



# MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

FEB. 23, 2020 / 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

## Spiritual Ponderings:

### Mass and Evangelization IV

A few years ago, a group of ex-Protestant ministers now Catholics gathered together and wrote a series of articles about what attracted them to the Catholic Church. They called the series *Catholic For a Reason*. The third volume of this series was titled: *Catholic For A Reason III: Scripture and the Mystery of the Mass* and focused on what it was about the Mass that they found so inspiring. For the month of February I have decided to reflect with you on an article titled “The Mass And Evangelization” and it was written by Curtis Martin. Quotes from his article will be in bold and my commentary will be in normal font.



**How do you begin to follow the scriptural patters of evangelization?**

**First, we attend Mass with great love and renewed vision knowing that Jesus, in the Eucharist, is the source of our life and of our evangelization. Then, we build authentic friendships where we can share what matters most to us—Jesus and the Christian life. Finally, as God leads our beloved brothers and sisters to conversion, we can continue to share the faith with them and prepare them for full covenantal communion with Jesus in the Church. Then they too can faithfully receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion and begin their role in the Great Commission (cf. Mt. 28:18-20)**

The following is an Examination of Conscience based on the parts of the Mass to help us see if we are allowing the Mass to change us into Missionary Disciples.

### Examination of Conscience

1. Opening Song – When have I failed to work alongside others to bring about harmony?
2. Sign of the Cross – When have I failed to let others know that I believe in the Blessed Trinity and that my God died for us on a cross so that we might have eternal life?
3. Greeting – When have I failed to notice the Lord’s spirit in others?
4. Penitential Rite – When have I refused to believe in God’s love and mercy? When have I refused to forgive as God does – unconditionally?
5. Gloria – When have I have failed to praise God for His greatness? When was the last time I thanked God for all the good things He has done for us?
6. Opening Prayer – When have I refused to or been to afraid to pray with others?
7. First Reading – When have I failed to recall all that God has done for me?
8. Psalm – When have I failed to take time to follow the example of Jesus pray in good times and in bad?
9. Second Reading – When have I failed to ponder what Christ’s Paschal mystery means to me and how I should act?
10. Gospel Acclamation – When have I fail to give God fitting praise for His victory over sin and death?
11. Gospel – When have I failed to proclaim Christ’s victory over sin and death using words only if necessary?

12. Homily – Does my life reflect the fact that I am a Christian?
13. Creed – Do I take seriously my commitment to being a part of the Mystical Body of Christ or do I spend too much time focusing on my own needs?
14. Prayers of the Faithful – Do I truly trust that the Father desires to listen to me and that He desires to give me good things?
15. Presentation of the Gift – Do I truly make a gift of myself to God through sharing of my time, talent, and treasure?
16. Eucharistic Prayer – Am I truly present out of love for God or do I expect to be entertained?
17. Doxology and Great Amen – Do I truly believe that Jesus Christ is present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar?
18. Our Father – Do I truly believe and behave in a way that shows others that I see them as brothers and sisters in Christ?
19. Sign of Peace – Am I truly willing to offer peace to all I meet or do I still desire to hold onto conflicts?
20. Lamb of God – Am I truly willing to follow Christ's servant leadership by sacrificing myself for the good of God's holy people?
21. Communion – Do I truly act in a way that shows people that I am a living tabernacle?
22. Closing Prayer – Do I truly desire to grow in my faith so that I may go forth and change the world?
23. Blessing and Dismissal – Do I truly want to accept God's blessings or would I rather remain in my old way of life? Am I ready to go forth and change the world?

### BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**FEBRUARY 23 2020** ♦ **Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time** ♦ **Lectionary: 79** ♦ **Gospel MT 5:38-48**

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have heard that it was said, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth*. But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

"You have heard that it was said, *You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy*. But I say to you, love your enemies

and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

**Spiritual Reflection:** We are not called to reduce the call to perfection as some rigid, lifeless way of living within a very series of self-imposed (and self-congratulating) guidelines. That attitude seems to be the opposite of what Jesus says, which is meant to instill holy desire that moves toward a deepening of faith in others.

