cited by Stephen Beale, *How to Plumb the ...*, 11-16-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"What God wants of you...is that you should live each day as it comes, like a bird in the trees, without worrying about tomorrow. Be at peace and trust in divine providence and the Blessed Virgin, and do not seek anything else but to please God and love Him."

St. Louis de Montefort, cited by Judy Keane, *Saintly Wisdom for Warriors*, 03-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give him the grace of conversion. This is the prayer: [186] "O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You." [187]

Jesus to St Faustina, quoted in her *Diary*, *Into the Deep*, Apr. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

4 – 5 & 6 – 9 Lines

Your faithful love in a marriage and family is tested by change. It can also be strengthened and brought to maturity through change. The challenge is to remain open to the Lord's gracious, healing presence and to see change as an opportunity for growth.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Follow the Way of Love

“Let me leave behind my old life, so that the seeds of your Word won't be eaten up by the birds of frivolous thought, or choked out by the thorns of worry. Give me a soft heart full of humility and joy, so that I will be good soil and bring forth fruit in patience.

St. Albert the Great, Prayer, ITD Aug. 2011, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

Deliver Us From Evil

“We must beg God always to free us from every danger and to take away every evil from us. And however imperfect our desire, we must make an effort to persist in this request. What does it cost us to ask so much, given that we address the Omnipotent?

St. Teresa of Avila, ITD Sept. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Remember you have only one soul; that you have only one death to die; that you have only one life, which is short and has to be lived by you alone; and there is only one glory, which is eternal. If you do this, there will be a great many things about which you care nothing.

St. Teresa of Avila, From Notebook by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

It is indeed essential for a man to take up the struggle against his thoughts if the veils woven from his thoughts and covering up his intellect are to be removed, thus enabling him to turn his gaze without difficulty toward God and to avoid following the will of his wandering thoughts.”

St. Ammonas the Hermit cited by Fr. Joseph M. Esper, Are You Distracted During Prayer? 03-13-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The bread which you do not eat is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked; the shoes you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot; the money you keep locked up is the money of the poor; and the acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit.

St. Basil the Great, Reprint by permission of CatholicReligionTeacher.com

“Liberalism always preaches love and virtue, as if it were love where a man lets a wolf tear his sheep to pieces, and as if virtue were the cleverness which is in fact repudiated by God. They will call those who oppose them papists, clericals, back-sliders, intransigents. You should be proud of that and not in the least mind their insults.

Pope Saint Pius X (Cardinal Sarto), The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2007, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

6 – 9 Lines

No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross. No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ. His prayer brought benefit to the multitude that raged against him. How much more does it bring to those who turn to him in repentance.

St. Leo the Great, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Through prayer we are able to be with God. He who is with God is far from the enemy. Prayer is the support and defense of chastity, the restraint of anger, the quieting and control of pride. Prayer is the guardian of virginity, protection of fidelity in marriage, hope for those who keep vigil, abundance of fruit for farmers, security for the traveler.

St. Gregory of Nyssa The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2008, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

.Have no fear of what tomorrow may bring. The same loving God who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. God will either shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it. So, then be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

St. Francis de Sales, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2011, Reprint by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

From earliest times, Christians sharply distinguished themselves from surrounding pagan cultures by rejecting abortion and infanticide. The earliest widely used documents of Christian teaching and practice after the New Testament in the 1st and 2nd centuries, the Didache (Teaching of the Twelve Apostles) and Letter of Barnabas, condemned both practices, as did early regional and particular Church councils.

USCCB, Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

What you do in your family to create a community of love, to help each other to grow, and to serve those in need is critical, not only for your sanctification but for the strength of society and our church. It is a participation in the work of the Lord, a sharing in the mission of the church. It is holy.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Follow the Way of Love

The rich usually imagine that, if they do not physically rob the poor, they are committing no sin. But the sin of the rich consists in not sharing their wealth with the poor. In fact the rich person who keeps all his wealth for himself is committing a form of robbery. The reason is that in truth all wealth comes from God, and so belongs to everyone equally.

St. John Chrysostom, cited by Thomas Storck, New Names for Old Things, New Oxford Review, May 2014

"Secede not from the Church: for nothing is stronger than the Church. Thy hope is the Church; thy salvation is the Church; thy refuge is the Church. It is higher than the heavens and wider than the earth. It never grows old, but is ever full of vigor.

Wherefore Holy Writ pointing to its strength and stability calls it a mountain." St. John Chrysostom, "Homilies on Eutropius," c. 399 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice (Job 1:5), why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them."

St. John Chrysostom, "Homilies on 1 Corinthians" c. 392 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

For there is not any sin that does not yield and give way to the power of repentance, or rather to the grace of Christ. Since if we would but only change, we would have Him to assist us. And if we are desirous to become good, there is none to hinder us, or rather there is one to hinder us, the devil, yet he has no power, so long as we choose what is best, and so attract God to our aid

St. John Chrysostom, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2014, Reprint by permission of catholiccitizen.org

When a prayer, like a ray of sun, arises from our tongue and comes forth from our mouth, our mind is enlightened, all savage passions which destroy our reason slink away and flee to their own lairs, if only our prayer is diligent, if only it comes from a watchful soul and sober mind.

St. John Chrysostom, Magnificat, Nov. 2009

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

6 – 9 Lines

Faced with problems and disappointments, many people will try to escape from their responsibility: escape in selfishness, escape in sexual pleasure, escape in drugs, escape in violence, escape in indifference and cynical attitudes. But today, I propose to you the option of love, which is the opposite of escape.

St. John Paul II the Great, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

When night comes, and you look back over the day and see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that has gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed: just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it with Him. Then you will be able to rest in Him – really rest – and start the next day as a new life.

Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

I have a deeper and firmer belief that nothing is merely an accident when seen in the light of God, that my whole life down to its smallest details have been marked out for me in the plan of Divine Providence and has a completely coherent meaning in God's all seeing eye.

Edith Stein, St. Benedicta of The Cross, Reprint by permission of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

"If you want to live wholly for God and attain that perfection He desires of you, you must make a complete sacrifice of yourself and all that you have, without reserve to His Sacred Heart. Undertake nothing without first asking His counsel and help. In all this, you must follow His inspirations. You must have recourse to it in all your necessities" (letter 28).

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Cited by Sr. Judith Clare Phillips, VHM, Transcending our Temptations, 10-19-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

The Divine Heart

The Divine Heart is an ocean full of all good things, wherein poor souls can cast all their needs; it is an ocean full of joy to drown all our sadness, an ocean of humility to drown all our folly, an ocean of mercy to those in distress, an ocean of love in which to submerge our poverty

St Margaret Mary Alacoque, ITD Aug. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

In the life of the body a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason he needs medicine so that he may be restored to health; and this grace is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance.

St. Thomas Aquinas, Into the Deep, Apr. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the cross. Great patience occurs in two ways: either when one patiently suffers much, or when one suffers things which one is able to avoid and yet does not avoid. Christ endured much on the cross, and did so patiently, because when he suffered he did not threaten; he was led like a sheep to the slaughter and he did not open his mouth.

St. Thomas Aquinas, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign, Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit in your hearts.

St. Ambrose, Into the Deep, July 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

"You dismiss your wife, therefore, as if by right and without being charged with wrongdoing; and you suppose it is proper for you to do so because no human law forbids it; but divine law forbids it. Anyone who obeys men ought to stand in awe of God. Hear the law of the Lord, which even they who propose our laws must obey: 'What God has joined together let no man put asunder.'"

St. Ambrose of Milan, "Commentary on Luke" c. 389 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

All our religion is but a false religion, and all our virtues are mere illusions and we ourselves are only hypocrites in the sight of God, if we have not that universal charity for everyone – for the good, and for the bad, for the poor and for the rich, and for all those who do us harm as much as those who do us good.

St. John Marie Vianney, Into the Deep, Sept. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

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“JESUS CHRIST, after having given us all He could give, that is to say, the merit of his toils, His sufferings, and His bitter death; after having given us His Adorable Body and Blood to be the Food of our souls, willed also to give us the most precious thing He had left, which as His holy Mother.”

St. John Vianney, Cited by Tom Perna, 10 Quotes About the Blessed Virgin Mary, 08-26-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Do everything calmly and peacefully. Do as much as you can as well as you can. Strive to see God in all things without exception, and consent to His will joyously. Do everything for God, uniting yourself to him in word and deed. Walk very simply with the Cross of the Lord and be at peace with yourself.

St. Francis de Sales, *Into the Deep*, Feb. 2013, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Mount Calvary is the mount of lovers. All love that does not take its origin from the Savior’s passion is foolish and perilous. Unhappy is love without the Savior’s death. Love and death are so mingled in the Savior’s passion that we cannot have one in our hearts without the other. Upon Calvary, we cannot have life without love, or love without the Redeemer’s death.

St. Francis de Sales, cited by Sam Guzman, *Our Only Hope* ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

“When you have received Him, stir up your heart to do Him homage; speak to Him about your spiritual life, gazing upon Him in your soul where He is present for your happiness; welcome Him as warmly as possible, and behave outwardly in such a way that your actions may give proof to all of His Presence.”

St Francis de Sales, *ITD June 2011*, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Everybody today seems to be in such a terrible rush, anxious for greater developments and greater riches and so on, so that parents have very little time for their children. Parents have very little time for each other, and in the home begins the disruption of peace of the world.

Bl. Mother Teresa, *Into the Deep*, May. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Through temporal poverty the soul will find eternal riches; through contempt and shame it will obtain supreme honor and very great glory; through a little penance, made with pain and sorrow, it will possess with infinite sweetness and consolation of the Supreme God, God eternal.”

Bl. Angela of Foligno, *ITD Sept. 2011*, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

A Beautiful Delight

Certainly, among all the devotions this one of adoration of the sacramental Jesus is the first after the sacraments, the dearest to God and the most useful to us. O, what a beautiful delight to be before an altar with faith and to present to him our needs, as a friend does to another friend with whom one has full confidence!

St. Alphonsus Liguori, *ITD July 2011*, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

“Not only are we to receive and adore the Eucharist, we must live the Eucharist. We are to let the rays of mercy from the monstrance pass through us and go out through all the world. We are to be icons of mercy, radiating love and mercy to others. There is no greater way to energize ourselves to this task than by spending time in the Presence of the Source of Love and Mercy, Our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist.”

St. Faustina, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.

St. Augustine, cited by Sam Guzman, *Our Only Hope* ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicgentleman.net

When the cross was first preached to the few who believed, it was mocked by the multitudes. But by the power of the cross, the blind saw, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, and even the dead rose so that even among the powers of this world, men would come to believe that there is, in fact, nothing more powerful than the humility of God.

St. Augustine, *The Catholic Citizen*, Spring 2010, Reprint by permission of [Catholic Citizens of Illinois](http://CatholicCitizensofIllinois)

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

6 – 9 Lines

As they were looking on, so we too gaze on his wounds as he hangs. We see his blood as he dies. We see the price offered by the redeemer, touch the scars of his resurrection. He bows his head, as if to kiss you. His heart is made bare open, as it were, in love to you. His arms are extended that he may embrace you. His whole body is displayed for your redemption. Ponder how great these things are. Let all this be rightly weighed in your mind: as he was once fixed to the cross in every part of his body for you, so he may now be fixed in every part of your soul.

St. Augustine, cited by Sam Guzman, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

The passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the hope of glory and a lesson in patience. What may not the hearts of believers promise themselves as the gift of God's grace, when for their sake God's only Son, co-eternal with the Father, was not content only to be born as man from human stock but even died at the hands of the men he had created?

St. Augustine, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

How precious the gift of the cross, how splendid to contemplate! In the cross there is no mingling of good and evil, as in the tree of paradise: it is wholly beautiful to behold and good to taste. The fruit of this tree is not death but life, not darkness but light. This tree does not cast us out of paradise, but opens the way for our return.

St. Theodore the Studite, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

"The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin...If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors."

Pope Pius XI, cited by Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: 15 Quotes on ..., 10-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

"I follow no leader but Christ and join in communion with none, but the chair of Peter. I know that this is the rock on which the Church has been built. Whoever eats the Lamb outside this house is profane. Anyone who is not in the ark of Noah will perish when the flood prevails."

St. Jerome, "Letter 15," 396 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."

Sister Lucia dos Santos of Fatima, cited by Sam Guzman, A Powerful Weapon: 15 ..., 10-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"Hail, you who held the Uncontainable One in your holy and virginal womb! Through you, the Holy Trinity is glorified; the precious Cross is celebrated and adored throughout the world; heaven exults, the angels and archangels rejoice, the demons are put to flight, the devil, the tempter, falls from heaven, the fallen creation is brought back to paradise, all creatures trapped in idolatry come to know of the truth."

St. Cyril of Alexandria, cited by Daniel Stewart, Homily 1V at Ephesus, 06-26-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

The whole of humanity fears, the whole universe trembles and heaven exults, when on the altar, in the hand of the priest, there is Christ, the Son of the living God. O wonderful favour! O sublime humility, that the Lord of the universe, God and Son of God, so humbles himself as to hide himself for our salvation, under the low form of bread."

St. Francis of Assisi, ITD March 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com

Just as the commander of an army pitches his camp, studies the strength and defenses of a fortress, and then attacks it on its weakest side, in like manner, the enemy of our human nature studies from all sides our theological, cardinal, and moral virtues. Wherever he finds us weakest and most in need regarding our eternal salvation, he attacks and tries to take us by storm.

St Ignatius of Loyola, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

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"If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He has great designs for you, and that He certainly intends to make you a saint. And if you wish to become a great saint, entreat Him to give you much opportunity for suffering; for there is no wood better to kindle the fire of holy love than the wood of the Cross, which Christ used for His own sacrifice of boundless charity.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, ITD Sept. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

A Christian According To The Lord's Prayer

We often hear it said that the true way of serving God is to serve man, as if religion consisted merely in acting well our part in life, not in direct faith, obedience and worship: how different is the spirit of the Lord's prayer! Evil round about him, enemies and persecutors in his path, temptation in prospect, help for the day, sin to be expiated, God's will in his heart, God's name on his lips, God's kingdom in his hopes: this is the view it gives us of a Christian.

Bl. John Henry Newman, Into the Deep, July 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

He Knows What He's Doing

"Therefore, I will trust Him. ... If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. ... He does nothing in vain. ... He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me. Still, He knows what He is about."

Bl. John Henry Newman, ITD Oct. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The cause of Christ is ever in its last agony, as though it were but a question of time whether it fails finally this day or another... thus much of comfort do we gain from what has been hitherto,—not to despair, not to be dismayed, not to be anxious, at the troubles which encompass us. They have ever been; they ever shall be; they are our portion... The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly; but yet the Lord, who dwells on high, is mightier.

St. John Henry Newman, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., Eyes on Rome, Eyes on Jesus Christ, 10-24-2014

"Let us note that the very tradition, teaching, and faith of the Catholic Church from the beginning, which the Lord gave, was preached by the Apostles, and was preserved by the Fathers. On this was the Church founded; and if anyone departs from this, he neither is nor any longer ought to be called a Christian."

St. Athanasius, "Four Letters to Serapion of Thmuisc," c. 360 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"In order to be Christian, our lives must be a continual renunciation and sacrifice. However, we know that the difficulties of this world are nothing compared to the eternal happiness that awaits us, where there will be no limit to our joy, no end to our happiness, and we shall enjoy unimaginable peace. And so, young people, learn from our Lord Jesus Christ the meaning of sacrifice."

Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, ITD May 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error.

Romans 1:21-27, Cited by Anthony Esolen, Unreal Nation, 08-19-2015, Reprint by permission of crisismagazine.com

"Since, therefore, Christ was about to be manifested and to suffer in the flesh, his suffering was foreshown. For the prophet speaks against evil, 'Woe to their soul, because they have counseled an evil counsel against themselves' (Isaiah 3:9), saying, 'Let us bind the righteous man because he is displeasing to us' (Wisdom 2:12)."

St. Barnabas, "Epistle of St. Barnabas" c. 70-100 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

"In this order, and by this succession, the ecclesiastical Tradition from the Apostles, and the preaching of the Truth, have come down to us. And this is most abundant proof that there is one and the same life-giving faith, which has been preserved in the Church from the Apostles until now, and handed down in truth."

St. Irenaeus, "Against All Heresies," c. 180 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

SAINTS & SAGES: S.4

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“It is not possible that the Gospels can be either more or fewer in number than they are. For, since there are four zones of the world in which we live, and four principal winds, while the Church is scattered throughout all the world, and the ‘pillar and ground’ of the Church is the Gospel and the spirit of life; it is fitting that she should have four pillars, breathing out immortality on every side, and vivifying men afresh

St. Irenaeus, Ten Things You Need to Know About St. Irenaeus, 06-27-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

"For the scheme of the mysteries of the Church and the Catholic faith is such that one who denies one portion of the Sacred Mystery cannot confess the other. For all parts of it are so bound up and united together that one cannot stand without the other and if a man denies one point out of the whole number, it is of no use for him to believe all the others."

St. John Cassian, "On The Incarnation," early 5th century A.D. Reprint with permission, Accessed on catholicnewsagency.com

“The essence of the love of God does not lie in affections or in sweet words, but solely in the will. If the soul perseveres decisively with its will fixed on holiness and love of God, although it does not experience the least feeling in its heart, let it be wholly convinced that it continually tends with rapid pace forward and ever pushes upward.”

St. Maximilian Kolbe, cited by Sam Guzman, Fire of Love: Lessons ..., 08-14-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicgentleman.net

If a man does what lies in him, and is truly penitent, as often as he shall come to Me for pardon and grace, “As I live, saith the Lord, I desire not the death of the sinner, but that he should be converted from his way and live.” I will no longer remember his iniquities, but all shall be forgiven him.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Know that the old enemy strives by all means to hinder thy desire after good and to divert thee from every devout exercise, namely from the veneration of the saints, from the pious meditation of My passion, from the profitable remembrance of thy sins, from keeping a guard upon thy own heart and from a firm purpose of advancing in virtue.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

A patient man hath a great and wholesome purgatory, who, receiving injuries, is more concerned at the person's sins than his own wrong; who willingly prays for his adversaries, and from his heart forgives offences; who delays not to ask forgiveness of others; who is easier moved to compassion than to anger; who frequently does violence to himself, and labors to bring the flesh wholly under subjection to the spirit.

Thomas a Kempis, Excerpt from [My Imitation of Christ] Confraternity of the Precious Blood, (www.tanbooks.com)

Take up your cross, therefore, and follow Jesus, and you shall enter eternal life. He Himself opened the way before you in carrying His cross, and upon it He died for you, that you, too, might take up your cross and long to die upon it. If you die with Him, you shall also live with Him, and if you share His suffering, you shall also share His glory.

Thomas a Kempis cited by Sam Guzman, Catholicism and the Cross, 02-18-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Why, then, do you fear to take up the cross when through it you can win a kingdom? In the cross is salvation, in the cross is life, in the cross is protection from enemies, in the cross is infusion of heavenly sweetness, in the cross is strength of mind, in the cross is joy of spirit, in the cross is highest virtue, in the cross is perfect holiness. There is no salvation of soul nor hope of everlasting life but in the cross.

Thomas a Kempis, cited by Sam Guzman, Catholicism and the Cross, 02-18-2015, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

“I promise you in the excessive Mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful Love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday. *In nine consecutive months the Grace of Final Penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.*”

Jesus to St. Margaret Mary, cited by Dan Lynch, Reparation for Sac:..., 09-17-2009, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Reflections: S.4

Mary, our mother

And mother of the Redeemer,
Gate of heaven and Star of the sea,
Come to the aid of your people,
Who have sinned,
Yet also yearn to rise again!
Come to the Church's aid,
Enlighten your devoted children,
Strengthen the faithful throughout the world,
Let those who have drifted
Hear your call,
And may they who live as prisoners of evil
Be converted!

Pope John Paul II

Teach Me

Teach Me To Lean On Thee
Dear Father help me with the love
That casteth out all fear;
Teach me to lean on thee and feel
That Thou are very near;
That no temptation is unseen,
No childish grief too small.
Since Thou with patience infinite,
Dost soothe and comfort all.

Louisa May Alcott (1833-1888)

His Gift to Me

To be the one you want to be
Is tough because the world you see
Will offer you things to lead you astray
And send you on a different way

But hold to that to what you know
To what you believe and don't let go
Because its what you believe and not always see
That becomes your reality

So to be the one that I want to be
requires One much greater than me
To provide me strength and peace within
Its His gift to me, for trusting Him

Kevin Daniel

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I --
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepard I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul. He leads me in paths
of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest
my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in
the house of the Lord for ever.

Bible, Decision Point, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Reflections: S.4

*Psalm 63

O God, thou art my God, I seek thee,
my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee,
as in a dry and weary land where no water is.

So I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary,
beholding thy power and glory.

Because thy steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise thee.

So I will bless thee as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on thy name.

My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat,
and my mouth praises thee with joyful lips,
when I think of thee upon my bed,
and meditate on thee in the watches of the night;
for thou hast been my help,
and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to thee; my right hand upholds me.

But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
they shall be given over to the power of the sword,
they shall be prey for jackals.

But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall glory:
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

Bible, Decision Point, The Eucharist, Reprint by permission of
DynamicCatholic.com

Prayer for the Dead

Absolve we beseech Thee O Lord, the soul of thy
departed servant, that being dead to this world
he/she may live to Thee; and whatever sins
he/she may have committed in this life through
human frailty, do Thou wipe away by the pardon of
thy most merciful goodness.

May the most just, most high and the adorable will of
God be in all things done, praised and magnified
forever.

Amen

IF

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;
If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop to build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With 60 seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son!

Rudyard Kipling, cited by Matthew Kelly, Excerpt from Rediscover
Catholicism, Reprinted by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

LIFE/FAITH NOTES S.5

The Seven Sorrows of Mary:

1. The Prophecy of Simeon.
2. The Flight into Egypt.
3. The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple.
4. Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary.
5. Jesus Dies on the Cross.
6. Mary Receives the Body of Jesus in Her Arms.
7. The Body of Jesus is Placed in the Tomb.

Corporal works of mercy:

Coming to the aid of our neighbor in:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless,
- Clothe the naked,
- Visit the sick and imprisoned,
- Bury the dead.

Catechism #2447

Spiritual works of mercy:

Coming to the aid of our neighbor in:

- instructing,
- advising,
- counseling,
- comforting,
- forgiving,
- bearing wrongs patiently

Catechism #2447

Precepts of The Church:

You shall:

1. Attend Mass on Sunday and holy days of obligation
2. Confess your sins at least once a year.
3. Receive the Eucharist (Communion) at least during the Easter season.
4. Observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church
5. Help to provide for the needs of the Church.

Catechism # 2042

Beatitudes

Practicing the beatitudes will bring happiness both on earth and in heaven.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.
3. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
8. Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God.

Catechism #1716 and cited by Mark Vargo, Mustard Seed

Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of your Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your Father and your Mother.
5. Thou shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

.Catechism #2083 - 2547 and cited by Mark Vargo, Mustard Seed

Seven Sacraments of the Church

Baptism	Annotiing of the Sick
Eucharist	Matrimony
Confirmation	Holy Orders
Reconciliation (Confession)	

Catechism # 1113

LIFE/FAITH NOTES S.5

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom	Knowledge
Understanding	Piety
Counsel	Fear of the Lord
Fortitude	

Catechism #1830

Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Chaiity	Generosity
Joy	Gentleness
Peace	Faithfulness
Patience	Modesty
Kindness	Self-Control
Goodness	Chastity

Catechism #1832

Capital Sins/Vices

Referred to as Capital because they lead to other sins and vices.

