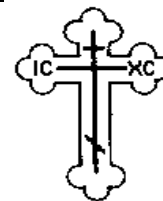


REUNION

✠ The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil ✠
(✠ The Basilians - The Basilian Fathers ✠)



Volume 10 No. 1 OF THE CHURCH OF MAN WITH GOD March 1, 2000 A.D.

~ GOVERNING THE CHURCH ~

From ✠ Paul, S.S.B.
To the flock entrusted into my care:

In late September, 1999, we were made Metropolitan Archbishop of Orleans for our part of the Basilians, and for our Jurisdiction, and in January, 2000, Metropolitan (also termed Superior or Superior

(Continued BASIL on page 17)



YOUR SINS MAY PLACE YOU IN DENIAL, DESPAIR, DISGUST, OR TRUTH

Epistle 1 Cor 12:2-11
Gospel Luke 18:9-14

The attention span of a child or youngster is such that it is difficult for most to remember their own sins with definition or clarity. For the most part, the memory is not a haunting but a vague awareness which is difficult to fully recall. Young adults have a tendency to ignore their sins, and to excuse and discount them. It is in the more mature of years and experience that there is a more deep realization of the undesirability of sin, but that realization is often applied to others and ignored for self.

When a child or young person becomes over wrought regarding their own sins, either the child has been blessed by God with a degree of holiness just a little less than sainthood, or the enormity of their own sins has been exaggerated to them by someone else. Generally, it is perfectly correct for a child to make a somewhat generic confession, because the cognition of sin is very imperfect. A child may clearly remember that they were treated somewhat shabbily by their brother or sister, or by a friend or acquaintance, but totally forget they caused the shabby treatment by engag-

ing in improper conduct.

However, when this cognition of personal fault exists in an adult, it often leads to a total denial of having committed sin. A somewhat classic example for adults is the person who has rearranged reality and history so thoroughly in their own mind that they deny ever having had sexual relations with a particular individual, even though they did, and the denial is eventually believed by the proponent, even though they were a participant. Similarly, a classic example for children is the child who denies eating the chocolate pudding, even though the pudding is all over the child's face.

Those who acknowledge their sins sometimes despair of ever becoming sinless, especially with particular habitual sins involving lack of self control. Think of the tax gatherer. Even in some parts of the world today, though not in the USA, tax collectors receive a percentage of what they collect as their fee. Since payment of taxes in many places, even today, is a cash transaction or payment in kind - of things instead of in money - it is very easy for a tax collector to steal a portion of what he collects, thus increasing his income above his lawful percentage. He can also charge more than what is legal, thus increasing his percentage and also in-

(Continued SIN DENIAL on page 7)

HOW DOES GOD FEEL WHEN YOU SIN?

Epistle: Philip 3:17-21, 4:1-3 3:17.
Gospel: Mat. 9:18-26 9:18.

Every deed of our Lord Jesus Christ has been a deed of assisting humankind. In light of the goodness which God continually bestows upon us, have you ever wondered how God feels when you sin?

Think of the most terrible thing anyone has ever done to you. It must be something which was done to you by someone you trusted, someone you loved, someone very dear to you.

Perhaps your spouse was unfaithful, perhaps even with your best friend, who therefore was also unfaithful. Perhaps your fiance used you for their own financial gain and carried on affairs with your associates. Perhaps you have had a child, your child, tell you they hate you, that you disgust them, that they do not love you, and then prove it to you by intentionally not inviting you to their wedding, by not inviting you to the baptism of their children or to your grandchildren's birthdays, by inventing lies about you and how terrible a person you are. Have you ever told a confidence to one you thought was your best of friends, only to have that person betray your confidence by telling everyone what you told in confidence? Have you ever had someone you love with all your heart, and who lead you to believe they loved you with all their heart, shred your heart and emotions into total emptiness?

If you have had *all* of these things happen to you, then you have a little portion of a concept as to how God feels when you sin.

(Continued GOD FEELS on page 7)

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The sole purpose of this publication is to comply with the teachings and instructions of Jesus Christ, second person of the Trinity God, and to further His kingdom.