**Spiritual Questions:**

1. How does my perfectionism obstruct my being made perfect in Christ?
2. Do I see myself as a temple in which the Spirit dwells? How?
3. What do I do with my anger, particularly my desire to get even with fellow parishioners?
4. What do I do with my anger, particularly my desire to get even with someone in my family?
5. How does God perfect us in love?





## Thought of the Day

**Sunday**

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. - **C. S. Lewis**

**Monday**

We all agree that forgiveness is a beautiful idea until we have to practice it. - **C. S. Lewis**

**Tuesday**

Jesus understands our weaknesses and sins; and he forgives us if we allow ourselves to be forgiven. - **Pope Francis**

**Wednesday**

When we hate our enemies, we are giving them power over us: power over our sleep, our appetites, our blood pressure, our health and our happiness. Our enemies would dance with joy if only they knew how they were worrying us, lacerating us, and getting even with us! Our hate is not hurting them at all, but our hate is turning our days and nights into a hellish turmoil. - **Dale Carnegie**

**Thursday**

If Without forgiveness, there's no future. - **Desmond Tutu**

**Friday**

Those who cannot forgive others break the bridge over which they themselves must pass. - **Confucius**

**Saturday**

Let us forgive each other - only then will we live in peace. - **Leo Tolstoy**

### PRO-LIFE



February 2020

### Prayer for People to Answer the Call to be People of Justice

We pray that Christians may do all they can to exert their influence for the cause of the Gospel morality and justice. May they show concern for the poor, the planet, and for peace.

In a special way may they never remain silent when there is a question of preserving life or destroying it, but always let our voice be heard bravely on the side of the God of the living.

God we ask you to be a refuge and fortress for those who have fallen away from the Church. Please rescue them from whatever evils led them away from your Son's Mystical Body and bring them back to Your Holy Church.



### St. Monica Society

*Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.*

## Catholic Prayers

### THE PRAYER HAIL, CHRIST, OUR KING (By Father Stedman)

Most Sweet Jesus! Come near to us, Thy children. Receive from our hands that crown which those who are but dust of earth, try to seize from Thee. Enter now in triumph among us, Thy fervent followers! Hail, Christ, our King!

Lawmakers may break the tables of Thy Law, but whilst they lose their thrones and are forgotten, we, Thy subjects, will continue to salute Thee. Hail, Christ, our King!

They have said that Thy GOSPEL is out-of-date, that it hinders progress, and must no longer be considered. They who say this soon disappear into obscurity and are forgotten; whilst we, who adore Thee, continue to salute Thee. Hail, Christ, our King!

The proud, the worldly, those who possess unlawful riches, those who thirst for riches, honors and pleasures alone, declaring Thy moral law to be for past ages, will be hurled against the Rock of Calvary and Thy Church and falling, will be reduced to dust, and sink into oblivion, whilst we, Thy followers, continue to salute Thee. Hail, Christ, our King!

Those who seek the dawn of a material civilization, divorced from God, will surely die, poisoned by their own false doctrine, deserted and cursed by their own children, whilst we, who would console Thee, will continue to salute Thee. Hail, Christ, our King!

Yes, hail to Thee, O Christ, our King! Put to flight Lucifer, the fallen Angel of darkness, from our homes, schools and society, force him and his agents into Hell, chain him there everlastingly, whilst we, Thy friends, continue to salute Thee. Hail, Christ, our King!



## Humor

Today, my son asked "Can I have a book mark?" and I burst into tears. 11 years old and he still doesn't know my name is Brian.

DAD: I was just listening to the radio on my way in to town, apparently an actress just killed herself.

MOM: Oh my! Who!?

DAD: Uh, I can't remember... I think her name was Reese something?

MOM: WITHERSPOON!!!!!!????????

DAD: No, it was with a knife...

Did you know the first French fries weren't actually cooked in France? They were cooked in Greece.