Pride	Lust
Avarice	Gluttony
Envy	Sloth or Acedia
Wrath	

Catechism #1866

The Ten Evangelical Virtues of Mary:

1. Most Pure (Mt 1:18, 20, 23, Lk 1:24,34)
2. Most Prudent (Lk 2:19; 51)
3. Most Humble (Lk 1:48)
4. Most Faithful (Lk 1:45; Jn 2:5)
5. Most Devout (Lk 1:46-47; Acts 1:14)
6. Most Obedient (Lk 1:38; 2:21-22; 27)
7. Most Poor (Lk 2:7)
8. Most Patient (Jn 19:25)
9. Most Merciful (Lk 1:39, 56)
10. Most Sorrowful (Lk 2:35)

Kathleen Beckman, God's Special Weapon Against Evil: ... 01-27-2016, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Reform of Catechesis

Until we get back to a complete presentation of the Faith from the early years – starting as soon as children are able to understand – followed by an ever deepening formation over the years, we will end up in situations where people will not even believe in the natural moral law, let alone the other teachings of the Faith. Even though there are hopeful signs, we cannot rest on any laurels – a more intense reform of catechesis is needed. For instance, in the Synod on the Family it was evident to me that one of the major problems is that people do not understand marriage because they have not been properly catechized. Sadly, this sometimes applies even to the clergy.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, Interview with Don Fier of The Wanderer, 05-01-2015 Into the Deep, Mar.. 2015, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

If a Shepherd Isn't Obedient

“When shepherds of the flock are obedient to the magisterium entrusted to their exercise, then surely the numbers of the flock grow in obedience. If the shepherd isn't obedient, the flock easily gives way to confusion and error.”

“When a person has culpably espoused and cooperated in gravely sinful acts, leading many into error and confusion over fundamental questions regarding respect for life and integrity of marriage and family, his repentance of such actions must also be public.”

Archbishop Raymond Burke, Prefect of the Apostolic Signatura, Address to ..., www.zenit.org 14-10-2010, ITD Nov. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Opportunities for Martyrdom

“There are, in fact many opportunities for imitating the martyrs without the martyrdom of blood and death. There is a martyrdom which consists in the anguish which each of us experiences in himself in following the ways of God and in the fulfilment of his proper duty. There is a martyrdom which consists in the difficulty of a duty exactly, faithfully, and fully accomplished. There is a martyrdom which occurs in the continual persevering fidelity in little things, in those demands for diligence in the divine service, in the daily duty which becomes a daily cross.”

St Thomas More, ITD Dec. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

LIFE/FAITH NOTES S.5

Bishops' Conferences

Episcopal conferences have authority on certain matters, but they are not a magisterium beside the Magisterium, without the Pope and without communion with all bishops. ... An episcopal conference is not a particular council, even less so an ecumenical council. The president of an episcopal conference is nothing more than a technical moderator, and he does not have any particular magisterial authority due to this title. ... dioceses are not the branches of the secretariat of a bishops' conference... The Church is not a sum of national churches, whose presidents would vote to elect their chief on the universal level.

Cardinal Gerhard Müller, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Interview with Famille Chrétienne, Into the Deep, Apr. 2015, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The Cost of Baptism

Baptism, we know, does not automatically produce a coherent life: this is the fruit of the will and the persevering commitment to work with the gift, with the Grace received. And this commitment has a cost: there is a price to be paid in person. ... Following Christ means sharing his Passion, his cross, following him to the end, and this participation in the Master's fate binds one fast to him...

Pope Benedict XVI, 03-04-2011, zenit.org 03-07-2011, ITD May. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Family

Nothing can equal or replace the formative value of growing up in a secure family environment, learning to respect and foster the personal dignity of others, acquiring the capacity for acceptance, encounter and dialogue, disinterested availability, generous service and deep solidarity, in short learning to love. A society, on the other hand, which encourages alternative models of domestic life for the sake of a supposed diversity, is likely to store up social consequences that are not conducive to integral human development.

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2010, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

The Body of Christ"

St Augustine helps us to understand the dynamics of holy Communion when referring to a kind of vision he had, in which Jesus said to him: "I am the food of the mature: grow, then, and you shall eat me. You will not change me into yourself like bodily food; but you will be changed into me."

Therefore... the Eucharist is a different bread: We do not assimilate it, but it assimilates us to itself, so that we become conformed to Jesus Christ and members of his body, one with him. ... While the Eucharist unites us to Christ, we open ourselves to others making us members one of another: We are no longer divided, but one thing in him. Eucharistic communion unites me to the person next to me, and to the one with whom perhaps I might not even have a good relationship, but also to my brothers and sisters who are far away, in every corner of the world. -

Pope Benedict XVI, 06-23-2011, Into The Deep, June 2015, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Moral Issues

Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia. For while the church exhorts civil authorities to seek peace, not war, and to exercise discretion and mercy in imposing punishment on criminals, it may still be permissible to take up arms to repel an aggressor or have recourse to capital punishment. There may be legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not however with regard to abortion and euthanasia.

Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2008, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Citizens Opinions

We cannot ignore the fact that more and more frequently, not only legislators but citizens too are called to express their thoughts on problems that can be described as scientific and difficult. If they lack an adequate education, indeed, if their consciences are inadequately formed, false values or deviant information can easily prevail in the guidance of public opinion.

Pope Benedict XVI, Compiled by Deborah B. Cole, Quotations from Pope Benedict XVI, Reprint by permission of Roman Catholic Books

LIFE/FAITH NOTES S.5

The Eucharist

For every Christian generation, the Eucharist is indispensable food that sustains us as we cross the desert of this world, dried by ideological and economic systems that do not promote life, but repress it. A world in which the logic of power and possession dominates, instead of the logic of service and love; a world in which the culture of violence and death often triumphs. Jesus knocks at the door of our hearts and asks to come in not just for one day, but forever."

Pope Benedict XVI, *The Eucharist and Christ's Real Presence*,
Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Today's Crisis

"From today's crisis will emerge a Church that has lost a great deal. ... It will become small and will have to start pretty much all over again. It will no longer have use of the structures it built in its years of prosperity. The reduction in the number of faithful will lead to it losing an important part of its social privileges. It will start off with small groups and movements and a minority that will make faith central to experience again. It will be a more spiritual Church and will not claim a political mandate flirting with the right one minute and the left the next. It will be poor and will become the Church of the destitute."

Pope Benedict XVI, cited by Fr Dwight Longenecker, *Is it Time For The Benedict Option*, 05/28/2015, Reprint permission by NCRRegister.com

The Civil War

They do not know what they say. If it came to a conflict of arms, the war will last at least four years. Northern politicians will not appreciate the determination and pluck of the South, and the Southern politicians do not appreciate the numbers, resources, and patient perseverance of the North. Both sides forget that we are all Americans. I foresee that our country will pass through a terrible ordeal, a necessary expiation, perhaps, for our national sins.

Robert E. Lee, *New Oxford Review*, May 2015

Theology of The Body Basics

Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body ...

... was first given during the course of 133 Wednesday audiences given from 1979 to 1984.

... is an anthropology of what it means to be a human person, a union of body and spirit.

... teaches that the body expresses the person and reveals how men and women are made in the image and likeness of God.

... reveals that the one flesh union of husband and wife points to the life-giving communion within the Trinity.

... shows how using another person for our own pleasure violates the dignity of the human person.

... illustrates how the celibate life is a sign of the total self-gift we are all called to make of ourselves to God.

... calls all human beings to make a gift of themselves to one another in love.

Emily Stimpson, OSV contributing editor, 9/26/2010

It is Jesus

"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are attracted; It is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; It is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; It is He who reads in your heart

your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle.

It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

St. Pope John Paul II, cited by Matthew Kelly, *Decision Point, Holiness is Possible*, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

LIFE/FAITH NOTES S.5

Entrustment to Mary

The young people of this century, at the dawn of the new millennium, still live the torment that derives from sin, from hatred, from violence, from terrorism and from war.

But it is also the young to whom the Church looks confidently, knowing that with the help of God's grace, they will succeed in believing and in living as Gospel witnesses in present day history.

O Mary,
help them to respond to their vocation.
Guide them to the knowledge of true love
and bless their affections.
Support them in times of suffering.
Make them fearless heralds
of Christ's greeting on Easter Day: Peace be with
you!

With them, I also entrust myself
once again to you
and with confident affection
I repeat to you:

Totus Tuus ego sum!

I am all yours!

And each one of them
cries to you, with me:
Totus Tuus! Totus Tuus!
Amen

St. Pope John Paul II, Act of Entrustment to Mary, vatican.va

Prayers of The Rosary

Against the background of the words *Ave Maria* the principal events of the life of Jesus Christ pass before the eyes of the soul. They take shape in the complete series of the joyful, sorrowful, and glorious mysteries, and they put us in living communion with Jesus through—we might say—the heart of his Mother. At the same time our hearts can embrace in the decades of the Rosary all the events that make up the lives of individuals, families, nations, the Church, and all mankind; our personal concerns and those of our neighbor, especially those who are closest to us, who are dearest to us. Thus the simple prayers of the Rosary mark the rhythm of human life.

St. Pope John Paul II, cited by Kathleen Beckman, *Spiritual Powerhouse: Mary's Rosary*, 05-20-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Our Cross

There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us.

And on the far side of every cross we find the newness of life in the Holy Spirit, that new life which will reach its fulfillment in the resurrection. This is our faith. This is our witness before the world.

St. John Paul II, Homily-Baltimore, MD, 10-08-1995, Accessed: integratedcatholiclife.org

Perpetual Adoration

Perpetual Adoration is wildly successful everywhere it is implemented. It helps to ...

- make reparation for all the indifference and offences caused against the Blessed Sacrament
- grow in personal holiness
- build a closer relationship with Jesus
- create a desire to spend more time in prayer
- establish parish unity
- strengthen belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist
- create vocations

Adoremus Jesum, Vol. 18, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within Thy wounds, hide me.
Never let me be separated from You.
From the evil one, protect me.
In the hour of my death, call me,
and bid me to come to You.
That with Your saints, I may praise You,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of St. Ignatius

LIFE/FAITH NOTES S.5

Pio's Five Habits

Here are five habits St. Padre Pio believed all Catholics should practice, based on advice he gave to his spiritual children.

- I. Weekly Confession
- II. Daily Communion
- III. Examination of Conscience Every Evening
- IV. Daily Spiritual Reading
- V. Mental Prayer Twice Daily

Padre Pio, Cited by Sam Guzman, Pio's 5 Point Rule of Life, 08-21-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Imitating the Martyrs

There are, in fact many opportunities for imitating the martyrs without the martyrdom of blood and death. There is a martyrdom which consists in the anguish which each experiences in himself in following the ways of God and in the fulfillment of his proper duty. There is a martyrdom which consists in the difficulty of a duty exactly, faithfully, and fully accomplished. There is a martyrdom which occurs in the continual persevering fidelity in little things, in those demands for diligence in the divine service, in the daily duty which becomes a daily cross.

St. Thomas More, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2011, Reprinted by Permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

10 Commandments for a Peaceful Life

1. Thou shalt not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
2. Thou shalt not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
3. Thou shalt face each problem as it comes.
4. Thou shalt not cross bridges before you come to them.
5. Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you.
6. Thou shalt not borrow other peoples problems.
7. Thou shalt be a good listener,
8. Thou shalt not try to relive yesterday for good or ill - it is gone.
9. Thou shalt not become bogged down with frustration.
10. Thou shall count your blessings.

Unknown

Paradoxes

Further thoughts on these paradoxes from an adorer... It is:

in the quiet of our lives that we hear His voice more clearly,
in the darkness of our lives when we begin to see Him more clearly, in the depth of the night sky where we feel part of heavenly creation,
in the depth of our sorrow that we can truly feel His love,
in the light of truth that often we are blinded by our own insensitivity, in our proudest moments that we are always called to humility,
in our weakest times when we are strengthened by faith,
in the eyes of our children that we see almighty God's love reflected,
in the time we spend in prayerful asking that we receive God's grace,
in simple bread and wine that we are gifted with His presence, in spending an hour with Him that we touch eternity.

An adorer, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

I Am Thankful For:

- The mess to clean up after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.
- The taxes I pay because it means I am employed.
- The lawn that needs mowing, windows that need washing, and gutters that need cleaning because it means I have a home.
- Complaining about the government because it means we have freedom of speech.
- My large heating bill because it means I am warm.
- The lady in church who sings off key because it means that I can hear.
- The alarm that goes off in the morning because it means I am alive.
- The spot at the end of the parking lot because it means I can walk.
- Weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

Unknown

LIFE/FAITH NOTES: S.5

Bumper Stickers

- Prevent truth decay -- Brush up on your Bible.
- Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if needed.
- It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees.
- What part of THOU SHALT NOT don't you understand.
- A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.
- The wages of sin are death. Repent before payday.
- Never give the Devil a ride. He will always want to drive.
- Forbidden fruit creates many Jams.

Unknown

Fatherhood Guide

1. Let your children see that you treat your own parents with love and respect.
2. Let your children see that you love your heavenly Father.
3. Show in various ways that you love their mother. A loving home is a secure, stable, supportive home where each person is treated with tender loving care.
4. Listen to your children. Put down the paper, turn off the television, leave the computer and frequently ask what is going on in their lives.
5. Plan and execute recreational activities as a family.
6. Take part in school, scouting, musical and drama activities with them. Praise sincerely whatever contribution the child has made to the event.
7. Make your home cheerful. Tell funny stories and laugh. Laughter at the table creates a happy environment.
8. When your children ask for it, give your best advice, but don't complain when they don't follow it. The school of hard knocks is still relevant.
9. Take them to church regularly. The church helps provide guidance, stability and unity for families. Remember, the family that prays together stays together.

Unknown

The 7-Ups of Life:

1. Wake up! Decide to have a good day. "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."
2. Dress up! The best way to dress up is to put on a smile on your face and in your heart. Remember, man usually looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
3. Shut up! Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth. He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.
4. Stand up! Look at your cherished ideals and opportunities to do good. If you don't stand up for something you will fall for anything.
5. Look up! Reach for the Lord. Remember, you can do everything through Christ who strengthens you.
6. Reach up! Make something higher your goal. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding.
7. Lift up! Do this through your prayers. Do not worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.

Unknown

Teen Commandments

1. Don't let your parents down; they brought you up.
2. Choose your friends with care; you become what they are.
3. Master your habits and body; or they will master you.
4. Treasure your time and health; don't waste them -- invest them.
5. Stand up for something, or you'll fall for anything.
6. Select only a date who would make a good mate.
7. Loaf around in your younger years and you will wind up a crumb.
8. Guard your thoughts; what you think, you are.
9. Give respect to others and they will respect you.
10. Use your talents, develop your abilities and try harder in school this year. Play now, pay later. Pray now, play late

Unknown

LIFE/FAITH NOTES: S.5

Contradictions:

Why will a parent drive to work and send the kids to school in a foot of snow, but keep the family home from church if the forecast calls for a chance of flurries?

Why will a man get up at 4:30 AM to go hunting, but stay at home from a 10:30 worship service because "it's too early?"

Why will a person who says he/she really cares about his/her church, but only attends worship only once or twice a year?

Unknown

The Most Important Person on Earth

The most important person in the world is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built the Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral – a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body... The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation... What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?

Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, cited by Eleanor Schlafly, Reprint by permission of mindszenty.org

Treason From Within

A nation can survive its fools ... but it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable for he is known, and he carries his banners openly. But the traitor moves among those within the gates freely, his sly whispers rustling through all alleys, heard in the very hall of government itself. For the traitor appears no traitor. He speaks in the accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and garments and he appeals to the baseness that lies in the hearts of men. He rots the soul of the nation. He works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city. He infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to be feared."

Cicero, 42 B.C., The Catholic Citizen, Summer 2006, Reprinted by permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Progress

Progress, in the sense of the progress that has progressed since the sixteenth century, has upon every matter persecuted the Common Man; punished the gambling he enjoys and permitted the gambling he cannot follow; restrained the obscenity that might amuse him and applauded the obscenity that would certainly bore him; silenced the political quarrels that can be conducted among men and applauded the political stunts and syndicates that can only be conducted by millionaires; encouraged anybody who had anything to say against God, if it was said with a priggish and supercilious accent; but discouraged anybody who had anything to say in favour of Man, in his common relations to manhood and motherhood and the normal appetites of nature. Progress has been merely the persecution of the Common Man.

G.K. Chesterton, The Common Man, 07-16-1932, Reprinted by permission of American Chesterton Society

War on Christianity

One of the tragedies of the current era is that a war on Christianity is being waged at a time of growing socioeconomic disparities. This war is not just being waged abroad by Islamic extremists, but also at home as Christian groups are expelled from universities, an American president assails Christians as hypocrites, and the media derides Christians as intolerant bigots. The war on Christianity that we are witnessing today is in part a war on the poor.

Eleanor Schlafly, Mindszenty Report, May 2015, Reprint permission by mindszenty.org

We Have ...

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved ... in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God ... The gracious Hand, which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined ... that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own ... It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Abraham Lincoln, Sixteenth U.S. President, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2012, Reprint permission by catholiccitizens.org

LIFE/FAITH NOTES: S.5

A View – Future of Democracy

A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years.

Great nations rise and fall. The people go from bondage to spiritual truth, to great courage, from courage to liberty, from liberty to abundance, from abundance to selfishness, from selfishness to complacency, from complacency to apathy, from apathy to dependence, from dependence back again to bondage.

Often attributed to Alexander Fraser Tyler. The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2007. (Tyler authored several books from late 1700's to early 1800's.). Reprint permission by www.catholiccitizens.org

Brotherhood

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling the wage payer down. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred. You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence. You cannot help people permanently by doing for them, what they could and should do for themselves.

Abraham Lincoln, Sixteenth U.S. President, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2009, Reprint permission by catholiccitizens.org

Faith & Religion

I believe that faith and religion play a critical role in the political life of our nation and always have, and that the Church -- and by that I mean all churches -- has had a strong influence on the state, and this has worked to our benefit as a nation. Those who created our country -- the Founding Fathers and Mothers -- understood that there is a Divine order which transcends the human order. They saw the state, in fact, as a form or moral order, and that the bedrock of moral order is religion.

President Ronald Reagan, Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast

Marriage and Religious Freedom:

The promotion and protection of marriage – the union of one man and one woman as husband and wife – is a matter of common good and serves the well being of the couple, of children, of civil society and all people. The meaning and value of marriage precedes and transcends any particular society, government or religious community. It is a universal good and the foundational institution of all societies. It is bound up with the nature of the human person as male and female, and with the essential task of bearing and nurturing children.

Excerpt from: Open Letter from Religious Leaders in the U.S. To all Americans, Catholic Citizens of Illinois, Winter 2012, Reprint permission by www.catholiccitizens.org

Dissent

To be “in profound inner communication with Christ” means putting aside one's personal opinions and seeing with the eyes and heart of Christ. Thus, one can see in the light of Christ that so called “faithful dissent,” when this phrase describes a refusal to adhere to the deposit of faith, is really the work of “the father of lies” (Jn 8:44) and not a docile receptive heart to the objective truth revealed and handed on by the Church. There is a value to theological speculation, which leads to a deeper experience of “faith seeking understanding” and enriches the life of the Church. However, this is much different than dissent, which is not faithful. This distinction is vital!

Bishop Samuel J. Aquila, Diocese of Fargo, Conference address 08-03-2011, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2011, Reprint permission by catholiccitizens.org

Gospel Messages

The gospels teach us that Jesus instituted two marvelous means of spreading His divine glory. One is a two thousand-year old social organism that has bested the fall of empires, the rise of tyrannies, and more than a few ‘dark ages.’ The other is a piece of bread. But it is more impressive for it is this bread that makes the social organism what it is. There's more: this bread has the power to transform us into the likeness of God Incarnate, bestowing eternal life to those who eat it. Yet even more: this bread is the Real Presence of God Incarnate.

Stephen Beale, God's Glory as the Source and Sustainer of Life, 06-29-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

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Urgent Need

Our urgent need at this time is to reclaim and strengthen our understanding of the deposit of faith. We must have a distinctive identity and culture as Catholics, if we would effectively communicate the Gospel to the people of this day and Diocese. This is our mission. Notice that this mission is twofold, like the Second Vatican Council's purpose. It is toward ourselves within the Church (ad intra) and toward the world (ad extra), The first is primary and necessary for the second; the second flows from the first. This is why we have not been as successful as we should be in bringing the world to Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ to the world. We cannot give what we do not have; we cannot fulfill our mission to evangelize, if we ourselves are not evangelized.

Bishop R. Walker Nickless, Bishop of Souix City, Iowa, The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2010, Reprint permission by www.catholiccitizens.org

Praying

Come to prayer with no expectations. Be empty and expectant before Him. It is not up to you to manufacture the light; all you have to do is open your protective shutters and raise the blinds. Those who approach prayer with their intelligence only seem almost to expect to "conquer God," like mastering the theory of relativity. But prayer is an opening of self, making a place for Him in your day and in your spirit, and calling God into that opening. When one does that, he or she often finds that God was already there, waiting to be noticed.

Fr. Wm. O'Malley, S.J., Excerpt from [Meeting the Living God], Reprint by permission of www.paulistpress.com

Conscience

Put crudely, but with basic accuracy, there is a conviction even among some Church-going Catholics that the Second Vatican Council taught that they can now choose to identify conscience with their personal opinions, and disagree with Church teaching, especially on matters of sexuality and life. Somewhat strangely those who assert this claim rarely urge people to follow their consciences in matters of public morality, such as social justice. No one seems to be free to follow his conscience when confronted with racism.

George Cardinal Pell, The Catholic Citizen, Winter 2008, Reprinted by Permission of Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Communion

The celebration of the Eucharist, however, cannot be the starting point for communion; it presupposes that communion already exists, a communion which it seeks to consolidate and bring to perfection. The sacrament is an expression of this bond of communion both in its *invisible* dimension, which, in Christ and through the working of the Holy Spirit, unites us to the Father and among ourselves, and in its *visible* dimension, which entails communion in the teaching of the apostles, in the sacraments and in the Church's hierarchical order [8]. Pope John Paul II's Encyclical Letter *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, Cited by Raymond L. Burke, Roma Pontifica Universita Gregorinia ..., 04, 2007, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Not By Sight

And so our Redeemer's visible presence has passed into the sacraments. Our faith is nobler and stronger because sight has been replaced by a doctrine whose authority is accepted by believing hearts, enlightened from on high. This faith was increased by the Lord's ascension and strengthened by the gift of the Spirit; it would remain unshaken by fetters and imprisonment, exile and hunger, fire and ravening beasts, and the most refined tortures ever devised by brutal persecutors. Throughout the world women no less than men, tender girls as well as boys, have given their life's blood in the struggle for this faith. It is a faith that has driven out devils, healed the sick and raised the dead.

Pope St. Leo the Great, Into The Deep, June 2014, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Helping the Poor

Protecting big government does not equal helping the poor. Christians must more creatively advocate and implement policies that empower and dignify the needy, not treat them as chronic victims. Too many church officials have unquestioningly assumed that a constantly expanding Welfare and Entitlement State benefits the needy. But nearly a half century of experience in America shows that well intentioned government programs perpetuate poverty, despair, crime and family breakdown.

Mark Tooley, President, Institute on Religion & Democracy, The Catholic Citizen, Fall 2011, Reprint by permission of www.catholiccitizens.org

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Fasting and Almsgiving

Whatever a Christian does always, he must now do with greater dedication and devotion, to fulfill the apostolic norm of Lenten fasting consisting in abstinence not only from food, but above all abstinence from sins. To this obligatory and holy fast, no more useful deed can be added than almsgiving, which under the unique name of 'mercy' includes many good works. Immense is the field of works of mercy. Not only the rich and wealthy can benefit others with alms, so can those of modest and poor condition. In this way, though unequal in goods, all can be equal in their sentiments of mercy of the soul

St. Leo the Great, *Into the Deep*, Feb./Mar. 2014, Reprint by permission of stoneswillshout.com/wp

The Miracle of the Doves

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima was on pilgrimage from Fatima to Lisbon in 1946. In one town, someone freed four white doves. Three of the doves flew to Our Lady's statue and settled at her feet. They stayed there for nearly two weeks, unruffled by the crowds and noise and people throwing flowers, moving with Her from town to town. They did not leave the statue. They did not eat or drink.

In Lisbon, they went into the church of Our Lady of Fatima on the statue, refusing to be brushed off or frightened away. The next morning at solemn Mass, at the consecration, two of the doves flew off the statue – one to either side of the altar. When the Bishop elevated the Host, the birds folded their wings as though in adoration. They remained there during the rest of the Mass. At the time of Holy Communion, the third dove flew up and perched on top of the statue's crown, and at "Behold the Lamb of God", it spread its white wings and held them open!