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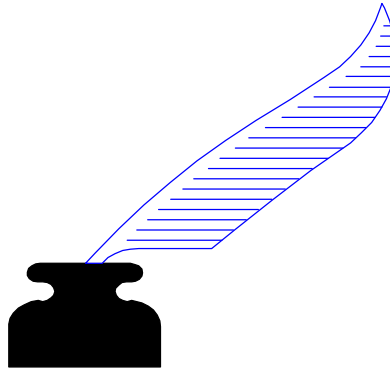
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LETTERS

(The Editors reserve the right to reject any submissions, and to edit as necessary. Letters must be typed, single space, signed, and include the sender's name address, and day and evening telephone numbers - Ed.)



of St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church (Waveland, Miss.); publication swaps; those who pick up a copy and those who request a "free" subscription (if any are left); **** those who make a donation of \$30.00 (or more) to Holy Innocents Orthodox Church will be mailed each print published issue of REUNION for one calendar year from the date the donation is received. **A donation does not create an obligation for us to publish.**

We try to publish between four and twelve issues per year, and to print publish each electronically published issue, but do not guarantee to do so due to staffing and finances.

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Changes regarding receipt of REUNION, including cancellation, should be noted on the form opposite and sent in with your address label.

✚ **Paul, S.S.B.**
Publisher

✚ *The Basilians - The Basilian Fathers* ✚

Main Basilian Computer

<http://www.reu.org>

Other Basilian and Basilian related WEB sites are at:

<http://www.gnofn.org/~orthodox>
<http://members.aol.com/bppaulsbs/page/index.htm>
<http://community.nola.com/cc/mainstreet/basilians>
<http://members.aol.com/leesmc/club/index.htm>

GROANERS

Mahatma Gandhi walked barefoot everywhere, to the point that his feet became quite thick and hard with callouses. He also was a very spiritual person. Even when he was not on a hunger strike, he did not eat much and became quite thin and frail. Also, because of his diet, he often had very bad breath. He has therefore been referred to as a super calloused fragile mystic plagued with halitosis (as in Mary Poppins).

(Special thanks to whomever it was that sent in the following.)

Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. However, all the league records were unfortunately destroyed in a fire. Thus we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

A man rushed into the doctor's office and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day his supply of the birds ran out, so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises.

(Continued GROANERS on page 9)

NON-STANDARD REFLECTIONS ON THE BLESSED EVER VIRGIN MARY

Epistle Judith 13:22-25,(and see 15,10)
Gospel Luke 1:41-50

If we carefully examine the appearances of the residents of Heaven to the residents of this Earthly life over the past two thousand years, we will easily see that Our Father continues to guide everything, that our Lord and Brother Jesus Christ, who made it possible for us to be His brothers, rewards and corrects us individually and collectively; but that it is the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary who daily battles for us and against Satan and his hoard and who daily defeats him, in God.

Just as in Judith, as she who cut off the head of the oppressor was hailed as the "avertor" of disaster for her people, so too is the Mother of God also our Mother who crushes the head of our oppressor with her heel.

Yet, look at an Icon of the Dormation, of the Assumption. When we look at most other Icons of the Mother of God, she is usually presented in the form of Mother holding her Son as a mature Child in her lap. But in the Dormation, it is Our Lord who holds His Mother in His lap, as a mature child.

This difference should be sufficient to correct those haters of the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary, those who in their hatred of the Church founded by our Lord Jesus Christ, condemn that only True Church, saying it worships the Virgin Mary as God and as a sort of "fourth" "person" of the Blessed Trinity. For that Icon shows the true relationship between God and the Blessed Virgin, and shows that she is not worshiped as God, but is given the highest adoration below the adoration reserved for God.

We have been presented with prophecy in the passage from St. Luke: *"for behold from henceforth all generations*

shall call me blessed." Yet there are those who refuse to call her blessed, at least in this life. We know that what God has given to prophecy will come to pass; so those who in this life attempt to degrade the Mother of God *will* call her Blessed, either voluntarily in heaven after having been properly trained in Purgatory, or in Hell where they will be forced to acknowledge her as being Blessed.

One of the great puzzlements of Faith is that anyone who professes to be a Christian, a follower of Christ, and to believe in Sacred Scripture, would have anything derogatory to say about the one person who battles for them daily - the Blessed Virgin Mary. The only sense that can be made of such behavior is that those who demean the Blessed Virgin must be under the influence of Satan, even though they will vehemently deny that they are under his influence. They must be under his influence for he is the one who hates her most: for it is her heel which crushes his head; it is through her that his Defeat is delivered to mankind, and thus is his vile kingdom forever crushed.

And here we are, children of this most beautiful Mother. Beautiful in body, spirit, mind, soul, and heart, she is always wanting to hold us to her and to carry us with her to her Son. No matter how selfish, no matter how stupid, no matter how hateful any person is, even towards her and towards her Son, she embodies that Divine quality of Love for us, and while she hates the evil we do, she continues to Love us.

