

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

Let’s look at three reasons our soul needs purification. Note that purifications of the soul are akin to, but distinct from, the mortifications necessary for our body and the passions related to it (e.g., gluttony, lust, and greed). For our soul, too, can be weighed down with excesses and defects.

Drawing from the spiritual masters and Saint Thomas Aquinas, Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange details three reasons that our soul needs purification, especially as we begin to make progress. They are spiritual pride, spiritual gluttony, and spiritual sloth. Each of these brings conditions and temptations to a soul that is beginning to make some progress in prayer and fervency. The very gifts of progress and fervency are also possible dangers to the ongoing growth that is needed. Thus God purifies us in diverse manners in order to avoid having these traps capture us entirely.

Let’s look at each in turn from Fr. Garrigou-LaGrange’s *Three Ages of the Interior Life*, Vol two, pp. 44ff, Tan Publications.

I. **Spiritual pride** – This comes when a person, having made some progress and experienced consolations as well as the deeper prayer of a proficient, begins to consider himself a spiritual master. He or she may also start to judge others severely who seem to have made less progress.

Those afflicted with spiritual pride often “shop around” for a spiritual director, looking for one who affirms rather than challenges their insights. Further, they tend to minimize the true reality of their sins out of a desire to appear more perfected than they really are.

Soon enough we have a Pharisee of sorts, who regards himself too favorably and others too poorly. There is also the problem of hypocrisy, since spiritual pride would have one play the role of a spiritual master and proficient, when one really is not.

God, therefore, must often humble the soul who has begun to make progress. In a certain sense He slows the growth, lest the greatest enemy, pride, claim all the growth.

II. **Spiritual sensuality** – This is a kind of spiritual gluttony, which consists in being immoderately attached to spiritual consolations. God does sometimes grant these to the soul, but the danger is that the consolations come to be sought for their own sake. One starts to love the consolations of God more than the God of all consolations. Growth in the love of God for His own sake is too easily lost or becomes confused and entangled. Or even worse, it becomes contingent upon consolations, visions, and the like.

Hence God must often withhold these for the sake of the soul, which must learn the discipline of prayer, with or without consolations, and to love God for His own sake. Uncorrected, spiritual gluttony can lead to spiritual sloth, which we consider next.

III. **Spiritual sloth** – This emerges when spiritual gluttony or other expectations of prayer are not met. There sets up a kind of impatience or even disgust for prayer and the narrow way of the spiritual life. Flowing from this is discouragement, a sluggishness that cancels zeal, and the dissipation of prayer and other spiritual practices. One allows endless distractions, makes excuses, shortens prayer and other spiritual exercises, or does them in a perfunctory manner.

Here, too, God must seek to purify the soul of attachment to consolations, lest such sloth lead to a complete disgust and a refusal to walk the narrow way of the spiritual life. Perhaps this sort of purification will take place through secondary causes, wherein the Lord acts though a spiritual director to insist on prayer, no matter how difficult. Perhaps, too, certain seasons such as Lent and Advent, or other “ember days” and the like will be used by God to bring greater zeal to the soul weighed down with spiritual sloth.

Clearly, God must correct this spiritual sloth and help us to accept God and prayer on His terms, not ours. The insistence on delight and consolations on our own terms is a great enemy to the docility and humility necessary for true growth.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Liturgical Ministers for August 25th/26th, 2018

| MASS | LECTOR | MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION | ALTAR SERVERS |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4:00PM | L. AVELLA | J. FLYNN, N. SMITH, K. BOBISH | N. WEBB, J. MARCONE |
| 8:30AM | J. HENDRICK | R. BABEY, W. CARMODY | E. TRUJILLO, K. CASE |
| 11:30AM | M. ESLING | T. MARION, M. ADAMCIK, D. LIVINGSTON | Z. ADAMCIK, DJ PERRIN |

Sunday September 9th will be our annual Backpack Blessing at the 8:30 Mass. Have your child bring their backpack to Mass for a blessing.

Saturday, September 22nd, is the annual St. Jude Walk in NYC. Our parish team is **Team St. Mary's Port Jervis**. Anyone can register to walk or raise money at:

http://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?pg=team&fr_id=89628&team_id=224380

Transportation details to be determined.

[Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Part I Formation Course](#)

Dates: September 8, October 13, November 3., December 1, 2018, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, 2019 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

[Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Part II Formation Course](#)

Dates: September 7, October 5, November 2., December 7, 2019; March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, 2020 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: St. Teresa of Avila Parish, 130 Beekman Ave, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

For information contact Teresa Lothian 858-4208

St. Mary's Religious Education/FAITH now has a facebook page! St. Mary's Religious Education Port Jervis . Look for us, like us and drop us a comment or two. Information on the first day of Religious Education and other important information will now be centrally located.

Children who will be receiving Confirmation in October 2019 **and their parents** have a mandatory meeting on Monday, September 10 at 7pm in the Most Sacred Heart Hall.

If you or anyone you know is interested in completing their sacraments , or joining the Church through the RCIA process, please call the parish office and speak to Deacon Rich 856-8212 ext. 118



Thank you for praying for me. I am 7 months old now. I am growing every day. I'm between 14 and 17 inches long and weigh and 4 1/2 pound. I move around a lot but it's getting crowded in here! Sometimes I even get the hiccups.

The collection for August 11/12 was \$4672.50. Thank you for your continued generosity.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday, August 20 (Bernard, abbot and doctor of the Church)

9:00am Mary Marino, by Deacon Rich and Joanne Marino

Tuesday, August 21 (Pius X, pope)

9:00am Beverly Cordisco, by Lucio Cordisco

Wednesday, August 22 (Queenship of the B.V.M.)

9:00am William Gaide, by Toni Marion

Thursday, August 23 (Rose of Lima, virgin)

9:00am William and Anna Witkowski, by the family

Saturday, August 25

4:00pm Agatha Haering, by Hannelore Kucher

Sunday, August 26

8:30am Natalie Rimlinger and Raymond Smith, by Mary Rimlinger

11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's

Please Pray For the Sick: Joseph Portella, Angela Portella, Joann Wilcox, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Elizabeth Brennan, Michael Medaglia, Jackie Mundy, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Louis Harford, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Donald Wolff, Ramonita Irizarry, Theresa Kavanagh, Debi Cotugno, Theresa Fuller, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Helen Andreano, Tito Rivera, Neil Stasilli, Josefina Rodriguez, Joseph Hinkley, Toni Sorrentino, Frances Brennan, Andrea Fedoruk, Susan Upton, Chris Marion III, Loretta Olenick, and Eppie Harford.

This year's Parish Picnic will be at the Sparrowbush Firehouse on Sunday, September 16th at 1pm.

**Last names: A-G Salad or Vegetable
H-P Appetizer
Q-Z Dessert**

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: Family
: Name: _____
: Number of Adults: _____ Children: _____
: Bringing: _____
: (Please be specific)
: Telephone #: _____
: Please return the reservation form to the
: parish office **before Tuesday, September 4th**
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