Fr Gerard Ryan, Marian Conference in Traralgon, Aus., 05-08-2015. *Into The Deep*, June 2015, Reprint permission by stoneswillshout.com/wp

Marian Devotion

Look at the Protestant countries which threw off all devotion to [Mary] under the notion that to put her from their thoughts would be exalting the praises of her Son. Has that consequence really followed their profane conduct towards her? Just the reverse – the countries... which so acted have in great measure ceased to worship Him, and have given up belief in His Divinity while the Catholic Church, wherever she is found, adores Christ as true God and true Man, as firmly as she ever did. Bl. John Henry Newman, cited by Fredrick W. Marks, *Marian Misconceptions*, New Oxford Review, May 20

Hiroshima

Eight Jesuit priests who were living just eight blocks from ground zero miraculously survived the atomic blast at Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. The blast killed 80,000 people almost instantly and up to a total of 140,000 eventually.

None of this group of priests suffered major injuries from the bomb blast. Their building was damaged, but remained standing. None of them was affected by the radiation, even decades later. The priests have been examined over 200 times by scientists.

One of the eight, Father Hubert Schiffer, gave his reason: "We survived because we were living the message of Fatima. We lived and prayed the Rosary daily in that home." ++

Fr Gerard Ryan, Marian Conference in Traralgon, Aus., 05-08-2015. *Into The Deep*, June 2015, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Judging Good and Evil

"If you have wisdom, understand that you were created for the glory of God and for your eternal salvation. This is your end, this is the center of your soul, this is the treasure of your heart. Because of this, esteem as truly good for yourself that which leads you to your end, and as truly evil what makes you lack it. Prosperous or adverse events, riches and poverty, health and sickness, honors and insults, life and death – the wise man must never seek or flee from them for himself. They are good and desirable only if they contribute to the glory of God and to your eternal happiness; they are bad and to be fled from if they impede it."

St. Robert Bellarmine, cardinal, bishop and doctor of the Church, *zenit.org* 02-23-2011, Apr. 2011, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

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Love

The nature of love has been distorted. Many popular notions have deviated from its true destiny. Love for many has come to mean having sex. If you cannot have sex than you cannot love. This is the message. Even more destructive is the prevailing notion that sex is not an expression of love. Sex is love. This *reductio ad absurdum* deprives sexuality of its true meaning and robs the human person of the possibility of ever knowing real love. .”

Bishop Jamie Soto, Diocese of Sacramento, Address: It is Sinful, 09-26-2008

Recall

Open then your ears. Enjoy the fragrance of eternal life, breathed on you by means of the sacraments. We explained this to you as we celebrated the mystery of “the opening” when we said: Effetha, that is, be opened. Everyone who was to come for the grace of baptism had to understand what he was to be asked, and must remember what he was to answer. This mystery was celebrated by Christ when he healed the man who was deaf and dumb... After this, the holy of holies was opened up for you; you entered into the sacred place of regeneration. Recall what you were asked; remember what you answered. You renounced the devil and his works, the world and its dissipation and sensuality. Your words are recorded, not on a monument to the dead but in the book of the living

Saint Ambrose, Into The Deep, Aug. 2015, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Cafeteria Catholicism

The Benedict Option requires a radical shift away from the easygoing, open-ended, cafeteria Catholicism prevalent in much of suburban America to an intentionally informed and aware Catholicism. All will be welcome, but they will be welcomed to join what will be more like an elite fighting force than a religiously themed country club.

Fr Dwight Longenecker, Is it Time For The Benedict Option, 05/28/2015, Reprint permission by [www.NCRegister](http://www.NCRegister.com)

Secular Agenda

If an aggressive secular agenda is promoted in public schools, the parish school and religious-education program will become a main priority. As classical education disappears, the parish school will become a repository for the ancient learning. As such, a “Benedict Option” parish would see itself as countering, rather than accommodating, the surrounding culture. Such a community would be distinctive and clear in its purposes and principles — even odd. Members might be distrusted by those outside the community — including other Catholics who have compromised with the prevailing culture.

Fr Dwight Longenecker, Is it Time For The Benedict Option, 05/28/2015, Reprint permission by www.NCRegister.com

Pondering

As they were looking on, so we too gaze on his wounds as he hangs. We see his blood as he dies. We see the price offered by the redeemer, touch the scars of his resurrection. He bows his head, as if to kiss you. His heart is made bare open, as it were, in love to you. His arms are extended that he may embrace you. His whole body is displayed for your redemption. Ponder how great these things are. Let all this be rightly weighed in your mind: as he was once fixed to the cross in every part of his body for you, so he may now be fixed in every part of your soul.

St. Augustine, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope ...,04-03-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicgentleman.net

Sunday

The Church – we can say, from its first moment of life – has also set aside a special day dedicated to worship and prayer: Sunday. We all know what, unfortunately, has happened to Sunday in our society: sports, from being something for diversion and relaxation, have often become something that poisons Sunday ...

We must do whatever we can so that this day can return to being, as God intended it in commanding festive repose, a day of serene joy that strengthens our communion with God and with each other, in the family and in society.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Pontifical Household preacher (homily excerpt), ITD Sept. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

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War and Peace

A slogan that is quite fashionable today states: "Think globally, act locally". This is true particularly for peace. It is necessary to think of global peace, but to act for peace at the local level. Peace is not made as war is. Long preparations are needed to make war: to create large armies, plan strategies, sanction alliances and then move united to the attack. Woe to the one who wants to begin first, on his own and one at a time; he would risk certain defeat. Peace is made exactly in the opposite way: beginning immediately, first, with just one, including with a simple handshake. In a recent circumstance, Pope Francis said that peace is "handcrafted." Just as billions of drops of dirty water will never make a clean ocean, so billions of men and families without peace will never make a peaceful humanity

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher of the Pontifical Household, 2nd Advent homily, Zenit.org 12-12-2014, Into the Deep, Mar.. 2015, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Amusement

Play is a noble dimension of the human being; God himself commanded rest. The evil is to make of amusement the purpose of life, to live the week waiting for Saturday night or the trip to the stadium on Sunday, not to mention other pastimes that are rather less innocent. In this case amusement changes sign and, instead of serving human growth and alleviating stress and exhaustion, it makes them grow.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the Pontifical Household, First Lenten Homily 2014, Zenit.org 14-03-2014, Into the Deep, Jan./Feb. 2015, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Humility

The virtue of humility has an altogether special statute: it is possessed by those who think they do not have it, and it is not possessed by those who think they have it. Jesus alone can declare himself "lowly of heart" and truly be so; this, we will see, is the unique and unrepeatable characteristic of the humility of the Man-God. Did Mary, therefore, not have the virtue of humility? She certainly did have it, and to the highest degree, but only God knew this, she did not. Precisely this, in fact, constitutes the unequalled merit, of true humility: that its perfume is received only by God, not by the one who emanates it.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher of the pontifical household, Zenit.org 13-12-2013, Into the Deep, Feb./Mar. 2014, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Mercy

Mercy isn't tolerance, in as much as it does not limit itself to "endure" the sinner, leaving him to continue to sin; rather, it denounces sin openly, and, precisely in this way, it loves the sinner: it recognizes that the sinner doesn't consist of his sin, but is more; it leads his actions to the light of truth, the whole truth: and thus offers him salvation.

Hence, Mercy doesn't justify sin, in virtue of the socio-cultural, political-economic or personal circumstances that exist, but it so esteems man as to ask him to give an account of all his actions, thus recognizing him to be "responsible" before God

Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, Major Penitentiary - Tribunal of Apostolic Penitentiary, by Zenit, Excerpt, ITD Dec. 2015, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Purpose of Life

In the definition of education it was observed that the purpose of education is to enter into contact not merely with the environment but with the totality of environment, with an end to explaining the purpose of life. But the purpose of life cannot be understood without God, nor can anyone enter into contact with the whole of environment unless he enters into relationship with God, in whom we live and move and have our being.

Fulton J. Sheen, cited by Anthony Esolen, The Common Core, Mar. 2015, Reprinted with permission from New Oxford Review, 1069 Kains Ave, Berkeley CA, 94706; www.newoxfordreview.org,

Our Life

The life of each and every one of us has been written. The crucifix is my autobiography. The blood is the ink. The nails the pen. The skin the parchment. On every line of that body I can trace my life. In the crown of thorns I can read my pride. In the hands that are dug with nails, I can read avarice and greed. In the flesh hanging from him like purple rags, I can read my lust. In feet that are fettered, I can find the times that I ran away and would not let him follow. Any sin that you can think of is written there.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

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Individual Religion

You are not allowed an individual interpretation of the Constitution of the United States. A Supreme Court does that for you. Why, then, should you insist on an individual interpretation of religion and begin all religious discussions with: "I feel this way about God." "I feel." Never were the sublime and beautiful realities put so much at the mercy of a stomach. Do you have your own individual astronomy and individual mathematics? Why, then, do you want your own individual religion?

Fulton J. Sheen, 1945, From the book *You*, Apr., 2011, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Waves

The whole course of Christianity... is but one series of troubles and disorders. Every century is like every other, and to those who live in it seems worse than all times before it.... Religion seems ever expiring, schisms dominant, the light of Truth dim, its adherents scattered. The cause of Christ is ever in its last agony, as though it were but a question of time whether it fails finally this day or another... thus much of comfort do we gain from what has been hitherto,—not to despair, not to be dismayed, not to be anxious, at the troubles which encompass us. They have ever been; they ever shall be; they are our portion... The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly; but yet the Lord, who dwells on high, is mightier.

Bl. John Henry Newman, cited by Bishop James Conley, Lincoln Neb., *Eyes on Rome, Eyes on Jesus Christ*, 10-24-2014

Praying

The Saint Curé of Ars saw often in his church a farmer. This illiterate man after a full day of work in the fields used to enter into the small church of Ars, sit on a bench in front of the Tabernacle and remain there for a long period of time. One day the Curé approached this farmer, who while praying was not opening his mouth even to say the popular prayers, and asked: "What do you say to the Lord?" "Nothing" answered the man. Then he added, "I look at Him and He looks at me."

Related by Msgr. Francesco Follo, Zenit.org 06-21-2013, ITD, July 2013, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Is A College Catholic?

If a Catholic college cannot ensure that its theology professors are imparting the truths of the faith, then families should look to more faithful Catholic institutions, suggested Bishop Frank Dewane of Venice, Fla., in an interview with The Cardinal Newman Society.

Sound theology is the heart of Catholic higher education; it helps students direct their learning, explore the beauty of the faith, and better understand their relationship with God and the Church.

Justin Petrisek, *Families Have "Right to Know" Which Theology Professors Have Mandatum*, 06-07-2015, www.thewanderer.com

The Ways of God

"Here is an example to help you understand the efficacy of the Rosary. You remember the story of David who vanquished Goliath. What steps did the young Israelite take to overthrow the giant? He struck him in the middle of the forehead with a pebble from his sling. If we regard the Philistine as representing evil and all its powers: heresy, impurity, pride, we can consider the little stones from the sling capable of overthrowing the enemy as symbolizing the Aves of the Rosary." "The ways of God are entirely different from our ways. To us it seems necessary to employ powerful means in order to produce great effects. This is not God's method; quite the contrary. He likes to choose the weakest instruments that He may confound the strong: "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong — *Infirma mundi elegit ut confundat fortia*" (1 Cor 1:27).

Sam Guzman, *A Powerful Weapon*, reprint from catholicexchange.com

Virtue of Love

Love is the most necessary of all virtues. Love in the person who preaches the word of God is like fire in a musket. If a person were to throw a bullet with his hands, he would hardly make a dent in anything; but if the person takes the same bullet and ignites some gunpowder behind it, it can kill. It is much the same with the word of God. If it is spoken by someone who is filled with the fire of charity — the fire of love of God and neighbor — it will work wonders.

St. Anthony Mary Claret, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

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Conserve or Change

We are all “conservatives” in some sense, because we want to “conserve” some things while changing others. We are all “liberals” because we all want to be “free” in some respects. We are all “progressives” because we want to progress towards something: the question is, towards what? So instead of asking someone, are you conservative or liberal, right-wing or left-wing, why don't I ask what you want to conserve, and what to change, and why? Then we might finally have an intelligent debate about politics.

Stratford Caldecott , Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Viewing the Cross

By nothing else except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ has death been brought low: The sin of our first parent destroyed, hell plundered, resurrection bestowed, the power given us to despise the things of this world, even death itself, the road back to the former blessedness made smooth, the gates of paradise opened, our nature seated at the right hand of God and we made children and heirs of God. By the cross all these things have been set aright...It is a seal that the destroyer may not strike us, a raising up of those who lie fallen, a support for those who stand, a staff for the infirm, a crook for the shepherded, a guide for the wandering, a perfecting of the advanced, salvation for soul and body, a deflector of all evils, a cause of all goods, a destruction of sin, a plant of resurrection, and a tree of eternal life.

St. John Damascene, cited by Sam Guzman, Our Only Hope04-03-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicgentleman.net

Attend to God

Come now, miserable mortal, flee for a brief time from your occupations, leave for a while your tumultuous thoughts. Move away at this moment from your grave anxieties and put aside your exhausting activities. Attend to God and repose in him. Enter into the depth of your soul, exclude everything, except God and what helps you seek him and, having closed the door, say to God: I seek your face. Your face I seek, Lord.

St. Anselm, Into the Deep, Apr. 2014, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Seeking God

O Lord my God, teach my heart this day where and how to see you, where and how to find you. You have made me and remade me, and you have bestowed on me all the good things I possess, and still I do not know you. I have not yet done that for which I was made. Teach me to seek you, for I cannot seek you unless you teach me, or find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you in my desire, let me desire you in my seeking. Let me find you by loving you, let me love you when I find you. Amen

St. Anselm, cited by Matthew Kelly, Decision Point , What's Holding You Back, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Different Christianities

There are also two Christianities in the world today. There is (1) the Christianity of the New Testament, and there is (2) the Christianity of accommodation to modernism, egalitarianism, niceness, naturalism, pop psychology, secular humanism, relativism, subjectivism, individualism, “Enlightenment” rationalism or postmodern irrationalism. New converts to the first Christianity are constantly amazed and scandalized by finding many of their clergy to be in love with the second and in fear of the first.

Peter Kreeft, Reprint by permission of catholicreligionteacher.com

Morality and Religion

Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in Courts of Justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

George Washington, cited by Patrick F. Fagan, Why Religion Matters Even More, www.heritage.o

LIFE/FAITH NOTES: S.5

The Task Now

“The Supreme Court’s 5-4 decision on marriage is not a surprise. The surprise will come as ordinary people begin to experience, firsthand and painfully, the impact of today’s action on everything they thought they knew about marriage, family life, our laws and our social institutions. The mistakes of the court change nothing about the nature of men and women, and the truth of God’s Word. The task now for believers is to form our own families even more deeply in the love of God, and to rebuild a healthy marriage culture, one marriage at a time, from the debris of today’s decision.”

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Philadelphia 06-26-2015, ITD July 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Work-Free Sundays

When a young mom or a dad comes to me, I ask: ‘How many children do you have?’ and I have another question: ‘Tell me, do you play with your children?’ Most respond: ‘Pardon Father?’ - ‘Yes, yes: do you play? Do you waste time with your kids?’ We are losing this knowledge, this wisdom of how to play with our kids. The economic situation compels us to this, to lose this. Please waste time with your children! On Sunday... to spend time together. This is a “critical” point, a point that allows us to discern, to assess the quality of the human economic system in which we find ourselves. And within this context is the issue of Sunday working, which affects not only believers but everyone as an ethical choice. The question is: to what do we want to give priority? The work-free Sunday – with the exception of necessary services – is to say that the priority is not economic but human, ... [for] family, friends, for believers to be in relation with God and with the community. Perhaps it is time to ask whether to work on Sundays is a true freedom.

Pope Francis, meeting with workers in Campobasso, 07-05-14 Zenit.org, Into The Deep, Aug. 2015, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Trust

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself ... But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost... I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton, Decision Point by Dynamic Catholic Institute, Life is Choices, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Look After This Treasure

Allow me to call your attention to the value and beauty of marriage. The complementarity of man and woman, summit of divine creation, is being questioned by the so-called gender ideology, in the name of a more free and just society. The differences between man and woman are not for opposition or subordination, but for communion and generation, always in the “image and likeness” of God. Without mutual self-giving, neither one can understand the other in depth. The Sacrament of Marriage is a sign of the love of God for humanity and of Christ’s giving himself for his Bride, the Church. Look after this treasure...

Pope Francis to Bishops, 08-06-2015, Zenit.org 08-06-2015, Into the Deep, July 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The Reign of the Eucharist

The great evil of our time is that people do not go to Jesus Christ as to their very Saviour and God. They abandon the only foundation, the only law, the only grace of salvation... What is to be done then? We must return to the fountain of life, and not just to the historical Jesus nor to the Jesus glorified in heaven, but rather to Jesus in the Eucharist. It is necessary to bring him out from the shadows so that he can once again take his place at the head of Christian society... May the reign of the Eucharist increase.”

St Peter Julian Eymard, 1864, Into the Deep, Feb. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

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Blessed Rosary

“O Blessed Rosary of Mary, sweet chain which unites us to God, bond of love which unites us to the angels, tower of salvation against the assaults of Hell, safe port in our universal shipwreck, we will never abandon you. You will be our comfort in the hour of death: yours our final kiss as life ebbs away. And the last word from our lips will be your sweet name, O Queen of the Rosary of Pompei, O dearest Mother, O Refuge of Sinners, O Sovereign Consoler of the Afflicted. May you be everywhere blessed, today and always, on earth and in heaven.”

Bl. Bartolo Longo, ITD Oct. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Finding the Way

“Zealous priests in many a parish easily get discouraged, because priests are regarded merely as professionals, and the Church as a sort of religious town hall. The house of God is often deserted, even on Sundays, and men seem to have lost the way to church. How attract them to the priest, to the church, to Jesus Christ Himself? In many countries the only way is through Solemn Exposition, with its grandiose religious exercises and its torrents of graces.”

St Peter Julian Eymard, July 1864, ITD Aug. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Approaches to Eucharistic Adoration

We cannot judge what happens in hearts. However, we can acknowledge the difference between the two following approaches: to come and adore when I have a bit of time, after I have done all my personal activities and if I feel like it... and to come and adore faithfully every week, choosing to consecrate a specific hour every week to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This second approach commits me to the Church. I don't go first of all to present my personal intentions, but rather I am sent on mission by the pastor, to carry the world, to intercede in the name of all the people of the world. I am interceding for the sick, for those who are making important decisions, for those at home, at work, on the road. In short, I am there, I am a presence of the Church before the Lord in the name of all the others.

Fr. Florian Racine, founder of the French clerical association of the Missionaries of the Most Holy Eucharist, ITD Apr. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Our Lady of Czestochowa

In 1430, Hussites (heretical followers of John Hus who denounced devotion to the Blessed Mother and any veneration of icons) attacked the shrine (Our Lady of Czestochowa). One of the Hussites desecrated the icon with his sword, making three cuts on the Blessed Mother's right cheek. After making the last cut, the Hussite collapsed and died. Actually, this incident promoted even greater devotion to Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Fr. William Saunders, Our Lady of Czestochowa, 05-13-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Steps to Rediscover Catholicism

Excerpts for a simple four-step plan for evangelization by Matthew Kelly: See "Rediscovering Catholicism" for full details.

Step One: We must begin to nurture friendships. ..

Step Two: Pray for the people we are trying to reach with the life-giving values, principles and ideas of the Gospel. ...

Step Three: The third step in our strategy of evangelization is to tell your story. Stories change peoples lives. The stories of Francis of Assisi, Mother Teresa, ...

Step Four: Invite your friends and neighbors to outreach events at your church.

Matthew Kelly, Rediscovering Catholicism, Time For a Change?, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

Top Ten Catholic Pilgrimages:

1. St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican.
2. Jerusalem, Israel.
3. Lourdes, France.
4. Fatima, Portugal
5. Camino de Santiago, Spain.
6. Ephesus, Turkey
7. Guadalupe, Mexico.
8. Czestochowa, Poland.
9. Assisi, Italy.
10. Knock, Ireland.

Matthew Kelly, Decision Point , The Bible, Reprint by permission of DynamicCatholic.com

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Thoughts of St. Catherine

Of the book, kept hidden until she neared death, Catherine said, "Whoever wishes to carry the cross for His sake must take up the proper weapons for the contest, especially those mentioned here: (1) to be careful always to do good; (2) to believe that we can never achieve anything truly good by ourselves; (3) to trust in God and, for His love, never to fear the battle against evil, either in the world or in ourselves; (4) to meditate frequently on the events and words of Jesus' life, especially His passion and death; (5) to remember that we must die; (6) to keep the benefits of heaven firmly in our minds, (7) to be familiar with Holy Scripture, keeping it in our hearts to guide all our thoughts and actions.

St. Catherine of Bologna, cited by Judy Keane, Catherine of Bologna, The Seated Saint, 05-09-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Once a Year is Not Enough

"In order to penetrate a whole human life with the divine life it is not enough to kneel once a year before the crib and let ourselves be captivated by the charm of the holy night. To achieve this, we must be in daily contact with God. [...] Just as our earthly body needs its daily bread, so the divine life must be constantly fed. 'This is the living bread that came down from heaven.' 'If we make it truly our daily bread, the mystery of Christmas, the Incarnation of the Word, will daily be re-enacted in us. And this, it seems, is the surest way to remain in constant union with God. [...] I am well aware that many think this an exaggerated demand. In practice it means for most of those who start the habit that they will have to rearrange their outer and inner life completely. But this is just what it is meant to do. Is it really demanding too much to make room in our life for the Eucharistic Saviour, so that He may transform our life into His own?"

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, "The Mystery of Christmas" ITD Jan. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Little Bit of Heaven

Maximilian Kolbe ... In any case, those who on this earth have had a chance to taste in advance a little bit of heaven can get some idea of what it will be like. Now everyone can have this experience. All he needs to do is:

1) Go to confession with sincerity, diligence, a deep sorrow for his sins and a firm resolve to amend his life. He will suddenly feel a peace and happiness compared with which all the fleeting, unworthy pleasures of this world are really an odious torment.

2) Let everyone seek to come and receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist with proper preparation.

3) Let him never permit his soul to remain in sin, but let him purify it immediately.

4) Let him do his duty manfully.

5) Let him address humble and frequent prayers to God's throne, especially through the hands of the Immaculate Virgin.

6) Let him welcome his brethren with a charitable heart, bearing for God's sake the sufferings and difficulties of life.

7) Let him do good to all, even his enemies, solely for the love of God and not in order to be praised or even thanked by men. Then he will come to understand what it means to have a foretaste of paradise; and perhaps more than once he will find peace and joy even in poverty, suffering, disgrace, or illness.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Cited by Sam Guzman, How to Have Heaven on Earth, 04-07-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

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Rest

"God is there in these moments of rest and can give us in a single instant exactly what we need. Then the rest of the day can take its course, under the same effort and strain, perhaps, but in peace. And when night comes, and you look back over the day and see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that has gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed: just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it with Him. Then you will be able to rest in Him -- really rest -- and start the next day as a new life."

Edith Stein, *St. Benedicta of The Cross*, cited by Michele Chronister, "Wasting Our Life With Edith Stein, 08-07-2015, reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Seven ways to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus: (Excerpt, see article for full details.)

1. Consecration – In meditating on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we realize the depth of God's sacrificial love for us....
2. Enthronement –An important aspect of devotion to the Sacred Heart is recognizing and submitting to the authority of Jesus Christ in every aspect of our lives. ...
3. Reparation – The name of Jesus is regularly blasphemed and abused in media, literature, and every day conversation.....
4. First Fridays – When our Lord appeared to St. Margaret Mary and revealed the devotion to the Sacred Heart, he requested the practice of attending mass, going to confession, and receiving him in the Eucharist on the first Friday of 9 consecutive months.
5. Frequent Prayer – Prayer is the breath of the spiritual life and the primary way we grow in love for God and neighbor....
6. Imitation – Devotion to the Sacred Heart is designed to inspire imitation. ...
7. Missionary activity – Finally, loving the Sacred Heart of Jesus means bringing its love to others.
Sam Guzman, *7 Ways to Honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, 06-19-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

Love and Devotion to Our Lady

What might be some ways that we can manifest our love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary in her month; the month of Mary? Here are ten ideas. (Excerpts – See article for full details.)

