



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

There is Absolutely Nothing You can Do to Make God Stop Loving You

***To monthly mission donors:
“Thank you for your support!”***

On behalf of His Excellency Frederick F. Campbell, the Bishop of Columbus, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

To take us home to Him, safely – that’s God’s passion. He has made His faithfulness clear. Noah saw it in the rainbow. Abraham saw it in Sarah’s belly. Jacob saw it through his failure. Joseph saw in an Egyptian prison.

Pharaoh heard it from Moses: “Let my people go.” Pharaoh refused. As a result, water became blood, day became night, locusts came, children died. The Red Sea opened and the Egyptian army drowned.

Moses told the Israelites to look at the past; to think back to past years, even to the years before they were born; to think back even to when God made humans on the earth; to think about one end of heaven to the other.

God has not done for any people what He had done for the people of Israel. No other people had heard God speak from a fire and

had lived, but the people of Israel had.

No other god had taken for himself one nation out of another, but the Lord their God had done that for them.

He took them out of Egypt right before their own eyes. God had done this for the people of Israel with tests, signs, and miracles by God’s great power and strength (Deut. 4:1-14).

God’s love for us is passionate. “My heart beats for you, and my love for you stirs up my pity. I won’t punish you in my anger and I won’t destroy Israel again. I am God and not human; I am the Holy One, and I am among you” (Hosea 11: 9).

God loves us with the same love that He had for the Israelites. The promise He had made to them is the same promise He makes to us. God longs to take us home to Him. He is persistent. He is relentless. He does not quit.

God says that He is among us. Do you believe that? Do you believe that God is near? God wants us to know that He is in our midst, that He is in our world. Wherever we are, He is present with us – in our car, in the office, in our bedroom.

And God is not only near; He is active. Noah’s God is your God.

The promise given to Abraham is given to you. The hand that moved in Pharaoh’s world is moving in yours.

God is there through thick and thin in your world. God has not established His residence in far away galaxies. God has not removed Himself from history. God has not chosen to seclude Himself on a throne in a castle.

God has drawn near. He has involved Himself in our lives. He has involved Himself in the heart-breaks of our days. (Psalm 34: 18-20).

What is God’s reason? God loves you for who you are. You are God’s child. It was this love that pursued the Israelites. It was this love that sent the prophets. It was this love that made God become Man.

God’s love is not normal love. It is not normal to love a murderer and an adulterer. But God did when He loved David.

This kind of love is the love we find on the cross at Calvary.

God is patient with our mistakes. He is patient when we stumble. He does not turn His back on us when we struggle.

But if we choose to walk away from Him, He will let us. He will always honor our choice because He loves us so much.

Pope Francis' April Prayer Intentions:

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

Amazing Grace

The troops were on their way. D-Day was set in motion. The responsibility for the invasion fell on the shoulders of General Dwight Eisenhower. The night before the attack the General spent with the men of the 101st Airborne. The General went from soldier to soldier offering them encouragement. Many of them were young enough to be his sons. He treated them like they were.

A correspondent wrote that as the General watched the C47's take off and disappear into the darkness, the General's hands were deep in his pockets and the General's eyes were filled with tears.

Then the General went into his quarters and wrote a message, which would be delivered to the White House in the event of a defeat. "Our landings have failed. The troops, the Air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches itself to the attempt, it was mine alone" (Eloise Lee – Business Insider, Military and Defense).

What an act of courage! He took the blame, even before blame needed to be taken. Most of us want to take credit for the good we do. Some are willing to take the rap for the bad they do. But few will take responsibility for the mistakes of others. And fewer still will shoulder the blame for mistakes yet to be committed.

Jesus did. Before a mistake could be made, forgiveness had already been offered. Before blame could be assigned, grace had already been provided.

Your Tongue can Give Life - Or It can Kill

They are only two to three inches long. They look energetic and affectionate. But looks can be deceiving. They appear gentle, but they are ferocious. They are called the bullies of the deep. They are very territorial. They claim a small area and allow no visitors. Challenge their boundaries and they will take you on - jaw to jaw. They are the "kissing fish" of the Caribbean (Wikipedia).

But we do not have to go to the Caribbean to see the power of the mouth. Mouth to mouth manipulation isn't limited to the Caribbean. The one you see in the mirror could be a "kissing fish".

In the cowboy era disputes were settled in a duel. Those who were trigger-quick survived. Today, we use a much more sophisticated tool – our tongue. We call it a debate. But most debates do not seek the truth. They are more like building a wall or, depending on one's territory, like the "kissing fish." In our polarized society the gray area that divides the left from the right is becoming narrow.

Before He died, Jesus, was a victim of the power of the mouth. Before He was whipped, bitter and acidic words were hurled at Him. Before the nails were hammered, accusations were made. Before He bore the cross, He had to bear the acid tongues of the religious leaders.

The words of religious leaders sounded innocent, but they were not. Although there were no

swords drawn and no arrests made, like the "kissing fish", they were out for blood. Bitter words were hurled at Jesus. (1 Peter 2:23)

Quip:

Too many people who say "Our Father" on Sunday spend the rest of the week acting like orphans.

Quest:

You will discover that it is always darkest before dawn.

Quote:

"The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight, but has no vision." - Helen Keller

A Joke a Priest can Tell: LOL!

Moses was leading the Hebrews to the Red Sea and the Egyptians were coming fast.

Moses turned to his PR agent: "Where are all those boats I told you to get!"

The PR man said, "What boats? You never mentioned boats to me."

"Just great" said Moses; "what am I supposed to do, lift my staff and part the waters?????"

The PR man answered: " If you can pull that one off, I can get you a whole section in the Bible."

The Lord has risen! Alleluia!

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