1. *Consecration*. The first gesture we should do every morning is prayer—a prayer of consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate heart of Mary. ...
2. *Angelus/Regina Caeli*. Traditionally this prayer is prayed at noon, but it can be prayed at any time. Why not pray it three times a day—at 9:00 a.m., 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.
3. *Consecrate the Home and Family to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*. Prepare for the consecration by a nine-day novena of Rosaries and prayers and culminate with the priest blessing the image as well as the home and family members.
4. *Consecration of the Self*. Go through the formal process of consecration of your whole being of Jesus through Mary. ...
5. *Imitate Mary*.... St. Louis de Montfort in his classic "*True Devotion to Mary*" gives us a list of the ten principal virtues of Mary. Imitate them and you will be on the Highway to holiness! Here they are! Her deep humility, lively faith, blind obedience, unceasing prayer, constant self-denial, surpassing purity, ardent love, heroic patience, angelic kindness, and heavenly wisdom!
6. *Temptations: Call on Mary*. Our life is a constant combat zone, until death! We should not fight alone against the devil, the flesh and the world.
7. *Mary and the Liturgical Year*. Get to know the powerful presence of Mary in the Mystical Body of Christ which is the Church.
8. *Reading on Mary*. For a well-formed and integral Mariology we should cultivate both *doctrine* and *devotion*.
9. *Marian Apostle*. Become an ardent and fervent and passionate Apostle of Mary.
10. *The Most Holy Rosary*. In Fatima Our Lady appeared six times to the Shepherd children— Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. In each and every apparition Our Lady insisted upon the praying of the most Holy Rosary.
Sam Guzman *May is Mary's Month, 10 Ways to Celebrate ...*05-07-2014, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

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Jesus in the Eucharist

Reflecting on the characteristics of Jesus in the Eucharist and what his presence can teach us about both holiness and masculinity.

(Excerpts – see article for full details.)

1. Humility

In the Blessed Sacrament, we see the profound humility of Jesus Christ. Here, the Eternal Wisdom of God who made all things, the brightness of the Eternal Father, condescends to come among us in the form of the most ordinary food.

2. Silence

Men have always cherished quiet strength, strength that is demonstrated more by deeds than empty words. ...

3. Love

..... Do you love Christ? If so, you will obey him and carry your cross after him. You will imitate him by laying down your life for others in sacrificial love.

4. Vulnerability

In the host, Christ is completely and totally vulnerable. Far too often, he is mistreated and abused, ignored and maligned, treated casually and without dignity. ...

5. Patience

Christ waits patiently for you and I in tabernacles and monstrances around the world.

6. Poverty

..... Materialism and greed creep into our hearts so easily. Yet, we are called to follow Christ in poverty and detachment, giving generously to others of all that we have received. Give, and it will be given to you—more than you can ask or hope.

7. Presence

.... Are you present to your family? Are your wife and children your priority? If you are a husband and father, your presence is an irreplaceable gift. Be present.

Sam Guzman, 7 Lessons From Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, 11-17-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Reasons to Love Mary

I'm going to give you 5 reasons to love Mary, but know that there are countless others.

Excerpts – see article for full details.]

1. She is the refuge and hope of sinners – The saints constantly tell us that no one, no matter how great a sinner, will be condemned if they are truly devoted to Mary.

2. She helps us be pure –... The more we love Mary, the more she will help us be pure in an evil world.

3. ... Mary is the ultimate comforter, and she helps us carry our crosses as we follow Jesus.

4. She crushes demons – Demons are real, and they want to make sure you never make it to heaven. They will send temptation after temptation your way to ensure you fall into sin—

5. Jesus loved her – As Catholic men, our mission is to imitate Jesus Christ in every respect. And what did Jesus do? He gave himself totally to Mary.

Sam Guzman, *The Other Woman in My Life*, 03-21-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

The Rosary for Men

“Have you not often met poor old women who are most faithful to the pious recitation of the Rosary? You also must do all that you can to recite it with fervour. Get right down, at the feet of Jesus: it is a good thing to make oneself small in the presence of so great a God.” – Dom Columba Marmion, *Christ, the Ideal of the Priest*

If you practice no other devotion in the spiritual life, pray the rosary. Through it, you will obtain all that you need and will vanquish the enemies of your soul. Through it, you will find peace and joy in the trials of life. Conquer the devil—pray the rosary! If you need guidance in praying the rosary, check out the book [Real Men Pray the Rosary](#). It is an excellent guide to this powerful prayer.

Sam Guzman, *A Powerful Weapon*, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

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Principal Purpose

Remember the four principal ends or purpose of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—A.C.T.S...

A—stands for *adoration*. The primary purpose of Holy Mass is to offer adoration to God the Father, by the offering of Jesus the Victim and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

C—stands for *contrition*. Our hearts should be contrite and humble and repentant for our many sins. It is a great practice to offer our Mass and Holy Communion in reparation for our sins, the sin of our families as well as in reparation for the sins of the whole world. "For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

T—stands for *thanksgiving*. Everything that we have in this life—with the exception of our own sins—is a pure gift from God. Therefore we should be overflowing and abounding in the thanksgiving. "With the Psalmist let us pray: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; his love endures forever."

S—Stands for *supplication*; in other words we should offer prayers of fervent intercession and petition for the many needs of the world: the world at large, the Church, the conversion of sinners, the sick, the dying, our own personal family needs, the souls in purgatory, and much more...

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Ten Ways to Fall in Love With The Eucharist, 01-26-2016, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Confession

Here are ten short suggestions to make the best confession in your life.

(Excerpts, see article for full details.)

1. Improving Your Reception. As Catholics two of the most important actions we can accomplish are to go to Confession and to receive Holy Communion. "Confess as if it were your first, last and only time."....
2. Pray Beforehand. All is grace! A soul This entails rewinding the film of your life and seeing the various falls into sin. But also to capture what were the precedinrce of abundant grace is the Communion of saints....
3. Prepare even the night before. Have a good onscience. ...
4. Self-knowledge. One of the classical steps to make a good confession is contrition but also firm purpose of amendment....
5. Biblical Passages to Prepare Yourself. The Church highly recommends the use of Sacred Scripture as a means to prepare us for a better reception of the Sacraments....
6. Frequent Confession. The saints highly recommend frequent confession as a most efficacious means of growing in sanctifying grace. ...
7. Sacramental Grace. Each sacrament communicates grace.
8. Qualities of a Good Confession. In the Diary of Saint Faustina, the most important qualities of a good confession are highlighted in # 113: 1) complete sincerity and openness; 2) humility; 3) obedience.
9. Avoid Discouragement. Even though one might fall frequently, never give in to discouragement. Some bad habits have possibly clung to us for decades....
10. Mary and Mercy. Never forget to invite Mary to be present in your remote preparation for Confession, your immediate preparation for Confession....

Fr. Ed Broom, (excerpt) Ten Tips for a Better Confession, 07-22-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

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Come Holy Spirit

“Come Holy Spirit, come, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary!” (Ten excerpts – See article for full details.)

1. Prayer. Form the habit if praying to the Holy Spirit on a frequent basis. ...
2. Acts of the Apostles. Read the book from the Bible, “The Acts of the Apostles”. Written by the Evangelist Saint Luke,
3. Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Get to know the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.... Here they are: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety and Fear of the Lord. ...
4. Silence. We must cultivate zones of silence in our daily lives, ... The Holy Spirit speaks to a heart that is ready to listen in silence. ...
5. Docility. Silence is a prerequisite to move on to the next step—docility to the Holy Spirit. ...
6. Spiritual Readings. ... If we want to arrive at sanctity of life we must get to know the Holy Spirit, love the Holy Spirit and manifest this knowledge and love by being docile to His heavenly inspirations.
7. Be Careful and Alert. The work of the devil is to discourage us, make us sad and to push us into desolation and then despair. ...
8. Prayer, Penance, Power, Perseverance, & Perfection. Try to connect these “5 P’s” to union with the Holy Spirit; all are necessary for a constant and growing union with the Holy Spirit.
9. Loneliness? Problems? If you experience loneliness and are weighed down by many problems then never forget to enter into the depths of your soul and speak to the Holy Spirit ...
10. Mary and the Holy Spirit.“Come Holy Spirit, come, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Fr. Ed Broom, O.M.V., Ten Ways to Open up to The Holy Spirit, 09-21-2012, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

To Pray The Rosary

Ten Reasons To Pray The Rosary. Reprint from Fr. Ed Broom's blog by Sam Guzman. Excerpts shown; see article for full details.

1. *Our Lady of Fatima*. Our Lady of Fatima appeared in Fatima, Portugal six times to three little shepherd children: Jacinta, Francisco, and Lucia. In every one of these six apparitions Our Lady said: “Pray the Rosary.” Therefore
2. *Her Title*. Finally at the end of her apparitions Our Lady gave herself the title: “Our Lady of the Rosary.” ...
3. *Pope St. John Paul II*. This great modern saint, as well as spiritual giant, strongly encouraged the world to pray the most Holy Rosary In ...
4. *For the Sake of the Family*. In this same document Saint Pope John Paul II insisted that we pray the Rosary for the sake of the family which is under attack ...
5. *For World Peace*. The document of Saint Pope John Paul II came in the wake of the terrorist attack in New York City with the Twin Towers. Therefore, another ...
6. *To Save our our Children*. Never have we lived in a society with so many dangers, especially with respect to our children and teens. Of great importance is the virtue of purity. The ...
7. *To Order our Disorders*. As a result of the Original Sin that we all inherit in the moment of our conception, our life is marked with disorder. Our
8. *For Interior Peace Of Mind And Soul*. Another wonderful effect of praying the most Holy Rosary is peace of mind, heart and soul. We ...
9. *It’s a Biblical Prayer*. Pope St. John XXIII stated that the Rosary is a summary of the whole of the Gospel. They ...
10. *To Conquer our Adversities*. David had to fight against the ferocious and malicious giant Goliath. Strategically ...

Fr. Ed Broom, Cited by Sam Guzman, Ten Reasons to Pray ..., 09-22-2015, Reprint by permission of www.catholicexchange.com

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Eight Beatitudes for the Home

(Excerpts, see article or book for full details)

Blessed is the home where the father, mother, and children love God sincerely and keep His commandments faithfully, go to Confession regularly, receive Holy Communion frequently, and pray much; *for the Lord abides in such a home.*

Blessed is the home in which Sundays and holy days are properly observed, *for the members will one day meet again at the festival of Heaven.*

Blessed is the home that no one leaves to go to sinful amusements, *for in it the joy of Christ shall reign.*

Blessed is the home where unkind speech does not enter, nor cursing, nor bad literature, nor intemperance,

for on that home will be heaped the blessings of peace.

Blessed is the home where father and mother are conscious of the sacred dignity of bringing children into the world and educating them in the service of God, where they faithfully fulfill the obligations they have toward each other and their children, and detest the sins sometimes committed in the married state, *for they will merit the favor and abundant blessings of God.*

Blessed is the home to which a priest is called to attend the sick, *for their illness will have its consolation and death will be happy.*

Blessed is the home where Christian doctrine is properly appreciated and learned from the Catechism and good books, *for in that home, the Faith will be kept firm and active.*

Blessed is the home where the parents find their joy in children who are dutiful and obedient, and where the children find in their parents the example of the fear and love of God, *for that home will be the abode of just people, the haven of virtues, and the ark of salvation.*

Where there is faith, there is love. Where there is love, there is peace. Where there is peace, there is God. Where there is God, there is Heaven.

Fr. Lovasik, *The Catholic Family Handbook* – Sophia Institute Press. 07-01-2015, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Notes on Prayer

- We do not seek or call God – we respond. He seeks us, calls us first. When we pray, we are simply responding, hearing, listening.
- Desire is the driving force of prayer. To pray is to desire. We were created for prayer. Prayer is as natural to our spiritual lives as breathing is to our physical lives.
- We are solitary in prayer – waiting and listening in silence, trying to empty ourselves of all distractions. Still the mind. Deeper silence brings us in touch with our unmasked selves.
- Silence in prayer is an activity rich in relevance and outreach to the world. Although it is solitary, we are never alone, it is never simply a private affair.
- Pray with the certainty of being heard. When the disciples prayed in the name of Christ, they knew him, knew who they were talking to, and expected/knew he would respond. Their relationship was real.
- The tax collector's wonderful prayer: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. We need to recognise our need for God's mercy, before we can receive it.
- Personal prayer emerges from and returns to the prayer of the community of faith. The early Church understood that its prayer was joined with the continuing prayer of Christ, interceding for us.
- If God seems absent – persevere. Listen. God is always with us. He is there. When all seems lost, remember this is God's world

Notes on Prayer from a Silent Retreat, July 18, St Brigid's Catholic Church, Cowwar, Australia, ITD Aug. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Cohabitation

Cohabitation does not take the place of marriage, and there are very strong indications that cohabitation may rival single parenthood as the largest generator of child poverty, while divorce is the cause of most women and children entering poverty in any given year. If marriage makes the world and economy go 'round, these newer family structures truncate productivity, and society begins to limp along.

Patrick Fagan, *The Health of Nations Depends on Health of Families*, 02-06-13, Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

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Married Families

The intact married family with children is the household that generates the productive work, income, and savings that purchase houses, food, cars, and clothing, use energy, send children to school, and save for college and weddings. It is of homes like this that the Nobel Laureate economist Gary Becker spoke when he said that “the mother at home raising her children contributes more to the economy than her husband out in the workforce.” If we want a vibrant economy, we must grow the best of children, just as the farmer who wants the best crops pays close attention to the timing of the seasons, and sows the best seed in the best soil he can.

Patrick Fagan, *The Health of Nations Depends on Health of Families*, 02-06-13, Reprinted with permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

We Have Been Taught

This food, we call the Eucharist - of which no one is allowed to partake except one who believes that the things we teach are true, and has received the washing for forgiveness of sins and for rebirth, and who lives as Christ handed down to us.

For we do not receive these things as common bread or common drink; but, as Jesus Christ our Saviour being incarnate by God’s Word, took flesh and blood for our salvation, so also we have been taught that the food consecrated by the Word of prayer which comes from him, from which our flesh and blood are nourished by transformation, is the flesh and blood of that incarnate Jesus.

St Justin Martyr, 2nd century, ITD Nov. 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Moral Relativism

“This poll (Gallup-American view on acceptable morality) is an example of how the tyranny of moral relativism can impact our culture. Representatives of government, the mainstream media, academia and the entertainment industry have pushed Americans away from God for decades and towards acceptance of a secular ‘morality’ where individuals decide right and wrong based on how they feel.”

HLI Staff, *Fr. Boquet Comments on U.S. Morality Poll*, 06-04-2014, Reprint permission by Human Life International, www.hli.org

Worldly Entertainment

A hasty and all-too-human reading of the Constitution has led to the conclusion that the faithful must be kept constantly busy. The contemporary Western way of thinking, shaped by technology and dazzled by the media, has wished to turn the liturgy into a lucrative production. In this spirit, many have tried to make the celebrations festive. Prompted by pastoral motives, liturgical ministers sometimes stage celebrations into which elements of worldly entertainment are introduced. Have we not witnessed a proliferation of testimonials, acts, and applause? It is imagined that this will foster the participation of the faithful, when in fact it reduces the liturgy to a human plaything. ...

Listen to the Council – Second Vatican. Sub-excerpt from a document by Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. ITD Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Divine Majesty

The hour has come to listen to the Council. The liturgy is “above all things the worship of the divine majesty” (§33). It can form and teach us only insofar as it is completely ordered to divine worship and the glorification of God. The liturgy truly places us in the presence of divine transcendence. True participation means the renewal in us of that “amazement” that St. John Paul II held in such high regard (cf. *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, §6). This sacred amazement, this joyous reverence, requires our silence before the divine majesty. We often forget that sacred silence is one of the means indicated by the Council to foster participation

Listen to the Council – Second Vatican. Sub-excerpt from a document by Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine ...ITD Sept. 2015, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

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Sanctuary a Sacred Space

In this sense it is deplorable that the sanctuary in our churches is not strictly reserved for divine worship, that people enter it in worldly garb, that the sacred space is not clearly delineated by the architecture. And since, as the Council teaches, Christ is present in his word when it is proclaimed, it is equally harmful when readers are not dressed in a way that shows they are pronouncing not human words, but the Word of God.

Listen to the Council – Second Vatican. Sub-excerpt from a document by Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. ITD Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

The Seamless Garment

The image of the “seamless garment” has been used by some theologians and Catholic politicians, in an intellectually dishonest manner, to allow or at least to justify turning a blind eye to instances of abortion, contraception or public funding for embryonic stem cell research, so long as these were simultaneously accompanied by opposition to the death penalty or promotion of economic development for the poor – issues which are also part of the fabric of Catholic moral teaching. Cardinal Mueller, cited by Fr. Basil Cole, O.P., Forgiveness, Penance and Catholic Social ..., 02-19-2015, www.truthandcharityforum.org

Sins

"There are venial sins and there are mortal sins. It is one thing to owe ten thousand talents, another to owe but a farthing. We shall have to give an accounting for an idle word no less than for adultery. But to be made to blush and to be tortured are not the same thing; not the same thing to grow red in the face and to be in agony for a long time. . . . If we entreat for lesser sins we are granted pardon, but for greater sins, it is difficult to obtain our request. There is a great difference between one sin and another."

St. Jerome, "Against Jovinian" c. 393 A.D., Reprint with permission, Accessed on www.catholicnewsagency.com

Human Life

In 1995 Pope John Paul reaffirmed the Church's teaching on human life in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* and reasserted the Church's opposition to contraception, abortion, and euthanasia, which he saw were being embraced by a civilization that lives as though sin does not exist, and as if God does not exist. With great clarity the encyclical maps out the moral rationale by which Catholics and all people should judge decisions involving the human life.

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Don't Be Fooled, 10-22-2015, Reprint permission by Human Life International, www.hli.org

Precious Life

Regardless of the situation or circumstance, every life is precious in the eyes of God. Disabled persons are not a burden, they are a gift — as are all of God's children. There's no way to measure what impact that child will have on the individual lives he or she touches, no matter how short a time on this earth. Our Lord tests our will, and our faith, not to punish us or cause grief, but to strengthen our trust and love in Him.

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Recognizing Human Dignity in Difficult Circumstances, 10-11-2013, Reprint permission by Human Life International, www.hli.org

Unavoidable Contradictions

An abortionist in the U.S. is being accused of the murder of a woman he over-dosed on anaesthesia after an abortion, as well as seven babies he killed after birth instead of before. The media, in their attempt to remain impartial about abortion, can't help tripping themselves up. They can't hide their horror at a doctor killing a newborn infant, but what they accept comfortably is that he should've killed that same baby “properly” before birth. In a CBS news report there was this statement: “Gosnell is suspected of killing hundreds of living babies.” Is the irony lost on this reporter, that you can only kill living babies, not dead babies? Every abortion kills a living baby – if the baby were not living, there would be no need for an abortion in the first place.

Editor , Into the Deep, Feb. 2011, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

LIFE/FAITH NOTES: S.5

Amnesty International

A 10 year old girl is raped by her stepfather. She falls pregnant. Her stepfather has been arrested and is awaiting trial. Her mother has been charged with negligence. The baby was born without complications and the girl and her grandmother have requested custody of the baby. Amnesty International weighed in on the case. Not calling for justice for the rape victim. Not calling for investigations into child abuse in Paraguay, where this occurred. Not trying to ensure the baby is well cared for. No, their statement was about the “human rights violations” that the pregnant girl suffered – not at the hands of her stepfather for raping her, but at the hands of the government for not allowing her to abort her baby. Anyone who still supports Amnesty International needs to figure out why.

Editorial, ITD Sept. 2015, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Where Are We Going?

The New Road offers no glimpses of beauty, purity, or sublimity, but only the ugliness of evil, sin, disease, death, and destruction. What is beautiful about the grisly details of abortion? What is romantic about contraception that stifles the gift of self? What is thrilling about cohabitation, a relationship with no promises “till death do us part”? What is pure about exposing children to blatant homosexuality in schools, in the media, in the legalization of same-sex marriage and its adoptions? The Old Road leading someplace offered everything the New Road going nowhere misses—what St. Paul identifies as “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious” (Phillipians 4:8).

Mitchell Kalpakgian, Ph.D., Old Roads and New Roads, 10-07-2015, Reprint permission by www.truthandcharityforum.org

Students Guided by isms

Without even being aware of it, many students in their approach to ethics are guided by insights that are rooted in utilitarianism (the end justifies the means), positivism (what is legal is ethical), emotivism (our feelings can tell us what is right and wrong) or relativism (there are no absolutes in the area of ethics). There is a real value in asking the students to study these theories so that they can begin to examine more explicitly the criteria for judging right and wrong.

From an address by Msgr Paul Tighe, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, zenit.org, TD June 2010, Reprint by permission of www.stoneswillshout.com/

Reason For Five First Saturdays

My daughter (Sister Lucia), the reason (for the Five First Saturdays) is simple. There are five types of offences and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception.
2. Blasphemies against Her perpetual virginity.
3. Blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity, in refusing at the same time to recognize Her as the Mother of men.
4. The blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference or scorn, or even hatred of the Immaculate Mother.
5. The offences of those who outrage Her directly in Her holy images.

Our Lord appearing to Sister Lucia – 1952, cited by John de Marchi, I.M.C., The True Story of Fatima, Taken directly from Lucia's Memoirs, Reprint by permission of Servants of Jesus and Mary

LIFE/FAITH NOTES: S.5

The Human Person

The human being is at once a subject experiencing himself and a subject that being experienced by others. Thus, Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II) writes that the human being is “simultaneously its subject and object.” As such, the human person does not simply exist autonomously, but also in relation to others. He continues: “The experience of existing and acting is something that all human beings, both others and I, have in common; at the same time, all human beings, both others and I, are also the object of this experience.” Therefore, the human person does not simply exist by himself as a subject but shares with all others the common ability to act based upon the interior principle of the will. All human beings experience existence by themselves, but, because of that, they are also sharing that experience with all others.

Veronica Arntz, Saint JP II's Vision of the Person Within the Family, 10-22-2015, Reprint permission by www.truthandcharityforum.org

Trinitarian image of Family

We realize that we cannot shirk from the demands of promoting a positive image of the family, which is the image of the Trinity mirrored in the family “from the beginning.” If we do not uphold this image, this Trinitarian image, much more is at stake than simply losing the vision of the family. We risk losing our understanding of God and the life of the Trinity itself. We risk allowing a secular vision of marriage to reign—one that is completely removed from a proper understanding of the family, which is ultimately rooted in Trinitarian love. Thus, we also remove our culture further from God and living a virtuous life in accordance with His plan. With John Paul II, we can say, “As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the world in which we live.

Veronica Arntz, What it is About the Family we Should be Defending 09-10-2015, Reprint permission by truthandcharityforum.org

Our Soul

The soul needs the spiritual food of the Eucharist, the spiritual rest of meditation and the spiritual air of prayer. Without this proper spiritual nourishment the human soul cannot mature and flourish spiritually as an individual and consequently cannot fulfill his role in worshipping God as a member of the community. The individual can go through the motions of public prayers, singing, standing and kneeling, but it is only external worship. Missing is internal worship which results only from personal communication with God. Just as air is essential to physical life, so prayer is essential to spiritual life. When you stop breathing, you are dead physically. When you stop praying, you are dead spiritually.

Fr. Robert Goedert, O.P., Why Eucharistic Adoration, Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

Prayer by St John Fisher

Lord, according to your promise that the Gospel should be preached throughout the whole world, raise up men fit for such work. The apostles were but soft and yielding clay till they were baked hard by the fire of the Holy Ghost. So, good Lord, do now in like manner with Thy Church militant, change and make the soft and slippery earth into hard stones; set in Thy Church strong and mighty pillars that may suffer and endure great labours, watching, poverty, thirst, hunger, cold and heat which also shall not fear the threatenings of princes, persecution, neither death, but always persuade and think with themselves to suffer with a good will, slanders, shame, and all kinds of torments, for the glory and laud of Thy Holy Name. By this manner, good Lord, the truth of Thy Gospel shall be preached throughout all the world. Therefore, merciful Lord, exercise Thy mercy, show it indeed upon Thy Church.

St John Fisher, sermon preached in 1508, Into the Deep, May, 2015, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

LIFE/FAITH NOTES: S.5

Our Church

We are not baptized into the hierarchy; do not receive the cardinals sacramentally; will not spend an eternity in the beatific vision of the pope. Christ is the point. I, myself, admire the present pope, but even if I criticized him as harshly as some do, even if his successor proved to be as bad as some of those who have gone before, even if I find the Church, as I have to live with it, a pain in the neck, I should still say that nothing that a pope (or a priest) could do or say would make me wish to leave the Church, although I might well wish that they would leave.

Frank Sheed, cited by Catholic Answers, How to Stay Catholic, 04-30-2014, Reprint by permission of catholicexchange.com

Basic Practices

While there are many habits and devotions that a Catholic man can form, I charge you with keeping these seven basic practices on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. If these practices are not (yet) part of your life, start now! (Excerpts, see article for full details)

DAILY

1. *Pray every day.* Each Catholic man ...
2. *Examine your conscience before going to sleep.* Take a few moments ...
3. *Go to Mass.* Despite the fact that ...
4. *Read the Bible.* As St. Jerome so clearly
5. *Keep the Sabbath.* From the creation of

MONTHLY

6. *Go to Confession.* At the very start of Christ's
7. *Build fraternity with other Catholic men.*
Catholic friendship ...

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Phoenix diocese), Into The Breach, 09-29-2015, Reprint permission by catholicexchange.com

Mother Teresa's Prayer Breakfast Speech

Here is what Mother Teresa said to the power brokers assembled at the Hilton Hotel at the 1994 Prayer Breakfast -including Bill and Hillary Clinton.

But I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself.

And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love and we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts. Jesus gave even His life to love us. So, the mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts her plans, or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts.

By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems.

And, by abortion, the father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. That father is likely to put other women into the same trouble. So abortion just leads to more abortion.

Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.

Author and *Wall Street Journal* columnist Peggy Noonan was there. Here's what she later wrote:

Well, silence. Cool deep silence in the cool round cavern for just about 1.3 seconds. And then applause started on the right hand side of the room, and spread, and deepened, and now the room was swept with people applauding, and they would not stop for what I believe was five or six minutes. As they clapped they began to stand, in another wave from the right of the room to the center and the left.

Mother Teresa, Prayer Breakfast 1994, Reprinted by permission of www.LifesiteNews.com

REFLECTIONS: S.5

Prayer of St Francis Xavier Cabrini

“We let ourselves be overcome
by human respect, and cease to
show ourselves true followers of
Our Lord before the world. ...
We see truth trodden underfoot,
and we remain silent. Why?
Because we are cowards.
Oh, how we need to renew our
faith, to rekindle our hearts in
the sublime principles of our
holy religion.”

St Frances Xavier Cabrini, Into The Deep, June 2014,
www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Prayer of St Thomas More

O Lord, give us a mind
that is humble, quiet, peaceable,
patient and charitable,
and a taste of your Holy Spirit
in all our thoughts, words and deeds.
O Lord, give us a lively faith, a firm hope,
a fervent charity, a love of you.
Take from us all lukewarmness in meditation
and all dullness in prayer
Give us fervor and delight in thinking of you,
your grace, and your tender compassion toward
us.

Give us, good Lord,
the grace to work for
the things we pray for. Amen

St Thomas More, Into The Deep, June 2014,
www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

A Tree

I think that I shall never see
a poem as lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
against the sweet earth's flowing breast;
a tree that looks at God all day,
and lifts her leafy arms to pray;
a tree that may in summer wear
a nest of robins in her hair;
upon whose bosom snow has lain;
who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
but only God can make a tree.

Joyce Kilmer, cited by George J. Galloway, A Soldier Priest and
Simple Poet, 11-11-2014, Reprint permission by
www.catholicexchange.com

Faith of our Fathers

Faith of our Fathers! living still
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword:
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our Fathers! Holy Faith!
We will be true to thee till death.
Our Fathers, chained in prisons dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free:
How sweet would be their children's fate,
If they, like them, could die for thee!
Faith of our Fathers! Holy Faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our Fathers! Mary's prayers
Shall win our country back to thee:
And through the truth that comes from God
England shall then indeed be free.
Faith of our Fathers! Holy Faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our Fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife:
And preach thee too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life:
Faith of our Fathers! Holy Faith!
We will be true to thee till death

Fredrick William Faber (Hymn, written-1849), Accessed on Wikipedia

A Eucharistic Prayer

Come then, Good Shepherd, bread divine,
Still show to us thy mercy sign;
Oh feed us, still us thine;
So that we may see thy glories shine
in fields of immortality.
Oh thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,
Our present food, our future rest,
Come, make us each thy chosen guest,
Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest
With saints whose dwelling is with thee. Amen

St. Thomas Aquinas, Reprint by permission of
www.therealpresence.org

REFLECTIONS: S.5

The Cross In My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket
a simple reminder to me,
the fact that I am a Christian,
no matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic
nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me
from every physical harm.

It's not for identification,
for all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding,
between my savior and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket,
to bring out a coin or key,
the Cross is there to remind me,
of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me too, to be thankful,
for my blessings day by day,
and to strive to serve Him better,
in all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder,
of the peace and comfort I share,
with all who know my Master,
and give themselves to His care.

So I carry a cross in my pocket,
reminding no one but me,
that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life,
if only I'll let Him be.

Author Unknown

The Angel's Prayer at Fatima

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners.

Reprint by permission of therealpresence.org

17th Century Prayer, Getting Old

Lord, you know me better than I know myself
That I am growing older and will some day
be old,

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking
I must say some thing on every subject and on
every occasion,

Release me from craving to straighten out
everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not
bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom,
It seems a pity not to use it all, but you know, Lord,
That I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free of all the endless details;
Give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains.
They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is
becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales
of other's pains

But help me endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory,

But for a growing humility

And a lessening cocksureness

When my memory seems to crash with the
memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I
may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet;

I do not want to be a saint.

Some of them are so hard to live with,
But a sour old person is one of the crowning works
of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in
unexpected places.

And talents in unexpected people
And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen

Author Unknown

THE LIGHT SIDE, S.6

1 - 3 Lines

When hit for a donation by a Hare Krishna at the airport, one man responded with the perfect answer: "I gave in a previous lifetime."

Sign on a convent in southern California: Absolutely no trespassing --violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. "The Sisters of Mercy."

Psychologist, James Dobson

Surly Bird:

Some doctors say that cheerful people resist disease better than grumpy ones. The surly bird catches the germ.

Novel Excuse:

A young man arrested for stealing a car had this novel excuse. He found the automobile in front of the cemetery and thought the owner was dead.

I was alarmed at my doctor's report: He said I was sound as a dollar.

Ronald Reagan

Eve: "Adam do you love me?"

Adam: "Who else?"

There are two major theories as to how men can win arguments with their wives and maintain their respect. However, neither theory has yet worked.

A police recruit asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?"

He said, "Call for backup."

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 65. She's 97 now and we don't know where she is.

The only reason I would take up jogging is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I joined a health club last year, and spent about \$400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently, you have to show up.

I have to exercise in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

The safest way to double your money is to fold it over once and put it in your pocket.

Middle age is that time when you can afford to lose a golf ball, but can't hit it that far.

How do you get two pounds of chocolate home from the store in a hot car? Solution: Eat it in the parking lot.

Do equal amounts of dark and light chocolate make a balanced diet?

A budget is a family's attempt to live below its yearnings.

Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.

You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.

Life not only begins at forty, it begins to show.

One of life's mysteries is how a two pound of chocolate can make a woman gain five pounds.

THE LIGHT SIDE, S.6

1 - 3 Lines

Life is an endless struggle full of frustrations and challenges, but eventually you find a hair stylist you like.

It's frustrating when you know all the answers, nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

Age doesn't always bring wisdom, sometimes age comes alone.

I asked Mom if I was a gifted child, and she said she certainly wouldn't have paid for me.

In my church folks give till it hurts, the bishop explained. "Mine too," the pastor replied, "But mine can't stand much pain."

Be nice to your children, for they will choose your rest home.

Phyllis Diller

Many politicians leave office because of illness and fatigue; people become sick and tired of them.

A race horse is an animal that can take several thousand people for a ride at the same time.

Sign in an appliance store: Don't kill your wife. Let our washing machine do the dirty work.

Sign in a country store: We buy junk and sell antiques.

The real menace in dealing with a five year old is that in no time you sound like a five year old.

Jean Kerr

The main reason for holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?

Living on earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

Directions on an air conditioner in a Japanese hotel room: "Cooler and heater. If you want just condition of warm in your room, please control yourself."

Sign in a hotel room in Finland. "If you cannot reach the fire exit, expose yourself at the window."

A lady came to the pastor after he had given a sermon on hell. She said, "Pastor I never knew what hell was really like until you came here."

My mother taught me about receiving. "You are going to get it when you get home."

Never argue with a fool. He may be doing the same thing.

Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity.

Only in America is there handicapped parking in front of a skating rink.

Only in America do people order double cheese burgers, fries and a diet coke.

Before you go to bed give your troubles to GOD. He will be up anyway.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they are sticking to their diet.

There are two ways to get to the top of an oak tree; catch that first limb and climb ... or find a good healthy acorn, sit on it and wait.

If you think nobody cares about you, try missing a couple of payments.

Caution: Never drive faster than your angel can fly.

THE LIGHT SIDE, S.6

1 - 3 Lines

It now costs more to amuse a child than it did once to educate his father.

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I had loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!

Sometimes the majority only means that all the fools are on the same side

A little girl got restless as the pastor's sermon dragged on. Finally, she whispered to her mother, "If we give him the money now will he let us go?"

One of the best things people can have up their sleeves is a funny bone.

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common. They should be changed regularly for the same reason.

The word politics describes the process so well. "Poli" in Latin means "many" and "tics" means "blood--sucking creatures."

I am a nutritional overachiever.

I always wanted to be a procrastinator, never got around to it.

It's easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them.

People will accept your ideas more readily if you say that Benjamin Franklin said it first.

Love is grand, divorce is a hundred grand.

There is always death and taxes; however death doesn't get worse each year.

The teacher asked her students, "How would you divide 10 potatoes among 12 people?" A child replied, "Mash them."

A child's greatest period of growth is a month after you've purchased new school clothes.

Work hard and save your money so when you're old you will be able to buy the things only the young can enjoy.

If you have struggled with a diet, then you probably know that stressed is just desserts spelled backwards.

I believe in computer dating, but only if the computers are truly in love.

Groucho Marx

The older generation thinks there would be no problem with children if they had to chop wood to keep the television and cell phones going.

There's a new invention for people who want to relax in peace and quiet -- it's called the phoneless cord.

Consultant -- someone who takes the watch off your hand and tells you the time.

If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor.

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise.

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.

Derek Bruce

Church newsletter: The Vestry Meeting on Thursday will be gin with prayer.

THE LIGHT SIDE, S.6

1 - 3 Lines

There's nothing wrong with having nothing to say unless you say it.

It's more pleasant to give than receive -- especially medicine and advice,

Hot air balloons are male, because to get them to go anywhere you have to light a fire under them and, of course, there's the hot air component.

Those who flee temptation generally leave a forwarding address.

A 104-year old woman was asked by a reporter, "What do you think is the best thing at 104.

"No peer pressure," she replied.

The reason most congressman try so hard to get elected is they would hate to make a living under the laws they've passed.

Nowadays people are taking their comedians seriously and their politicians as a joke, when it used to be vice versa.

Will Rogers (1928)

One of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives.

Mark Twain

Thanksgiving is where one species stops gobbling and another starts.

What happens when a frog is parked illegally? It's toad away.

Television is called a communications medium. It's called that because most of what you see on it is neither rare or well done.

Being president is like running a cemetery. You've got a lot of people under you and nobody's listening.

President William Jefferson Clinton

A man used to watch golf on TV. until his doctor told him he needed more exercise. He now watches tennis.

A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car, but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.

President Theodore Roosevelt

If some guys ate their hearts out they would break a tooth.

A Congressman once said to Horace Greely, "I am a self-made man." Greely replied, "That sir, relieves the Almighty of great responsibility."

A fellow who owns his own home is always just coming out of the hardware store.

A father is a man who carries pictures in his wallet where his money used to be.

By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong.

As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools.

It is said that if you lined up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone would try to pass them.

There's no garbage in California. That's because they turn it into television shows.

Woody Allen

No matter how old a mother is, she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement.

Florida Scott-Max

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

THE LIGHT SIDE, S.6

1 - 3 Lines

The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win,
you are still a rat.

Actress Lily Tomlin, FMA Focus

When you put the two words, “the and IRS” together
it spells “theirs.”

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your
hand over my mouth.

Socialism is communism without the firing squad.

Give a politician a free hand and he/she will put it in
your pocket.

The trouble with eating Italian food is that five or six
days later you're hungry again.

George Miller

I don't have anything against work. I just figure, why
deprive somebody who really loves it.

Dobie Gillis

Laziness is nothing more than the habit of resting
before you get tired.

Jules Renard

What happens when you can't pay your exorcist?
Answer: You get re-possessed!

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, An Airport Encounter, The Catholic
Citizen, Spring 2011

If God had wanted us to use the metric system, he'd
have given us 10 apostles” (an angry worker,
struggling with metric tools).

George Weigel, Zingers, Previously Unused, 08-07-2013, Reprint
permission by www.catholicexchange.com

How would you like to sit on top of 5 million parts,
each of which was made by the lowest bidder?”
(John Young, on flying the first space shuttle).

George Weigel, Zingers, Previously Unused, 08-07-2013, Reprint
permission by www.catholicexchange.com

“An open mind, like an open mouth, should close on
something” (G.K. Chesterton [of course]).

George Weigel, Zingers, Previously Unused, 08-07-2013, Reprint
permission by www.catholicexchange.com

“*Bore*. A person who talks when you wish him to
listen” (Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*).

George Weigel, Zingers, Previously Unused, 08-07-2013, Reprint
permission by www.catholicexchange.com

“No merely human institution conducted with such
knavish imbecility would have lasted a fortnight”
(Hillaire Belloc on Catholicism).

George Weigel, Zingers, Previously Unused, 08-07-2013, Reprint
permission by www.catholicexchange.com

“The Gospel must be preached by men. The angels
have other duties” (plaque found in an old church).

George Weigel, Zingers, Previously Unused, 08-07-2013, Reprint
permission by www.catholicexchange.com

“He can persuade most people of most things, and
above all he can persuade himself of almost
anything” (W.E. Forster on William Gladstone).

George Weigel, Zingers, Previously Unused, 08-07-2013, Reprint
permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Question: “What's the difference between you and
God?”

Answer: “God never thinks He's you.”

Unknown, Reprint permission by catholicreligionteacher.com

You don't have to outrun the bear, just the other
hikers.

Unknown

THE LIGHT SIDE, S.6

4 - 5 Lines

A beggar walked up to a well dressed overweight woman shopping and said, "I haven't eaten anything in four days."

The woman looked at the beggar with admiration and said, "I sure wish I had your will power."

Mom asked her daughter, "Marilyn, were you a good girl in church today?"

Yes, Mother she replied, A man offered me a big plate of money and I said, "No, thank you."

When I was a youngster, I was disciplined by being sent to my room without supper. But my son has in his room a color television, a computer, a CD player and a radio. So where should I send him? I decided to send him to my room.

Found on Internet

We have women in the military but the brass don't know if we can fight, if we can kill. I think we can. All the general has to do is walk over to the women and say, "You see the enemy over there? They say you look fat in your uniforms."

Elayne Boosler

A little child in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering baskets. When they neared the pew where he sat the youngster piped up: Don't pay for me Daddy, I'm under five.

While passing through a crowd Pope John XX111 heard a woman say, "He's so fat!" The pope stopped and said, "Madame the conclave is not a beauty contest."

A bright pupil looked long and hard at the exam question. It read, "state the number of tons of coal shipped from the United States in any given year. After much thought he wrote, "1492 -- none."

An elderly lady got on a crowded bus and had to stand. After a little while, a young man got up and offered her his seat. She was so overcome by his gesture she fainted. When she recovered she thanked him, then he fainted.

An aspiring politician gave all he had to his campaign speech. He felt it was strong, stirring and fact-filled. As he looked out over the audience he asked, "Are there any questions?" Someone in the back row called out, "Who else is running?"

As the Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt, she was interrupted by a little boy. The boy said, "My mommy looked back once when she was driving and she turned into a telephone pole."

A Sunday school teacher asked her class if they knew what Jesus said about marriage at the wedding in Cana. A small boy replied, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

When I was a kid I said to my father one afternoon, "Daddy will you take me to the zoo?" He answered, "If the zoo wants you let them come and get you."

Comedian Jerry Lewis

An elderly church-member was asked, "Mabel why do you think God has permitted you to reach the age of 95.

Without hesitation she replied, "To test the patience of my relatives."

My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn
My house isn't dirty, the cobwebs are gone,
My garden looks lovely and so does my lawn,
I think I might never put my glasses back on.

A burgler enters a pastor's house after midnight. Pulling out a gun, he said, "If you move, you're a dead man. I'm hunting for your money."

"Let me get up and turn on the light," said the pastor. I'll hunt with you."

The psychiatrist was concerned about his nurse's office procedure so he said to her, "When you answer the phone, just say, "We're terribly busy now, instead of, it's a madhouse."

THE LIGHT SIDE, S.6

4 – 5 Lines

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to these people? Why don't they put their pictures on postage stamps so the mailmen could look for them while they deliver the mail?

Really, I've started an exercise program. I do 20 sit-ups each morning. That may not sound like a lot, but you can only hit that snooze button so many times.

A protester outside a fur shop said to the woman in the fur coat. "What innocent creature had to suffer and die so that you can have that coat?"

The woman answered, "That innocent creature was my mother-in-law."

Mother: "What did your father say when you told him you smashed up the car?"

Son: Shall I leave out the swear words?"

Mother: "Yes,. of course."

Son: "Not a word."

According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Does that seem right? That means to the average person, if you have to go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy.

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld

A Latin teacher asked one of her struggling students, "What was the greatest accomplishments of the early Roman empire.

The frustrated student replied, "They learned to speak Latin."

Thinking of leaving Mass early, perhaps right after Communion to beat the crowd? If this is the case, you might want to consider this incident. It was Judas who left the first Mass (Last Supper) early. Now, aren't you glad you read this

The Senator's wife went to see a fortune teller. In a darkened room, the fortune teller told her the grave news, "Prepare yourself, your husband will soon die."

The Senator's wife was quite shaken. After composing herself she asked, "Will I be acquitted?"

She eyed his bear
And said no dice
The weddings off
I'll COOK the rice.

Burma Shave (Old Sign)

Proper distance
To him was bunk
They pulled him out
Of some guys trunk.

Burma Shave (Old Sign)"

THE LIGHT SIDE, S.5

6 - 9 Lines

Two boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house. At bedtime, both boys knelt down beside their beds and began praying. The youngest one prayed very loudly, I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE, A NEW NINTENDO, A NEW VCR, etc."

The older brother nudged his brother and said, "God isn't deaf."

The younger brother replied, "No but Grandma is."

Grasshoppers

Visiting Australia, a Texas rancher strikes up a conversation with a local rancher who raises cattle. The Texan brags that his spread is far larger than the Australian's, and his cattle are twice the size of the ones raised down under. Then the Texan sees a herd of kangaroos in the distance. "What are those," he asks. The Aussie says, "Don't you have grasshoppers in Texas?"

A drunk goes to the doctor complaining of tiredness and headaches. "I feel tired all the time, my head hurts, and I'm not sleeping. What is it Doc?"

After a thorough examination the doctor says "I can't find anything wrong. It must be the drinking."

"Fair enough replies the lush. I'll come back when you sober up."

A father was approached by his small son who said, "I know the Bible!"

The father replied, "What do you mean when you say you know the Bible?"

The son replied, I know what the Bible stands for!"

The father said, "So what does the Bible stand for."

The son replied, "It stands for Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

Leaders :

Oh, for a leader who leads!

Which way did they go?

How many were there?

How fast were they going?

I must find them, I am their Leader!

Into the Deep, 06-2013

Christopher Columbus was a remarkable salesman. He started out not knowing where he was going. When he arrived, he didn't know where he was. And when he returned he didn't know where he had been. He did all this on a big cash advance and topped it off with a repeat order.

Doctor: "Ever have an accident."

Rancher: "No."

Doctor: "Never had an accident in your whole life?"

Rancher: "Well last spring a bull tossed me over the fence."

Doctor: "And you don't call that an accident?"

Rancher: "No I think the bull did that on purpose."

An evangelist was preaching about hell. He was warning his congregation to flee from the coming wrath. "I tell you, my friends" he thundered, "There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth!"

An old woman in the gallery stood up and shouted, "But I have no teeth!"

Without missing a beat the evangelist responded, "Don't you worry about that, Ma'am. Teeth will be provided."

A minister was opening his mail one morning. Drawing a single sheet of paper from an envelope, he found on it only one word: "FOOL."

The next Sunday he announced, "I have known many people who have written letters and forgot to sign their name. But this week I received a letter from someone who signed their name and forgot to write a letter."

A woman went to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. She said to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?" The clerk asked, "What denomination?"

The woman said, "Oh dear me! Has it come to this? Give me 32 Catholics, 12 Methodists and 6 Baptists."

THE LIGHT SIDE

6 - 9 Lines

A little boy was watching his new baby brother who was crying full force. "Where did we get him from Mom," he asked? Mom answered, "Heaven." The little boy wrinkled his nose, covered his ears and said, "this is probably why they didn't keep him there."

A woman was picking through the frozen turkeys at a grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family.

She asked the stockboy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

His reply was, "No ma'am they're dead."

A GI stationed overseas received a "Dear John" letter. She was going to marry a sailor and wanted him to return the photo she'd given him.

The GI's buddies collected photos from his entire company. All the photos were packed into a large box and mailed to the girl with this note, "Please pick out your picture and mail the rest back to me. I don't remember which one is yours."

A home security official was checking buildings in a small town for shelter in case of a terrorist attack. She asked the secretary of a large church how many people could sleep in the church.

"I don't rightly know," she replied, "But we sleep about 400 every Sunday morning from 11 a.m. to noon."

The Three Truths of Life:

- Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
- Protestants do not recognize the Pope as leader of the Christian faith.
- Two Baptists do not recognize each other in the liquor store.

A pastor was talking to his congregation about the planned huge Family Center for their parish. Then he told the cost -- 5 million!

As the people gasped, the pastor continued, "The good news is that -- we have the money." A sigh of relief came from the pews." The pastor went on, "The bad news is it's still in your pockets."

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage.

The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor. Attached to the back of the carriage was a sign that read: Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: do not step on exhaust.

Notes on Life:

You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.

Time may be a healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

Brain cells come and go, but fat cells live forever.

You don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing.

A painfully shy man fell in love with a young woman. He sensed that she felt the same way, but he couldn't find the courage to ask her out.

Finally, he decided he would mail her a love letter every day for one year, and then ask her out for a date.

Faithfully he followed his plan, and at year's end was courageous enough to call her -- only to discover she'd married the mailman.

A man went to the store to get a gift for his wife. "How about some perfume?" asked the cosmetics clerk. She showed him a \$100 bottle. "That's a bit much," said the man. She then returned with a smaller, \$30 bottle. "that's still quite a bit," he complained. "What I mean," he said, "is I'd like to see something really cheap."

The clerk handed him a mirror.

A tough old cowboy once counseled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning.

The grandson did this religiously and he lived to the age of 93.

When he died, he left 14 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and a fifteen foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.

THE LIGHT SIDE

6 – 9 Lines

A young marine sentry had strict orders not to admit any car without special identification.

The first car he stopped contained a general who didn't have the required ID. When the sentry refused to let the car pass, the annoyed general ordered his driver to pass right through.

The sentry asked politely: "I'm new at this. Do I shoot you or the driver first?"

A young Jewish college student entered Notre Dame to play football. At the end of the semester he returned home where he met his rabbi. His rabbi asked him, "Are they trying to convert you to Catholicism at South Bend?"

The young football player answered, "Of course not, Father."

Funny Signs:

Secondhand shop: "We exchange anything; washing machines, bicycles, chairs, etc. why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?"

Farmers Field: Farmer does not charge for crossing field, but the bull charges.

Photographer Studio: Out to lunch. If not back by 5:00, also out for dinner.

The Suitor:

"I don't have a lot of money, a yacht and a convertible like Albert Smith, but I love you," the suitor said."

"I think you are very sweet," the girl said, but tell me more about more about Albert."

After bringing their new baby home, the young mother suggested that her husband should try changing their baby's diapers.

The husband replied, "I'll change the next one."

The "next time came very shortly with the wife reminding her husband of his promise. Her husband then explained, "I meant the next baby."

On a Thanksgiving weekend, a pastor found himself in a long line of cars at a gas station. He waited 25 minutes to get to a pump.

The attendant, who knew the pastor apologized, "Pastor I'm sorry for the long wait, but it seems people wait until the last minute to get ready when making a long trip."

"I know what you mean," the pastor replied. "It's the same in my business."

In spite of his children's advice, an elderly dad refused to give up driving. However a phone call changed his mind. Here is how it happened.

Dad called his son in utter alarm saying, "Bob, my car has been stripped, everything is gone, my dashboard, radio, even the accelerator."

Bob rushed over and found his father still in the car. Calmly, Bob told his father, "Dad, you're in the back seat."

The children in a Catholic elementary school were lined up for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun posted this note on the apple tray: "Take one, God is watching".

Near the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child posted this note on the cookie tray: "Take all you want, God is watching the apples!"

Elizabeth Scalia. OSV, 9-25-2011

St. Bernard to a farmer: Now let me make a bargain with you. If you can say the Our Father without one distraction, I'll give you this mule I'm riding. But if you don't succeed, you must come with me and be a monk." The farmer agreed and began praying aloud confidently, "Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name . . ." Then, after pausing for a moment, he asked St. Bernard, "Does that include the saddle and the bridle, too?"

Fr. Joseph M. Esper, Are You Distracted During Prayer? 03-13-2014, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

A young couple came into the office of a pastor for pre-nuptial counseling. The young man was visibly nervous. When the pastor asked, "Are you entering this marriage of your own free will?" there was a long pause. Finally, his fiancée looked at her sweetheart and said, "Put down yes."

THE LIGHT SIDE

6 - 9 & 10 - + Lines

The pastor of a small church was on his way home when he met an acquaintance from town who was not a member of his church. After chatting for a while the man asked how many members he had. The pastor responded, "Fifty active members." The friend said, "My that speaks well of you." But the pastor responded, "Well I wouldn't say that. All fifty are active, but 25 are actively working for me, the other 25 are actively working against me."

John was on his deathbed and gasped pitifully to his wife, "Grant me one last request, dear."

"Of course John," his wife said softly. "Six months after I die," he said, "I want you to marry Bob."

"But I thought you hated Bob," she said. With his last breath, John said, "I do."

Job Specs

A salesman dropped in to see a business customer. Not a soul was in the office except a big dog emptying wastebaskets. The salesman stared at the animal wondering if his imagination was playing tricks on him.

The dog looked up and said, "Don't be surprised. This is just part of my job."

"Incredible!" exclaimed the man. "I can't believe it, Does your boss know that you can talk?"

"No, no" pleaded the dog. "Please don't tell him! If he finds out I can talk, he'll also make me answer the phone."

Fix It While Running

The mechanic was removing the cylinder head from a motorcycle when he noted a well known heart surgeon in his shop. He was there to ask the service manager to look at his bike.

The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey doc, can I ask you a question?"

The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So doc, look at this engine, I open its heart, take valves out, fix them, put them back in and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I get a small salary and you get the really big bucks, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over and whispered to the mechanic ... "try doing it with the engine running!"

The Painter

The Deacon in a rural community supplemented his income by painting barns. After estimating his latest job and purchasing the paint he got to work. As the job progressed he realized he needed more paint. Instead of going into town to purchase more he thinned what remained. Near the end of the job he thinned again.

As he finished his paint job a sudden heavy rain fell washing away most of the paint. The rain ended as suddenly as it started and the sun with a rainbow appeared. As he looked upon his ruined work he heard a voice say: "thin no more."

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Mother's Day Gifts

A hard working Mom raised three very successful sons. Just before Mother's Day, they decided to treat her with some special gifts. So on Mother's Day, the first son gave her a 20 room mansion. The second son gave her a limo complete with a chauffeur for one year. The third son gave her a parrot that spoke in 10 languages.

After some time the sons decided to see how Mom liked her gifts. She sighed as she spoke to her first son, "I had to give up the mansion, the 20 rooms were too much work to clean." To the second son she said, "the limo was great but I had to let the chauffeur go -- he talked too much and almost drove me out of my mind." She brightened up as she spoke to her third son, "the chicken was absolutely de—licious.

Florida Vacation

A man and his wife were driving their recreational vehicle across Florida and were nearing a town spelled Kissimmee. They noted the strange spelling and had to figure out how to pronounce it -- KISS-a-me, kiss-A-me, kiss-a-ME.

They grew more perplexed as they drove into town. Being hungry, they pulled into a place to eat. At the counter, the man said to the waitress, "My wife and I couldn't seem to figure out how to pronounce the name of this place. Will you tell me where we are and say it slowly so I can understand."

The waitress looked at him and said, "Buuuurrrgerr Kiiinnng."

Operations

Two little boys were in beds in the same room at the hospital. The first one leans over and asks, "What are you in here for?"

The second boy said, "I'm here to get my tonsils out and I'm a little nervous."

The first boy says, "You got nothing to worry about; I had that done to me once. They put you to sleep and when you wake up, they give you lots of Jell-O and ice cream. It's a piece of cake."

Then the second one asks, "What are you in here for?", to which the #1 responds, "Well I'm in here for a circumcision."

The second boy says, "Wow! I had that done when I was born and I couldn't walk for a year."

If you can:

- start the day without caffeine,
- be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
- resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
- eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it..
- overlook when people take things out on you when through no fault of yours something goes wrong,
- take criticism without resentment,
- face the world without lies and deceit,
- relax without liquor,
- sleep without the aid of drugs,
- do all of these things, then you are probably the family dog.

Weather Prediction

The Cree people asked their Chief in the autumn if the winter was going to be cold or not. Not really knowing the answer, the Cree Chief replied, "It is going to be cold and to collect wood and be prepared."

Being a good leader, and with a nagging doubt, he went to the nearest phone booth and called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is this winter going to be cold?"

The person on the phone responded, "This winter going to be quite cold indeed."

With the information received, the Chief told his people to collect even more wood and be prepared. However, a short time later the nagging doubt returned and again he called the National Weather Service.

Again the Chief was told, "It's going to be a very cold winter.

Satisfied, the Chief went back to his people with orders to collect every scrap of wood they could find. However, after a few weeks doubt returned and again he called the National Weather Service with the same question.

The Weather Service gave him this reply, "Absolutely it's going to be cold; the Cree are collecting wood like crazy."

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Planting A Garden For Daily Living:

Plant three rows of Peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of spirit

Plant 4 rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant 4 rows of Lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

We need some Turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

Garden is Complete with Tyme:

1. Tyme for each other
2. Tyme for family.
3. Tyme for friends

Water this garden freely with patience and cultivate with love. Your garden will overflow because you reap what you sow.

A Day in Heaven

Mother Teresa arrives in heaven. "Be thou hungry?" God asks. Mother Theresa nods.

He serves them each a humble tuna sandwich on rye bread. Meanwhile, the sainted woman looks down to see the gluttons in hell devouring steaks, lobsters and wine.

The next day God invites her to join him for another meal. Again, it's tuna on rye. Again, she sees the denizens of hell feasting.

The following day, as another can of tuna is opened, Mother Theresa meekly says to God, "I am grateful to be here with you as a reward for the pious life I led. But I don't get it: all we eat is tuna and bread, while in the other place they eat like kings."

"Lets be honest," God says with a sigh, "for just two people, does it pay to cook?"

Some Whys

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

Why do women wear evening gowns to nightclubs? Shouldn't they be wearing nightgowns?

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

When someone asks you, "A penny for your thoughts," and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny.

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? It's just stale bread to begin with.

Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car is not called a racist?

Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?

God vs Science

A group of scientists decided that humankind had come a long way on its own and no longer needed God. So they elected one scientist to go and tell God they were through with him.

The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we don't need you anymore. We've reached the point where we can cure just about every disease. We have the technology to both destroy creation and rebuild it -- even making it better. We can travel across the heavens. We can even clone people. So, God, we really don't need you anymore and, frankly, we wish you would just go away."

God listened very patiently to the scientist. When he had finished, God said: "I see. Before I go, what do you say we have a contest -- whichever one of us makes the best human being, wins. If I win I stay put, If you win, I'll leave all alone, no hard feelings."

The scientist said, "Alright God you're on."

God then added, "Now we're going to do this just like I did it in the old days with Adam." We both start with simple dirt."

The scientist said, "Sure no problem," and then bent down and grabbed a handful of dirt.

But God stopped, "No, no, no. You have to get your own dirt."

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Birthday Gift

A rich man was trying to find his daughter a birthday gift when he saw a poor man with a beautiful white horse. He offered the man \$500 for the horse. The poor man replied, "I don't know mister, it don't look so good," and walked away.

The next day the rich man came back and offered the poor man \$1,000 for the horse. Again the poor man said, "I don't know mister, it don't look so good."

On the third day the rich man offered the poor man \$2,000 for the horse and said he wouldn't take no for an answer. The poor man said O.K. and the rich man took the horse home.

The rich man's daughter loved the present. She mounted the horse and galloped right into a tree. The rich man rushed back to the poor man's house demanding an explanation for the blind horse. The poor man replied, "I told you it don't look so good."

Penguin Care

A police officer sees a man with a pickup truck full of penguins. He pulls the guy over and says: "Those penguins belong in the zoo!"

The guy says OK and drives away. The next day the officer sees him driving around again with his truck full of penguins -- and they're all wearing sun glasses. He pulls the guy over again and demands: "I thought I told you to take these penguins to the zoo yesterday?"

The guy replies: "I did. Today I'm taking them to the beach!"

Help

The Baltimore Police Department, famous for its K-9 unit, was somewhat taken aback recently by this incident. A woman returning home from work was shocked to find her home ransacked. She immediately called the police.

The police dispatcher broadcast on all channels and a K-9 unit patrolling nearby was the first to respond. The K-9 officer approached the home with his dog on a tight leash.

The woman ran out on the porch, shuddered at the sight of the cop and his dog. She then sat down on the steps, put her face in her hands and moaned, "I come home to find all my possessions stolen. I call the police for help and what do they do? They send me a BLIND policeman!"

Heavens Gate

After a long illness, a woman died and arrived at the gates of Heaven. While she was waiting for Saint Peter to greet her, she peeked through the gates. She saw a beautiful banquet table. Sitting around the table were all the people she had loved and gone before her -- her parents, friends and others. They saw her and began to call greetings to her and saying we've been waiting for you.

When Saint Peter came by, the woman said to him, "This is such a wonderful place! How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word," Saint Peter told her.

"Which word?" the woman asked.

"Grace". The woman correctly spelled "GRACE" and Saint Peter welcomed her into Heaven.

Some time later, Saint Peter came to the woman and asked her to watch the Gates of Heaven for him that day. While she was guarding the Gates her husband arrived. "I'm surprised to see you", the woman said, "How have you been?"

"Oh I've been doing pretty well since you died," her husband said. "I married the beautiful young nurse who took care of you while you were ill. And then I won the lottery, sold our old home and bought a mansion. I traveled all around the world with my new wife. Today I went water skiing, fell, hit my head on the ski and here I am. So how do I get into this place?"

"You have to spell a word," the woman replied.

"Which word?", her former husband asked?

"Czechoslovakia," the woman answered.

Eulogy

Three friends died and went to Heaven. Saint Peter asked each of them the same question, "At your funeral, with all of your family and friends mourning over you, what would you like to hear them say?"

The first man a pastor said, "I would like to hear them say that I was a good family man and a great preacher."

The second friend a school teacher said, "I would like to hear them say I was a good wife and mother who had a great influence on my students."

The third friend paused and then finally said, "I would like to hear them say, look he's moving!"

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Improvement

A husband and wife met with a marriage counselor about their irrevocable differences. The husband explained, "ever since our marriage, my wife has set out to change me. She convinced me to stop smoking, drinking, and staying out all night at parties. She got me to dress well, enjoy the art, fine dining, classical music, ballet. She even taught me to save money and to invest my savings."

The counselor considered all these changes and then suggested, "It sounds like you may be experiencing latent bitterness toward your wife for so many behavioral changes."

The husband disagreed with the counselor. "Oh no, not at all. I like the changes, It's just that I have improved in so many ways that now I think I am too good for this plain woman."

Logic

A college student was in a logic class where the professor offered the following logic about the existence of God. "Has anyone in this class heard God?" No one spoke. "Has anyone in this class touched God?" Again, no one spoke. "Has anyone in this class seen God?" Again, for the third time no one spoke. The professor concluded, "Then there is no God."

One of the students asked to speak and permission was granted. The student then proceeded with his logic.

"Has anyone in this class heard our professor's brain?" Silence. "has anyone in this class touched our professor's brain?" Continued silence. "Has anyone in this class seen our professor's brain?" When no one spoke, the student concluded. "Then according to our professor's logic, it must be true that he has no brain."

The Fall

An usher of a posh theater noticed a man sprawled across three seats. "Sorry sir," he said, "but you're only allowed one seat." The man groaned but didn't budge. The usher promptly called the manager with the same results. Next, together they tried to move him, but were unable.

Before calling the police, the manager asked the man, "what's your name?" "Sam" came the reply. Okay Sam, "where do you come from? In a painful voice Sam replied, "the balcony."

Flying Home

A woman was waiting impatiently in the checkout line. Her arms held a broom and other cleaning supplies. It was obvious she was in a hurry and not happy with the slowness of the line.

When the cashier called for a price check on an item, the woman remarked indignantly, "Well I'll be lucky to get out of here before Christmas!"

Don't worry ma'am, replied the clerk. "With a good tail wind and that brand new broom you have there, you'll be home in no time."

Family Birth's

A fourth grader was at his desk composing a report on anatomy for his class. At loss for an appropriate introduction, he laid his pen down and sought out his mother who was in the kitchen preparing supper. Without warning, he asked. "Mother how was I born?"

Mother of course knew that this question about human reproduction was inevitable, but she was not prepared to deal with it while cooking dinner. So she put him off with the old tale, "The stork brought you." The boy nodded and moved to the living room where his grandmother was knitting.

Again without warning he asked, "Grandma how was my mother born?" Not wanting to create waves she said, "The stork brought your mother."

"And you Grandma?" "The same she replied." He thanked her and returned to his desk and wrote, "According to my research, there hasn't been a normal birth in our family for three generations."

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

They Never Die ...

Old owls never die, they just give a hoot.
Old milkmaids never die, they just lose their whey.
Old musicians never die, they just get played out.
Old photographers never die, they just stop developing.
Old pilots never die, they just go to a higher plane.
Old policeman never die, they just cop out. Old
quarterbacks never die, they just pass away.

Terminology.

A priest friend and neighbor, recently hired a new secretary who was not a Catholic and had little knowledge of Catholic terminology. The priest asked his new secretary to place the following announcement in the parish bulletin:

The K of C, Knights of Columbus Mass on Memorial Day will be celebrated at 10:30 AM at the local Catholic cemetery. In the event of rain, the Mass will be held at the K of C.

When the parish bulletin was published it read, "In the event of rain, the KC Memorial Mass will be held at the KFC, Kentucky Fried Chicken.

The Race

Two gas servicemen, a senior supervisor and a young trainee were out checking meters in a neighborhood. They parked their truck at one end of the alley and worked their way to the other end. As they worked, their actions were closely observed by an older woman in one of the houses.

Finishing their meter checks, the supervisor challenged his younger coworker to a foot race to the truck.

As they ran toward the truck, they realized that the older woman was huffing and puffing behind them. They stopped and asked what was wrong. Her reply was "When I see two gas men running I figure I'd better run too."

Apartment Search

An Irish Catholic couple had trouble finding an apartment after moving to America. Some of the apartments were large enough but the managers objected to the large family.

After several days of unsuccessful searching, the husband asked his wife to take the four younger children to visit a cemetery. He took the older three children with him to find an apartment.

After a few hours they found an apartment that was just right. The apartment supervisor finally asked the usual question; "How many children do you have?" The husband hung his head sadly and replied, "I have seven children, but four of them are with their dear mother in the cemetery."

He got the apartment.

Sign on/in:

Plumbers truck -- We repair what your husband fixed.

Plumbing company trucks -- Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.

Tire shop -- Call us to your next blowout.

Towing Company -- We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows.

Optometrist's office -- If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

Podiatrists office -- Time wounds all heels.

Auto dealership -- The best way to get back on your feet, miss a car payment.

Muffler shop -- No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.

Veterinarian's waiting room -- Be back in five minutes. Sit! Stay!

Restaurant window -- Don't stand there and be hungry. Come in and get fed up.

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Haircuts

The local barber gave a haircut to the parish priest. The priest tried to pay for the haircut, but the barber refused saying, "I can't accept your money; you are a good man, and you do God's work."

The next day the barber arrived to find a dozen Bibles at his shop door.

A policeman came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused payment saying, "I can't accept money from you; you are a good man, and you protect the public."

The next day, the barber arrived at his shop to find a dozen doughnuts at his shop door.

A lawyer came to get a haircut, and once again the barber refused payment saying, "You are a good man and you serve the justice system."

The next day, the barber arrived at his shop and found a dozen more lawyers waiting to get a haircut.

Man of Virtue

A man was approached by a homeless man on the street who asked for two dollars.

"Are you going to use this to buy booze?" the man asked.

The homeless guy said, "No I'm not"

"Are you going to use it for gambling?"

The homeless guy shook his head and said "NO."

"Are you going to use it to make golfing bets?"

The homeless guy said, "I don't golf."

The man is elated and asks the homeless man to come home with him. He then explains, "My wife needs to see what happens to a man who doesn't drink, gamble, or play golf."

Last Examination

Three nurses died and went to heaven where they met by St. Peter. To the first he asked, "So what did you do on earth?"

"I was a nurse at an inner city hospital," she replied. "I worked among the poor to bring healing and peace."

"Very noble," St. Peter replied. Please enter.

To the second he asked the same question.

The nurse replied, "I worked in a missionary hospital in the Amazon Basin" "For many years I worked with a skeleton crew of doctors and nurses as we tried to reach out with healing and peace to the tribes of that region."

"Very noble," St Peter replied. Please enter.

Again, he asked the same question of the third nurse.

She replied, "I was just a nurse at an HPO.

St. Peter pondered a moment and said, "Okay you can enter."

"Whew," the nurse exclaimed. "For a moment there I thought you weren't going to let me in."

"Oh, you can come in, but you can only stay three days," St. Peter said.

Important

An airplane with five passengers developed problems and was in danger of crashing. However, there were only four parachutes available. The passengers consisted of a CEO of a large company, a well known NBA basketball player, a brilliant woman professor, Boyscout and an old frail priest.

The CEO said, "Many people depend on me." He took the first parachute and jumped.

The NBA basketball player said, "I'm too valuable to my team and the public needs me." He took the second parachute and jumped.

The brilliant woman professor said, "I have too much to offer my students and society." She took the third parachute and jumped.

The old priest said to the Boyscout, "I'm old and you have your full life ahead." Take the last parachute. The Boyscout replied, "It's O.K., there's a parachute for each of us. The brilliant woman took my backpack."

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Three Beers

An Irishman moves into a small hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers. The bartender raises his eyebrows as he serves the man who quietly downs the beers alone.

After finishing the three beers, the man orders three more. Again, after finishing the third beer, he orders three more. The next evening, the same procedure is repeated again. Soon the whole town is talking about the "man who orders three beers."

Everyone in town was wondering why he ordered three beers. Finally the bartender asked our man why. "Well," he answered, "I have two more brothers. It's our way of staying in touch, one for each of us. You see, one brother went to America and the other went to Australia."

Some time later "three beers" comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender is downcast as he offers his condolences for himself and the town. "No, no" says three beers, "we are all fine." "It's just that I meself decided to give up drinking for Lent."

A Catholic Glossary

Ushers: The only people in church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

Procession: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass. It consists of altar servers, deacons, the priest and late parishioners looking for seats.

Choir: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the parishioners to lip-sync.

Incense: Holy smoke.

Pew: A medieval, torture type seating plank.

Relic: Long-time faithful churchgoers who actually know when to sit, kneel and stand.

Bulletin: Parish information read by some parishioners during the homily.

Amen: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

Recessional: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass, usually led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot

Women Drivers

Driving to the office this morning on the interstate, I looked over on my left and there was a woman in a brand new Mustang doing 65 mph. Her face was next up to her rear view mirror, putting on her eyeliner! I looked away for a few seconds and found she was halfway over in my lane, still putting on her makeup!

I'm a man, but it scared me so bad, I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the doughnut out of my other hand. In all the confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my cell phone away from my ear, which fell into the coffee between my legs, splashed and scalded me, ruined the phone, put out my cigarette, and disconnected an important call! Darn women drivers.

Forgetful

Three sisters ages 92, 94 and 96 lived together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells down the stairs, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?" The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses. Then she yells, "Was I going up the stairs or down?" The 92 year old was sitting at the table having tea, listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." She knocks on wood for good measure. She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

Honesty

The mother of President Jimmy Carter was known for her wisdom, wit and impeccable character. A reporter from one of the networks once came for an interview and became rather persistent. However, Ms Carter (Miss Lillian) was more than a match for his questioning. Finally in desperation he commented, "Surely Miss Lillian, you must have told some little white lies along the way.

"Yes I have," she replied.

"For example."

"Like when you came for the interview and I said I was glad to see you," she replied."

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

This House

A woman who sold real estate was spending the morning cleaning and taking care of things around her own house. As she worked she became aware of the sad shape her house was in -- too little closet space, sticking doors, peeling paint, floors in need of repair, etc. After the knob of a stuck door came off in her hand she had enough. "I'm sick and tired of this house! I want to move," she told her husband

Her husband asked, "How would you describe our home if you were writing one of your real estate ads?"

She thought a moment and said, "Charming little antique bungalow on a family street ... compact easy-care backyard, dry cellar, cozy kitchen ... close to schools, shops and transportation ... a bargain in today's market."

"Feel better?" her husband asked.

"Yeah I do," she admitted.

Confidence

A school teacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fit under his shirt and was hardly noticeable.

On the first day of the term, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in school. Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, he opened the window as wide as possible and then busied himself with desk work.

When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he took the desk stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Discipline was not a problem from that day forth!

Off Key

A man in a church choir was always off-key, he just couldn't sing. The other members of the choir hinted that he should try to serve in some other capacity, but nothing worked. Finally, the choir director went to the pastor and pleaded with him to get the man out of the choir.

Reluctantly, the pastor spoke to the man and suggested he quit the choir. "Why should I quit the choir," the man asked? The pastor replied, "Five or six people told me you can't sing." "That's nothing," the man snorted. "Fifty, or more people told me you can't preach."

Name

The lives of two boys, Timothy Murphy - Irish, and Antonio Secola, Italian, were in many ways mirror images. Both entered the priesthood and rose up through the ranks to become Cardinals. Both were brilliant; however, most acknowledged that Antonio was a cut above Tim in all respects.

When time came to select a new Pope, either Tim or Antonio was expected to be named. After a short election, Tim was named Pope.

Antonio was devastated. He asked for a private session with the Cardinals in which he asked, why Timothy?

After a long silence, an elderly Cardinal explained. We knew you were better qualified; however, we could not stand the thought of the leader of the Catholic Church being called "Pope Secola."

Praise the Lord

An elderly lady was known for her faith and boldness. Daily, she would stand on her front porch and shout, "Praise the Lord."

Her next door neighbor was an atheist who would retort, "There ain't no Lord."

When hard times set in on the old lady she shouted from her porch, "Praise the Lord and send me some groceries."

The next morning as she noted a large bag of groceries on her porch., she shouted, "Praise the Lord for answering my prayers." Her neighbor jumped out and said, "I told you there was no Lord, I bought those groceries."

The old lady then jumped up and down, clapped her hands and said, "Praise the Lord!" "He not only sent me groceries but made the Devil pay for them."

Inner Peace

Someone wrote an article that said if you want to have inner peace finish things you have started. Since following this advice, a feeling of inner peace has enveloped me. Because of my caring nature, this wisdom is being passed along to you.

Here are the things I finished today: two bags of potato chips, a cheesecake, a package of Oreos, a bottle of wine and a small box of chocolates. I believe this really works because I feel better already!

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Family History

The story is told of a rich American family who decided that their family history should be written. One problem was that Uncle Charlie had been executed in the electric chair. When this difficulty was explained to the historian, he replied that he could cope with this. So he wrote:

"Uncle Charlie was quite well known to the public as he held a Chair in applied electronics. Through his activities, he was closely attached to the post and his sudden death came as quite a shock."

Words can weave spells, distort perceptions, remove the grit from the oyster, sentimentalize and therefore diminish fundamental institutions.

Cardinal Pell – cited by Edward Pentin, No Parent Should Fail to Pass on Christ's Core Teachings, Reprint permission by www.ncregister.com

The Scan

A man brought a limp dog into a veterinary clinic. Doc Buck examined the dog and pronounced him dead.

"What," screamed the man. "How can you tell? You haven't thoroughly tested him I want another opinion!"

With that Doc left the room and returned with a Labrador Retriever. The Retriever sniffed the dog lying on the table, then sadly shook his head and walked out. Next, Doc brought in a cat who walked around the dead dog, shook his head, meowed sadly and walked out of the room.

The vet said, "There's nothing more I can do" and handed the man a bill for \$600! The man screamed, "This is outrageous!" "Well," the Doc explained, "If you had taken my word for it, the charge would have been \$50, but with the Lab work and the cat scan ..."

The Revelation

A seminary professor was admired by his students because of his spiritual vitality and clarity. One day a student who was plagued with anxiety said, "You always seem so secure and at peace, how do you do it?"

The professor said, "I pray, read the bible, go to church, and let God speak to me.". Occasionally, I walk in the rain, throw my head back, and as I let the raindrops fall on my face I'll get a revelation.

Sometime later, the student and professor met again. The student said, "I tried to follow your example. I took a long walk in the rain, let the raindrops fall on my face and I didn't get a revelation; I just felt like a fool."

The professor replied, "What more of a revelation do you want the first time?"

Cured?

The director of a mental hospital received word that a patient saved another from a suicide attempt by pulling him out of a bathtub. After reviewing the rescuer's file, the director called him into his office.

The director said, "Mr. James, your records and heroic behavior indicate that you're ready to go home. I'm only sorry that the man you saved later killed himself by hanging with a rope."

"Oh, he didn't kill himself," Mr. James replied. "I hung him out to dry."

Smiling is infectious. You catch it like the flu. When some one smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner, and someone saw me grin. When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile, then realized its worth. A single smile just like mine, could travel the whole earth.

So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected. Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the whole world infected!

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Checked In

A man from a snowy Northern city left for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and planned to meet him there.

When he reached his hotel he decided to e-mail his wife. However, he lost her e-mail address and did his best to enter it from memory. Unfortunately, he missed a letter and his note was directed to the recent widow of a deacon.

When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she let out a scream and fainted. When her family rushed into her room they saw this note on the screen:

DEAREST WIFE: JUST CHECKED IN.
EVERYTHING READY FOR YOUR ARRIVAL
TOMORROW. WOW, IT SURE IS HOT HERE.

Unknown

A middle aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to a hospital. She has a near-death experience while on the operating table and asks God if this is the end? God says no, she has another 30 years to live.

Upon hear recovery, she decides to stay in the hospital and have a face lift, liposuction, breast augmentation, tummy tuck, etc. She even changes her hair coloring, figuring she has another 30 years to live.

After her last operation, she walks out of the hospital and is killed by an ambulance. She arrives in front of God and complains, "I thought I had another 30 years to live. God replies, "Sorry, I didn't recognize you."

Lent

An elderly aunt visited her family during Lent. She was a devoted Christian who liked to read mystery novels. Her family made sure her room had a supply of these books.

Toward the end of the Aunt's stay, her family noticed she hadn't read a single book.

"What's the matter," asked her nephew, "don't you like our selection of books?"

"Oh no, it's not that," she replied. "It's just that I've given up murder for Lent."

Walk Through The Woods

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods admiring nature. As he was walking along a river he heard a rustle behind him. He turned around to see a huge bear charging toward him.

He immediately started to run as fast as he could. Glancing over his shoulder he saw the bear closing in on him. Frantically, he tried to run even faster. but instead tripped over a large log.

As he looked up the bears paw was coming down on him. Panicked, he said, "Oh my God." Just then, a bright light came out of the sky and the bear froze in position. A voice came out of the light saying, "You deny my existence all these years, teach others I don't exist, and even credit my creation to a cosmic accident. Now do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist ever proud, looked into the light and said, "It would be hypocritical to ask to be a Christian after all these years, but could you make the bear a Christian?"

Very well said the voice as the light went out. Peace returned to the forest as the sounds of the river were again heard. The bear put his paw down, brought both paws together, bowed his head and said, "Lord I thank you for this food which I am about to receive."

Family Tradition

Fred was told about an amazing family tradition from his grandmother. It seems that his father, grandfather, and great grandfather had been able to walk across the lake to the boat club for their first legal drink on their 21st birthday.

When the great day arrived, Fred had his friend Brian row to the middle of the lake where he stepped out onto the water and almost drowned. After Brian pulled him out and rowed to shore, an angry and confused Fred confronted his grandmother. "So why couldn't I walk across the lake," he asked.

Granny looked into Fred's eyes and said, "Because your father, grandfather and great grandfather were all born in January, You were born in August."

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Bible Question

A religious lady had a fear of flying. To calm her nerves she read her Bible whenever she got on a plane.

On one of her trips, a man sitting next to her snickered and said, "You don't really believe all that stuff in there do you?"

The lady replied, "Of course I do, It is the Bible."

Her flying companion said, "Well, what about the guy swallowed by the whale?"

The lady replied, "Oh Jonah. I believe that."

"Explain how he could have survived all that time in the whale," her companion asked?

The lady replied, "When I get to heaven, I will ask him."

What if he isn't in heaven?" the man asked sarcastically?"

"Then you ask him," replied the lady.

Truck Driver

A man came limping into work. One of his co-workers asked, "What happened?"

The man answered, "It's nothing, just a hockey injury."

The surprised co-worker said, "I never knew you played hockey."

"I don't," the limping man replied. I put my foot through the TV set when my team lost and I lost a \$100 dollar bet!

A trucker was sitting at a lunch counter eating his eggs and hash browns when some bikers walked in. One walked up and put his finger in man's coffee and said, "That's not very hot is it?" Another put his finger in the scrambled eggs and said, "Not very fluffy either, huh?"

After a few moments of silence, the trucker stood up, paid his bill and walked out. "Not much of a man, was he?", said the biker to the waitress.

"You're right about that," she replied. "And he's also not much of a driver. He just ran over a bunch of motorcycles."

Funny:

How hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible but how easy it is to read 100 pages of the best selling novel.

How hard it is to learn a simple Gospel, but how easy it is to understand and repeat gossip.

How we believe what the newspaper says, but how we question the Bible.

How everyone wants to go to heaven as long as we don't have to believe, say, or think about anything religious.

Quotes From Actual Performance Evaluations:

- His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity.
- Since my last report, this employee has reached rock bottom and started to dig.
- This associate is not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't be.
- Works well under constant supervision and when cornered like a rat.
- When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
- He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
- This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts the better.

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Therapy

Bobby, a bright, happy little boy started kindergarten when his parents noticed something disturbing. Everyday Bobby brought back pictures colored only in black and brown.

Sensing something was wrong but not wanting to upset Bobby, the parents scheduled an appointment with a therapist.

At their first meeting Bobby told his therapist how much he liked to draw and give his drawings to his parents. However, nothing changed, the drawings continued in drab black and brown colors.

After a battery of psychological tests that revealed nothing, they decided to try something new. He setup a small table in his office with a big box of crayons with 96 brilliant colors. When Bobby came in, he asked if he could draw. "Sure Bobby," the therapist replied. Bobby sat down and started drawing in a wide range of bright colors.

Sensing an emotional breakthrough, the therapist asked, "What is different between these crayons and those you have at school?" Bobby responded, "We only have black and brown crayons at school."

Lessons Learned from Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember we're all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
6. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
7. When you're stressed, float awhile.
8. Remember the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
9. No matter the storm, when you're with God, there's always a rainbow waiting

Cross Exam

A defending attorney was cross-examining a coroner. The attorney asked, "Before you signed the death certificate, did you take the man's pulse?"

"No" the coroner replied.

"Did you listen for a heartbeat?" asked the attorney. "No."

"Did you check for signs of breathing?"

"No."

"So when you signed the death certificate, you had not taken any steps to make sure he was dead, had you?"

The weary coroner said, "Well, let me put it this way: The man's brain was in a jar on my desk, but for all I know, he could be out practicing law somewhere.

Law and Order

What are you going to do about crime?" New York mayoral candidate Ed Koch was asked at a senior citizens' center in the Bronx during his first campaign to run the Big Apple. "Ladies and gentlemen," Koch responded, "did you know that a judge was mugged last week? He called a press conference and said, 'This mugging will in no way affect my judgment in matters of this kind.'" At which point an elderly lady stood up in the back of the room and shouted, "Then mug him again!"

George Weigel, Zingers, Previously Unused, 08-07-2013, Reprint permission by www.catholicexchange.com

Memory

Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, was reputed to never hold grudges -- quite an accomplishment for any leader who has to be competitive to advance in her organization. This was especially true for a woman during that era.

Barton proved she deserved her fame one day when she and a friend were discussing a mutual friend -- a blustery, ill mannered doctor. The friend reminded her that this doctor had said mean spirited things about her and tried to damage her reputation.

"Don't you remember how mean he was to you?", the friend asked Clara.

"No," replied Clara., "I distinctly remember forgetting that."

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Murphy's Household Laws:

- A child's eagerness to assist in any project varies in inverse proportion to his/her ability to actually do the work involved.
- Leftovers always expand to fill all available containers plus one.
- The availability of a ballpoint pen is inversely proportional to how badly it is needed.
- A newly washed window gathers dirt at twice the speed of an unwashed one.
- The same clutter that will fill a one car garage will fill a two car one.
- The number of doors left open varies inversely with the outside temperature.
- Three children plus two cookies equals a fight.

Riddles

Old Mr. Horowitz is crossing the street when he is hit by a car. A priest happens to be passing by and sees him lying in the street, clearly near death. So he cushions the old man's head and tries to make him comfortable, and then starts to tend to his soul. He whispers into his ear, "Do you believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Three Divine Persons in One Substance, and in the Holy Catholic Church?"

Horowitz moans, "I'm DYING, and he's asking me RIDDLES!"

Simcha Fisher, OSV, 9-25-2011

Better Grade

At a university in New England, the students operated a "bank" of term papers and other assignments. There were papers to suit all needs. Since it would look odd if a mediocre student suddenly turned in a brilliant essay, there were papers for A, B, and C grades.

A student who spent his weekend on pursuits other than studying, went to the "bank" for a paper. He selected a paper for an inconspicuous C, retyped it and handed the work in.

In due course he received it back with the professor's comments: "I wrote this paper myself 20 years ago. I always thought it should have received an A, and now I am glad to give it one!"

Hints, Bad Day Ahead

- You see a "60 Minutes" news team waiting in your office.
- Your Birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.
- You want to put on the clothes you wore to the party, but find there aren't any.
- Your twin brother forgot your birthday.
- You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes from the city.
- Your car horn accidentally goes off and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hells Angels along a deserted highway.
- You discover your waterbed has sprung a leak, then realize you don't have a waterbed.

The Customer

The manager of a well known department store heard a clerk say to a wealthy customer: "No we haven't had some for some time, and we don't expect to get any soon."

Rushing to the scene, the manager assured the customer, "We'll send out and get some immediately."

Turning to the clerk he snapped, "Don't ever say we are out of anything, Say we will get some."

"But, we were talking about the rain," the clerk replied.

Psychology

As the college student rang the doorbell and delivered the pizza, the man who answered growled, "What's the usual tip?"

"Well sir," the student replied, "this is my first delivery, but the other guys said that if I got a quarter out of you, I'd be doing great."

"That's so," grunted the man, "Well, in that case, here's five bucks."

"Thank you sir," the grateful student said, taking the bill. "this will be a big help at school."

"By the way what are you studying?"

"Applied psychology."

THE LIGHT SIDE

10 - + Lines

Comeback Line

Defense Attorney cross-examining a police officer during a felony trial:

Q. Officer, did you see my client fleeing the scene?

A. No sir, but I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender running several blocks away.

Q. Officer, who provided this description?

A. The officer who first responded to the scene.

Q. A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender? Do you trust your fellow officers?

A. Yes sir, with my life.

Q. With your life? Let me ask you this officer -- do you have a locker room in the police station -- a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?

A. Yes sir, we do.

Q. And do you have a locker in that room?

A. Yes sir, I do.

Q. And do you have a lock on your locker?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Now why is it officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, that you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room that you share with those same officers?

A. Well you see sir, we share the building with a court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room.

With that, the courtroom erupted in laughter and a recess was called. The officer on the stand was nominated for the year's "best comeback line!"

Get It

"I'd really like to have a diamond to go with my new gown we bought for the faculty dinner," said the professor's extravagant wife. "Do you suppose you could get me one for our anniversary that falls on the same day?"

"My dear," the professor replied patiently, "inexplicable circumstances, perforce, preclude the eventuality of my endowing you with such an estimable bauble."

"I don't get it!" she said.

"Precisely," he said.

Things You Should Know

1. If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out
2. Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.
3. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing next to a car make you a car.
4. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
5. If you must pick between two evils, pick the one you've never picked before.
6. When doing housework, sweep the floor with a glance.
7. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
8. It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
9. For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
10. If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
11. Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
12. Conscience sometimes hurts when your other parts feel good.
13. Eat well, stay fit, die anyway.
14. No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

Rock Climbers

Harry and George were two professors at a small New England college. Harry taught Engineering and George taught English. The only thing they had in common was a passion for rock climbing which they faithfully did each Sunday. One of the strains in their friendship was George's habit of correcting Harry's fractured English.

One Sunday Harry was in the lead as they worked their way up the face of the rock cliff. As Harry neared the top, he pounded a spike into the face of the rock and pulled to check if it was secure. However, the rock fractured sending Harry flying into space.

As he passed his partner he yelled, "George we're done for." An indignant George shouted back, "Harry, for heavens sake don't end your last sentence with a preposition."

Church Signs ...

1. Church Parking -- for Members Only! Trespassers Will Be Baptized.
2. No God -- No Peace; Know God -- Know Peace.
3. Free Trip To Heaven -- Details Inside!
4. Try Our Sundays ... They are better than Baskin Robbins.
5. A picture of two hands holding stone tablets of the Ten Commandments with a caption that reads: "FOR FAST RELIEF TAKE TWO TABLETS."
6. People are like tea bags -- You have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.
7. Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush.
8. Fight truth decay -- study the Bible daily.
9. How will you spend eternity -- smoking or non-smoking?
10. Dusty Bibles lead to dirty lives.
11. Come and work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But, the retirement benefits are out of this world.
12. It is unlikely there will be a reduction in the wages of sin.
13. If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.
14. If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.
15. Looking at the way some people live, they ought to obtain eternal fire insurance soon.
16. A ch--ch is a church when UR in it.
17. In the dark? Follow the Son.
18. Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.
User Note; Use as singles, in groups, or all 18.

Good Questions

- If quitters never win and winners never quit, what goober came up with "Quit while you're ahead?"
- What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?
- If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
- Did you know that stressed spelled backwards is desserts?
- If you can't be kind, at least be vague.
- Ever wonder what the speed of lighting would be if it didn't zigzag?
- It's hard to make a comeback if you haven't been anywhere.

Thou Shalt ...

1. Thou shalt not worry, it is unproductive.
2. Thou shalt not be fearful, most fears never happen.
3. Thou shalt face each problem as it comes.
4. Thou shalt not cross bridges before you get to them.
5. Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you.
6. Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems.
7. Thou shalt not relive yesterday, it's gone.
8. Thou shalt not be bogged down by frustration.
9. Thou shalt be a good listener.
10. Thou shalt count thy blessings.

S-6, THE LIGHT SIDE, Reflections

10 - + Lines

Praying Today in School

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule.
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.
If scripture now the class recited,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a federal matter now.
Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; its freedom seen,
The law is specific, the law is precise,
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.
For praying in a public hall,
Might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must mediate,
God's name is prohibited by the state.
We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible
To quote the Good Book makes me liable,
We can get all types of birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles,
But, the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.
It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So Lord, this silent plea I make,
Should I be shot, my soul please take! Amen.

My Perception

In matters controversial
My perception's very fine;
I always see both sides of things,
The one that's wrong and mine.

Descent of Man

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree,
Discussing things as they're said to be.
Said one to the others, "Now listen, you two,
There's a rumor going around that can't be true:
That man descended from our noble race!
The very idea is a disgrace!
First off, No monkey ever deserted his wife,
Starved and aborted her babies or ruined her life,
And you've never known a mother monk
To leave her babies with strangers to bunk,
Or pass them on to one another
Till they scarcely know who is their mother;
And another thing you'll never see --
A monk building a fence around a coconut tree
And then let the coconuts go to waste,
Forbidding all other monks a taste.
Why if I put up a fence around the tree
Starvation would force you to steal from me!
Here's another thing a monk won't do --
Go out at night to try a new bed
Or hop to a bar to put on a stew,
Or use a gun, club or knife
To take some other monkey's life or wife.
Yes Man descended, the onery cuss,
But oh brother, he didn't descend from us!

Tea Party

I had a little tea party this afternoon at three.
Twas very small -- three guests in all --
just I, myself and me.
Meself ate all the sandwiches,
while I drank all the tea.
Twas also I who ate the pie,
and passed the cake to me.

S-6, THE LIGHT SIDE, Reflections

10 - + Lines

Which Is Me

Within my earthly temple there's a crowd:
There's one of us that's humble, and one that's proud;
There's one that's broken hearted for his sins
And one who unrepentant sits and grins;
There's one who loves his neighbor as himself,
And one who cares for naught but fame and self.
From much corroding care I should be free,
If once I could determine which is me.

Edward Stafford Martin

Grandma

In the dim and distant past,
When life's tempo wasn't fast,
Grandma used to rock and knit,
Crochet, tat and baby sit.
When the kids were in a jam,
They could always count on Gram,
In an age of gracious living,
Grandma was the gal for giving.
Grandma now is in the gym,
Exercising to keep slim;
She's off touring with the bunch;
Taking clients out to lunch,
Driving North to ski or curl;
All her days are in a whirl.
Nothing seems to stop or block her
Now that Grandma's off her rocker.

A Sense of Humor

Give me a sense of humor, Lord
Give me the wit to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

Each Time

Each time that I pass by a church,
I stop to make a visit,
So that when I am carried in
Our Lord won't say, "who is it?"

No Time

I knelt to pray, but not for long,
I had too much to do,
Must hurry off to work
For bill would soon be due.
And so I said a hurried prayer,
Jumped up from my knees;
My Christian duty now was done,
My soul could be at ease.
All through the day I had no time
To speak a word of cheer,
No time to speak of Christ to friends
They'd laugh at me, I feared.
No time, no time, too much to do --
That was my constant cry;
No time to give to those in need --
At last "twas time to die."
And when before the Lord I came,
I stood with downcast eyes,
Within His hands He held a Book.
It was the "Book of Life."
God looked into His Book and said,
"Your name I cannot find,
I once was going to write it down,
But never found the time."

Moms Night Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray my sanity to keep.
For if some peace I do not find,
I'm pretty sure I'll lose my mind.
I pray I find a little quiet
Far from the daily family riot.
May I lie back -- not have to think,
About what they're stuffing down the sink.
Or who they're with, or where they're at,
And what they're doing to the cat.
I pray for time all to myself --
Did something just fall off the shelf?
To cuddle in my nice soft bed --
Oh no! Another goldfish dead!
Some silent moments for goodness sake --
Did I just hear the window break?

STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

NOTE:

Before publishing any of these statistics please check with your pastor for any comments, approval, words of wisdom and/or spirituality. Taken alone, some of these statistics could present an undue negative reaction from the reader

Frozen Eggs

The rate of a successful live birth from a previously frozen egg is less than 25% for a woman who is thirty and less than 10% for a woman who is forty. Denise Hunnell, MD, *The Quest for a Motherless Society, Into the Deep*, Nov.. 2014, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Holiday Masses

Thirty-two percent of the people in the pews at Christmas come to church only once or twice a year. Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, The Genius of Catholicism*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Pornography: the Numbers

On the surface, pornography seems to be a sin rooted in desire. But it's not. It's a sin rooted in a misunderstanding of the human person and the universe itself.

Above all, Father Loya of the Tabor Life Institute, counsels people to turn to the sacraments and prayer, calling on Jesus reverently and frequently, to reorder their vision and refocus their sight to fight this evil.

Harm by Ponography

Statistics compiled by Covenant Eyes (www.covenanteyes.com) to show harm caused by pornography.

- 55.5% ... Teens who have viewed pornography.
- 25 million ... Number of adults in the U.S. who spend 1-10 hours/week viewing pornography on-line.
- 25%... Web searches exclusively for pornographic content.
- 13.3 billion ... Annual revenue of porn industry in the U.S.
- 56% ... Number of divorce cases that involved one party having "an obsessive interest in pornographic web sites."

Emily Stimpson, OSV contributing editor, 9/26/2010, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Catholic Radio, Impact

These results show the impact of Immaculate Heart Radio on its listeners. They are probably typical of most Catholic radio programming.

94%, More spiritually engaged with their Faith and inspired.

51%: More involved in parish activities and more generous to their parish..

47%; Attend Mass more often.

31%: Have come back to the Church because of the programming.

12% Listening saved their marriage.

Source: IHRADIO.ORG, OSV, 12/26/2010, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Abortion & Unwanted Pregnancies

So has it (abortion) made for fewer unwanted pregnancies? The statistics on this are wild. In 1960, some 6% of white babies were born out of wedlock-6%! In 1992, 22% of white babies were born out of wedlock, almost a four-fold increase, and it's rapidly rising. In 1960, some 22%, the same figure, 22% of black babies were born out of wedlock. Does anybody know the statistics now? 68%-68% of black babies are born out of wedlock. That took thirty years. I don't think it will take thirty years for the 22% of whites to go up to 68%, if we follow down the same path we are currently following.

Janet E. Smith, *Contraception, Why Not?*

Abortions

These statistics were compiled by the National Right to Life Committee and the Rand Institute.

- Over 50 million ... Number of abortions in the United States since 1973.
- One every 24 seconds ... Rate of abortions in the United States.
- 400,000 ... Number of human embryos frozen and stored since 1978.

Missing Fathers

Ninety percent of male prisoners in America today between the ages of sixteen and thirty grew up separated from their biological fathers.

Matthew Kelly, *Rediscovering Catholicism, The Mass*, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

Deaths in Perspective:

Of the about 100 million people who die around the world every year here are the causes:

Abortion: 44 million.

Cardiovascular Diseases: 17 million

Cancer: 8 million

Injuries: 5 million- includes 1.3 million road deaths

HIV/AIDS: 1.6 million

Malaria: 1 million – maybe

Suicide: 0.8 million

Contributing Factors to death:

Malnutrition: 7 million

Tobacco: 5 million

Alcohol: 3 million

Fr. Justin Ford, Thanksgiving, newsletter of The Helpers of God's Precious Infants, Nov. 2014, Into the Deep, Nov. 2014, Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Catholics, Marriage & Divorce

13%, Adult Catholics, divorced or separated.

11%, Adult Catholics, divorced and remarried.

23%, Adult Catholics, gone through a divorce.

15%, Divorced Catholics sought an annulment.

49%, Annulments granted in recent years.

10%, Remarry, 10 years after first marriage/divorce.

18%, Remarry, 20 years after first marriage/divorce.

Familiar w/Church's Teaching on marriage:

7 in 10, "Somewhat familiar."

1 in 3, "Very familiar."

1 in 3, Important for spouse to share faith.

Emily Stimpson, OSV 8/1/2010, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Mass Attendance, Frequency

9%: Attend a few times a year, or less often.

34%: Attend at least once a month, but less than weekly.

57%: Attend once a week, or more often.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate,

OSV, 8/28/2011, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Marital Status, Religious Traditions

U.S. Tradition	Married	Cohab- bitating	Divorced Separated	Widowed
Catholics	58%	7%	10%	8%
Evangelicals	59%	5%	13%	9%
Mormons	71%	3%	9%	5%
Orthodox	58%	3%	9%	7%
Jehovah's Witness	53%	1%	14%	11%
Other Christians	49%	10%	19%	6%
Jewish	57%	6%	9%	8%
Muslims	60%	N/A	9%	3%
Buddhists	45%	8%	12%	4%
Hindus	79%	0%	5%	2%
Other Faiths	44%	9%	15%	5%
Unaffiliated	46%	10%	12%	4%

religions.pewforum.org, 6/19/2012, Reprint with permission

Homosexual Lifestyles

The following statistics were given by Dr. Rick Fitzgibbons, director of Institute for Martial Healing at the National Theology of the Body Congress.

- 6 ... Number of states and federal districts where same-sex marriages are granted (Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, the District of Columbia).
- 50,000 ... Number of same-sex marriages contracted in the past five years.
- 10-20 ... Average number of sex partners/year of men in same-sex marriages.
- 39% ... Rate of domestic violence among homosexual "married couples." This rate is 7% for heterosexual couples.

Emily Stimpson, OSV contributing editor, 9/26/2010, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Out-of-Wed Births: Why?

Why are we having a dramatic increase in out-of-wed births? Here is a view given by Helen Alvare - George Mason law professor and a member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. Her thoughts were given at the National Theology of the Body Congr.

"The Theology of the Body tells us that we all long for human communion that is permanent, fruitful and faithful," Alvare said. "And in the absence of close intact families and close loving peers, whether male or female, motherhood becomes a way of satisfying that in-built orientation."

STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

Single Mothers

The following statistics were provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Center for Disease Control and professor Helen Alvare.

- 5%... Children born to single mothers in 1960.
- 40% ... Children born to single mothers in 2007.
- 28% ... Children born to white single mothers in 2007.
- 51% ... Children born to Hispanic-American single mothers in 2007.
- 72% ... Children born to African-American single mothers in 2007.

Emily Stimpson, OSV contributing editor, 9/26/2010, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Divorce: the Numbers

For almost a generation, half of marriages end in divorce. Gregory Popcak, Catholic marriage counselor and founder of the Pastoral Solutions Institute, sees the same fundamental problem at work in most marriages. "People tend to love their own comfort zone more than they love their spouse."

The following statistics were compiled by the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia to show you where we are on this subject.

- 7.1 ... Marriages per 1000 people in 2008
- 3.5 ... Divorces per 1,000 people in 2008.
- 63% ..Children living at home with both parents.
- 10.7% ..Divorced Americans over age 15.

Emily Stimpson, OSV contributing editor, 9/26/2010, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Cohabitation vs Married Couples:

- Relationships unstable. Couples together after 3 years: 1 out of six. After 10 years, 1 in 10.
- Greater risk of divorce after marriage. Almost 2 times that of those who do not cohabit.
- Women suffer more. Have responsibilities of marriage without legal protection. Chance of physical abuse is about 3 times more and murder about 9 times more likely.
- Greater risk of infidelity and disease. Man is 4 times more likely to be unfaithful than husband.
- Greater risk of alcohol and/or drug abuse plus psychiatric problems. Depression 3 times more likely in these couples.
- Higher poverty rates. Have about 78% less wealth than married couples.
- Children suffer. When compared to married couples: poverty rate of their children is about 5 times greater. Children ages 12 -17 are 6 times more likely to exhibit emotional and behavioral problems. About 122 times more likely to be expelled from school and 90% have a low GPA.
- Greater abuse rate of children. Rate increases to about 20% for those with biological mother and father. Rate increases to 33 times higher if partner is boyfriend or girlfriend.

Note: Despite these dismal statistics, cohabitation is increasing; up 11-fold from 30 -40 years ago.

Study by: Patrick Schneider 11, Harvard University, Catholic Citizen, Fall 2008, Reprint permission by Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Abortion, Generation Views

Here is how current generations view morality of abortion.

Ages, believe that abortion is wrong:

Under 35: 65.5%.

35 - 64: 57%.

Over 65: 60%.

CNS, EWTN, MSNBC & Others, OSV, 6/26/2011, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

Current Beliefs

Gallup Survey results of recent American beliefs (all groups).

- 41% – Those who support legalized abortion..
- 51% – Those who say they are pro-life..
- 74% – Those who say “freedom of religion” should be protected..Results of K of C-Marist poll May 2011.
- 58% --Those who believe health-care providers and organizations should be able to opt out of providing abortion. Also, 51% believe they should be allowed to opt out of providing abortion inducing drugs.
- 52% – Those who believe health-care providers should be able to op out of providing in vitro fertilization treatments and 51% say this about birth control. However, 88% of this group also says that contraception is morally acceptable..
- 72% – Those who believe that forcing health-care workers to provide abortions is wrong when they object for religious reasons.
- 52% – Those who say “same-sex marriage” is morally wrong
- 55% – Those who say it's not permissible to speed the death of terminally ill patients by refusing medication..
- 88% – Those who agree that religious leaders should speak out about religious-freedom issues.

National Catholic Register, June 17-30, 2012. Reprint permission by www.NCRegister.com

Single Parents, Numbers

- 13.7 Million – Number of single parents in the United States...
- 21.8 Million – Number of children being raised by single parents as of 2009 (or 26% of children under 21 in the United States).
- 84% – Percent of custodial single parents who are mothers.
- 39.9% – Percent of single parents who live in poverty with their children.

Emily Stimpson, OSV contributing editor, 11/20/2011, Source U.S. Census Dept. “Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support” 2009, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Social Decline

Between 1960 and 2012, the percentage of Americans who are married fell from 67.6 percent to 53 percent, while the birth rate per thousand dropped from 23.7 to 12.6 — a new record low. In the same time period, the percentage of births to unmarried women skyrocketed from 5 percent in 1960 to 41 percent in 2011 — 29 percent for whites, 53 percent for Hispanics and 72 percent for blacks
Russell Shaw, OSV Newsweekly, Reprinted by permission of www.osv.com

HHS Mandate, Views

Here is how Catholics, Evangelicals and the general population views the HHS Mandate About two-thirds of Americans are familiar with the contraception mandate controversy. The USCCB believes this mandate curbs religious freedom.

- 48% – General population who support an exemption for religious employers.
- 44% – General population do not support an exemption for religious employers.
- 55% – Catholics who support an exemption from this mandate. Also, 68% of Evangelicals support this exemption.
- 39% – Catholics who do not support an exemption from this mandate. Only 22% of Evangelicals do not support this exemption.

Brian Fraga, OSV, 3/4/2012, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Vocation and Parish Activities

The annual national survey of men being ordained priests for U.S. Dioceses and religious communities found that parish ministries played a large role for the 2012 ordinands.

- 75% – Served as an altar server.
- 57% – Served as a lector in the parish.
- 53% – Participated in a parish youth group.
- 37% – Served as a catechist.
- 22% – Attended a World Youth Day before entering seminary.
- 13% – Were a RCIA team member or sponsor.

CNS, CAN, USCCB, OSV, 6/03/2012, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing.

STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

Use & Risks, Hormonal Contraceptives

Practicing Catholics and contraceptives:

30% – Current users of contraceptives.

52% – Past users of contraceptives.

18% – Never used contraceptives.

Inactive Catholics and contraceptives:

36% – Current users of contraceptives.

48% – Past users of contraceptives..

15% – Never used contraceptives.

52% – Higher risk of developing breast cancer by women who used contraceptives for a minimum of 4 years before their first full term pregnancy.

Women in 18-24 year range who know about these risks:

52% – Mood swings, emotional changes including depression.

53% – Potential for weight gain.

24% – Know about augmented cancer threats.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) lists contraceptives as carcinogenic to humans (group 1) . Risk factor is about the same as for cigarettes and asbestos.

Julie Robinson, OSV, 1/02/2011, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing.

Pope Paul VI, Humanae Vitae Predictions

Pope Paul VI issued Humanae Vitae in 1968 against contraception. Here is what he said would happen if contraceptives were widely available and used. Unfortunately, his predictions have come true.

1. A general lowering of morality in society.
2. A general disregard for the physical and psychological well-being of females by males.
3. Governments would use family planning programs for coercive purposes.
4. We would begin to treat our bodies as machines. A loss of respect for the human person as an integral unity of body and soul..

Janet E. Smith Article, Birth Control -The Pill – Why Use Contraception? Why Not ?

Our Nation

These statistics present a view of where we are currently as a nation.

1 in every 100: Persons in jail-- an extremely high rate

1 in every 5: Adult persons who are not gainfully employed.

1 in every 70: Persons who are functionally illiterate in any language.

1 in every 20,000: Chance of being murdered – not counting abortions (2010 statistic). Paul J. Griffiths, First Things, Aug./Sept., 2012, Reprinted with permission by **First Things**

Bishops and Catholic Voters

This survey on “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” shows the USCCB needs to do more to sway voting Catholics. Survey taken by the Center on Religion and Culture at Fordam University.

16% – Catholics who heard about this document.

3% – Catholics who read this document.

71% --Those who said it would have made no difference in how they voted.

OSV, 9/11/2011, Reprint permission by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Marriage Stats

Here are the current trends in marriage as shown by the “2006-2010 National Survey of Family Growth” report by the National Center for Health Statistics.

- Median age for first marriage, years 2006–2010: women – 25.8; men – 28.3.
Note: in 1995, women had a 59% chance of being married by age 25. In 2006 -2010, that chance dropped to 44%.
- Percent of currently cohabiting women rose from 3% in 1982 to 11% in 2006-2010.
- Among women, years 1997-2001, 68% of man/woman unions began as cohabitation rather than marriage.
- Child births to cohabiting women, years 2002 to 2006-2010, increased by 83%.

National Catholic Register, May 20-June 2, 2012, Reprint permission by www.NCRegister.com

STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

Abortion & Cancer Link

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a division of the World Health Organization, has declared the combined estrogen oral contraceptives (Ocs) as carcinogenic, in the same class 1 category as Asbestos and Tobacco, another fact about which our journalists seem unaware. In Victoria (Australia) the incidence of breast cancer increased 40% between 1987 and 1997 following the de facto legalization of abortion by the Menhennitt ruling in 1969.

Babette Francis, Family, Life and Freedom Angers Journalists, Into the Deep, July, 2014, www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Teens: Abortion & Suicide

- Teens are 6 times more likely to attempt suicide if they have had an abortion in the last six months than are teens who have not had an abortion.
- Teens who abort are up to 4 times more likely to commit suicide than adults who abort, and a history of abortion is likely to be associated with adolescent suicidal thinking.
- Teens who abort are more likely to develop psychological problems, and are nearly three times more likely to be admitted to mental health hospitals than teens in general.
- Teens who abort are twice as likely as their peers to abuse alcohol, marijuana, or cocaine.
- Teens are more likely to abort because of pressure from their parents or partner, more likely to report being misinformed in pre-abortion counselling, and more likely to have greater difficulty coping after abortion.

Excerpt from letter sent to all senior Catholic schools in the Melbourne and Sale dioceses – Australia, ITD Oct. 2010, Reprint by permission of Reprint permission by www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Parish Supporters

6.4 percent of registered parishioners contribute 80 percent of volunteer hours in a parish. 6.8% of registered parishioners donate 80% of financial contributions, and there is an 84% overlay between the two groups. Roughly 7 percent of Catholic parishioners are sustaining the parish in most cases.

Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Incredible Possibilities, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

Religious Preference

Years	2014	2004
Protestant -----	37%	50%
Christian:-----	10%	7%
non specific		
Catholic -----	23%	24%
Jewish -----	2%	2%
Mormon -----	2%	2%
Other -----	6%	4%
None -----	16%	9%

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Confidence Level, Churches/Organized Religion

Years	2014	2004
Great Deal -----	25%	26%
Quite a Lot-----	20%	27%
Some -----	29%	28%
Very Little -----	20%	15%
None -----	4%	2%

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Influence Level, Organized Religion

Years	2015	2005
Very Satisfied -----	13%	16%
Somewhat Satisfied ---	40%	39%
Somewhat Dissatisfied -	23%	24%
Very Dissatisfied ----	16%	18%
No Opinion -----	7%	3%

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Importance of Religion in Your Life

Years	2013	2003
Very Important -----	56%	61%
Fairly Important -----	22%	24%
Not Very Important ----	22%	15%
No Opinion -----	1%	1%

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STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

Religion, Losing or Increasing Influence

Years	2013	2003
Increasing Influence ---	21%	39%
Losing Influence -----	76%	56%
Same as Before ----	1%	2%
No Opinion -----	2%	3%

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Attendance Frequency, Church/Synagogue

Years	2013	2003
At least Once a Week ---	27%	30%
Almost Every Week ----	10%	11%
About Once a Month ----	13%	14%
Seldom -----	25%	27%
Never -----	22%	17%
No Opinion -----	3%	1%

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Do You Believe in God?

Years	2014	1965
Yes -----	86%	98%
No -----	11%	2%
No Opinion -----	3%	1%

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View of Bible

Years	2014	2004
Actual Word -----	28%	34%
Inspired Word -----	47%	48%
Fables & Legends --	21%	15%
No Opinion -----	4%	3%

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Viewing Pornography

You might want to sit down for this—Barna found that 64 percent of American men and 20 percent of women view pornography at least monthly. And for Christian men, that number is 55 percent.

John Stonestreet, Pornography, Here are the Numbers. 09-09-2014, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

Pornography Addiction

Fourteen years ago, only one out of every three men had ever gone to a pornography site, but now nearly one-third of men under 30 do so on a daily basis. And if you think it can't get worse, the survey found that 18 percent of men believe they may be addicted to pornography. That's more than 20 million men in deep trouble.

John Stonestreet, Pornography, Here are the Numbers. 09-09-2014, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

Praying at Abortion Clinics

They (abortion centers) report that the “no show” rate for abortion appointments goes as high as 75% when people are peacefully praying outside.

40 Days for Life, If You Need Motivation to Pray Outside an Abortion Center, 09-30-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

Hetrosexual vs Homosexual Lifestyles

Compared to heterosexual men, males who engage in homosexual behavior are:

- 727 percent more likely to have suffered bipolar disorders at some point in their lives.
- 620 percent more likely to have suffered obsessive-compulsive disorder at some point in their lives

- 421 percent more likely to have suffered panic disorder

- 235 percent more likely to have suffered major depression at some point in their lives

Compared to heterosexual women, females who engage in homosexual behavior are:

- 405 percent more likely to have suffered a substance use disorder

- 241 percent more likely to have suffered mood disorders during their lifetimes

- 209 percent more likely to have suffered two or more mental disorders during their lifetimes

John Henry Westen, Modern Sex-ed is Sexually Abusive to Our Kids: Fathers ..., 10-15-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

Children & Divorce Rates

While the statistics varied from country to country (in Europe) married couples with three or more children had a divorce rate at least half the divorce rate of those with one child.

Cardinal Pell, cited by Edward Pentin, No Parent Should Fail to Pass on Christ's Core Teachings, Reprint permission by www.NCRegister.com

Race & Ethnicity Within U.S. Catholic Church

Clergy	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other
Priests.....	92%	3%	2%	3%	<1%

Permanent (active)	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other
Deacons.....	76%	16%	4%	3%	1%

Ordinands (2012).....	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other
	71%	15%	3%	9%	1

Religious, Men & Women

Perpetual Vows, Men & Women	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other
	94%	3%	1%	2%	<1%

Perpetual Vows Women**	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other
	66%	10%	4%	17%	3%

Perpetual Vows Men**	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other
	50%	0%	12%	38%	0%

Lay Persons

Lay Ecclesial Ministers	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other
	88%	9%	2%	1%	<1%

Adult Catholics, Mass (in-pew) Attending	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other
	62%	26%	2%	5%	5%

** Year 2011

Excerpt from [Race & Ethnicity Within U.S. Catholic Church], Reprint permission by Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) www.cara.georgetown.edu

Catholic Presidential Vote

Year	Gallup		Media Exit	
	Democrat	Republican	Democrat	Republican
2012	49%	48%	50%	48%
2008	53%	47%	54%	45%
2004	52%	48%	47%	52%
2000	52%	46%	50%	47%

Excerpt from [Presidential Vote of Catholics], Reprint permission by Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)

www.cara.georgetown.edu

Church Stats: Clergy & Religious

Clergy, Religious & Lay Leaders	1985	2000	2015
Total Priests.....	57,317	45,699	37,578

Diocesan Priests.....	35,052	30,607	25,868
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Permanent Deacons...	7,204	12,378	18,082
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Religious Sisters.....	115,386	79,814	48,546
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Religious Brothers.....	7,544	5,662	4,200
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Excerpt from [Frequently Requested Church Statistics], Reprint permission by Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) www.cara.georgetown.edu

Church Statistics, Parish Info

Parishes & Catholic Population.....	1985	2000	2015
Parishes Number.....	19,244	19,236	17,337

Parishes w/o Pastor....	1,051	2,843	3,533
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Dcsn. Priests/Parish. 1.5.....	1.2	1.0	
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Catholics, Parish Registered.....	52.3m	59.9m	68.1m
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Former Cath. Adults....	8.0m	17.9m	25.0m
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Excerpt from [Frequently Requested Church Statistics], Reprint permission by Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) www.cara.georgetown.edu

Church Stats: Students

Catholic Religious Education.....	1985	2000	2015
Parish Religious Ed, Primary School Age Students. .3.106m.....	3.592m	2.631	

Cath. Elementary Schools, Number.....	7,764	6,793	5,302
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Students, Catholic Elementary Schools....	2,005m	1.800m	1.358m
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Catholic Secondary Schools, Number.....	1,425	1,297	1,200
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Students, Catholic Secondary Schools.....	774,216	653,723	583,885
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Catholic Colleges & Univ., Number.....	243	230	226
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Students, Catholic Colleges/Universities. .545,461.....	683,768	784,790	
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Excerpt from [Frequently Requested Church Statistics], Reprint permission by Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) www.cara.georgetown.edu

STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

Church Stats, Attendance & Sacraments

<i>Sacraments & Rites</i>	1985.....	2000.....	2015
Infant Baptisms, Previous Year.....	953,323.....	996,199.....	693,914
Other Minors, Baptisms Previous Year.....	na.....	na.....	66,458
Adult Baptisms Previous Year.....	87,996.....	77,578.....	42,751
First Communions, Previous Year.....	na.....	881,321.....	726,887
Confirmations, Previous Year.....	na.....	630,465.....	566,143
Marriages, Previous Year.....	348,300.....	261,626.....	148,134
Annulments Initiated, Previous Year.....	60,691.....	49,973.....	23,302
Funerals, Prev. Year..	446,822.....	472,789.....	391,131
Mass Attendance, Regular Weekly.....	41%**	22%.....	24%

** Gallup Stat

Excerpt from [Frequently Requested Church Statistics], Reprint permission by Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) www.cara.georgetown.edu

Homosexual Population Surveys

The Williams Institute, a gay think tank at UCLA Law School, has compared a number of US and international surveys. The lowest overall percentage of gays, lesbians and bisexuals came from the Norwegian Living Conditions Survey (1.2%); the highest from the US National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior (5.6%). It found that international surveys, which varied from 1.2% to 2.1%, estimated lower percentages of people who identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual than US surveys, which ranged from 1.7% to 5.6%.

Michael Cook, Why do we Wildly Over-Estimate the Number of Homosexuals, 12-03-2014, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

Abortion & Premature Birth

The Journal of Reproductive Medicine reported that women with one abortion showed a 25-percent increased risk of a subsequent premature birth and with a second abortion, a 50 percent increase. The second, led by P.S. Shah and reported in the International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, showed that one previous abortion was associated with a 35-percent increased risk of premature birth and a second abortion with a 93-percent increase in risk.

The first of the 2015 studies, which is original research by a team led by Emmanuel A. Anam and published in Human Reproduction, is particularly significant since its purpose was to establish that black American women had significantly more "cervical insufficiency" leading to premature births than other Americans. It did that, and it also found that "[p]rior pregnancy termination is also a major risk factor for cervical insufficiency."

The 2015 metanalysis by a Dutch-Australian team, headed by M. Lemmers and published by Human Reproduction, studied 21 original studies whose combined survey group comprised nearly two million women. It found that a single surgical abortion was associated with a 29-percent increased risk of prematurity, and it found a 74-percent increased risk with more than one abortion.

Steve Weatherbe, New Research Strengthens Abortion-Preemie Link, 11-20-2015, Reprint permission by www.lifesitenews.com

Single Mothers - Births

The underclass, the financial crisis and moral crisis will make us dig down and ask, "Can we learn something from the fact that we now have single mothers responsible for 40% of live births?"

Janet E. Smith, theologian Sacred Heart Seminary, National Catholic Register, Nov. 18 2012, Reprint permission by www.NCRegister.com

STATISTICS, CATHOLIC LIFE: S-7

Children Languish in Foster Care

Of the roughly 4000,000 children in the foster care system today, 18 percent have been in foster care for more than three years, and 9 percent have been in the system for more than five years. Fluctuating among foster care homes, relatives, and other caretakers, these children's lives are often marked by uncertainty and instability.

Sarah Torre & Ryan T. Anderson, Protecting the Religious Liberty of ..., 08-01-2014, Reprint permission by www.thepublicdiscourse.com

Caregivers

From a Gallup poll: 1 in 6 Americans who work at a full or part time job are also caregivers for an elderly or disabled person

Fatherless Homes

90 percent of homeless and runaway youth come from fatherless homes.

90 percent of adolescent repeat arsonists live with only their mother.

80 percent of rapists come from fatherless homes.

75 percent of adolescents in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes.

Alana Newman, cited by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone , San Francisco, Address to High School Teachers,** 02-20-2015

Fathers Influence

Research shows that if fathers attend Mass regularly, 74 percent of their children will attend Mass as adults, while if dads don't attend Mass (even if moms bring them to Mass regularly) 61 percent of their children completely abandon the Faith.

Editorial, A Family that Prays Together ..., The Catholic Citizen, Spring 2014, Reprint permission by Catholic Citizens of Illinois

REFLECTIONS: S-7

He Never Lived

There was a very cautious man
who never laughed or played;
He never risked, he never tried,
He never sang or prayed,
And when one day he passed away
His insurance was denied;
For since he never really lived,
They claim he never died!

God's Gifts For Me to Share

God gives me the thoughts.
And I'll weigh them.
God gives me the words.
And I'll say them.
God gives me the prayers
And I'll pray them.
God gives me all things
And I'll share them

Peggy Ferrel

Another New Year

Another fresh new year Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt and fear,
To love and laugh and give!
This bright new year is given me
To live each day with zest ...
To daily grow and try to be
My highest and my best!
I have the opportunity once more
To right some wrongs,
To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
And sing more joyful songs!

William Arthur Ward

Peace at Last

I draw my strength from you Lord,
In everything I do.
Life has everything to offer
When I place my trust in You.
You've brought Your love into my heart
And have filled it with hope anew.
You have given my life new meaning
And the wisdom to guide me through.
When troubles and sorrows come to me
And I seem to be downcast,
I'll remember the trust I've placed in You
And I'll be filled with peace at last.

Shirley Hile Powell

Do It Anyway

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.
If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.
What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.
Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.
In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

-this version is credited to Mother Teresa

REFLECTIONS: S-7

My Wish For You

I wish you all life's happiness
And every lovely thing,
With days of golden sunshine and
With years of endless spring.
I wish you love abundantly,
That never seems to cease;
Your daytimes filled with laughter and
Your nights with gentle peace.
To never feel the pain of want
To have the best of health;
May sorrow never cross your door,
Your purse be great with wealth.
But most of all I wish you this,
The greatest wish there is,
That God will ever bless you and
Will ever call you His!

Kate Watkins Furman

Walking With Grandpa And Grandma

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,
Their steps are short like mine.
They don't say, "Now hurry up."
They always take their time.
I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,
Their eyes see things like mine do ...
Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud,
Half hidden drops of dew.
Most people have to hurry,
They do not stop and see.
I'm glad that God made Grandpa and Grandma
unrushed and young like me.

For His Glory

When a child of God
Looks into the Word of God
And sees the Son of God
He is changed by the Spirit of God
In the image of God
For the glory of God.

The Touch of The Master's Hand

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile.
"What am I bidden good folks," he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
A dollar, a dollar,"then, two! Only two?
"Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"
"Three dollars, once; three dollars twice;
Going for three ..." But no,
From the room, far back, a grey haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening loose strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said, "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?
Three thousand, once; three thousand twice;
And going and gone," said he.
The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not quite understand
What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply:
"The touch of a master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd
Much like the old violin.
A "mess of potage," a glass of wine;
A game – and he travels on.
He is "going" once, and "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."
But the Master comes and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.

Myra B. Welch, cited by Matthew Kelly, Rediscovering Catholicism,
Confession, Reprint permission by DynamicCatholic.com