It requires a calloused heart to reject Love. Those who reject the Theotokos must have brine in their veins pumped by hearts of stone and bitter lemon juice for tears. How can they reject the Love which this beautiful, sweet, woman bestows on them? How can they reject the Spiritual Mother which Our Lord Jesus Christ gave to us as He hung dying on the cross?

As we worship wherever we worship, the Mother of God continues to bestow

Grace which God has given to her to bestow on us. If someone rejects her, that person also rejects the very Essence of God which God has given to the Blessed Virgin Mary to give to them, and so they continue in their errors. That is a dreadful situation, but it can be overcome by prayer - by our prayers for those in this error, and by those who are in this error praying to God for guidance in the matter of the Blessed Virgin.

But will such persons pray for guidance in the matter of the Blessed Virgin? Their hearts of stone often are so hardened that they will not consider the possibility they are in error, and so most normally will not pray for such guidance unless they acknowledge the miracles the same Blessed Virgin performs for them daily.

Let us pray that we ourselves will always Love our Mother Mary with all the tenderness of heart the Holy Spirit gives to us to present to her. Perhaps in our holding on to her as she guides us to her Son, others who hate her will see the good she does for us, and will also begin to Love her.

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PARISH NEWS

HOLY INNOCENTS NEWS

Holy Innocents Orthodox Church
 311 Hickory Ave.
 Harahan, Louisiana 70123
 Voice (504) 738-3502
 FAX (504) 737-7707
 HIOC BBS (504) 738-2681
<http://www.reu.org>

The Church (mission) is usually open from 9:00 AM to Noon Sundays, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday, as schedules permit, closed Saturdays except for special occasions like weddings. Saturday Vespers are usually at St. Mary Madgalene.

These schedules are kept unless something extraordinary occurs. Last minute notices are posted on the marquee by the front door.

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM, Confessions
 9:45 AM Prothesis
 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Mass)
 Western Rite
 11:00 AM - Noon, Fellowship Hour

All who have been Baptized and Chrismated (Confirmed) are encouraged to receive The Eucharist (Holy Communion).

WEEKDAY DIVINE LITURGY:

Weekday Divine Liturgy is at 8:00 AM. Some days we do not have weekday Divine Liturgy due to scheduling problems. Check the Bulletin

When we have weekday Divine Liturgy, Confessions are available immediately before Divine Liturgy, from 7:30 AM - 7:45 AM.

There is no socializing after weekday Divine Liturgy. Social telephone calls should be limited to between 6:30 PM and 8:30 PM.

BULLETIN COPIES:

Copies of Holy Innocents weekly parish

bulletin can be FAXed to you (local calls only). Just send us a FAX request. You can also obtain a copy on HIOC BBS or at the chapel, or on our web site.

Holy Innocents is a Western Rite Orthodox Church affiliated with The Orthodox Catholic Archdiocese of Louisiana, and the Archdiocese of Orleans, of the Orthodox Catholic Church of the Americas operated by the Basilian Fathers. Its lineage is Russian Orthodox, and Eastern Rite Liturgy is observed in special schedules as an accommodation.

Most Rev. John (John J. Lehman), S.B., Archbishop of Orleans

Most Rev. Paul (Lee S. McColloster), S.B./S.S.B., Pastor.

OTHER SACRAMENTS AND LITURGIES

Baptisms and Chrismation (Confirmation) may be scheduled two or more weeks in advance, for children and adults who have never received these Sacraments, and who desire to join the Church.

Reception of Converts, for those who have been Baptized and Confirmed in another Jurisdiction of The Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, may be scheduled two or more weeks in advance.

Holy Matrimony should be scheduled at least three months in advance, but may be arranged in less time depending on the circumstances. We are not a marriage mill, and will not marry just anyone - interviews are required for those with whom we are not very familiar.

Absolution/Confession, is available from 9:30 AM to 9:45 AM, Sundays, and on request at virtually all times.

Anointing of the Sick (Extreme Unction, Holy Anointing) is available after Sunday Divine Liturgy, and with visitation of the sick, is available on request. Please notify us if you, family, or a friend, become ill, are hospitalized, or

desire a visit. You need not be ill to request a visit.

Blessing of a Home is usually done on the Feast of The Epiphany (January 6), or when a family moves into a new home. It should be scheduled a week or so in advance. The house need not be all "in order".

+

ST. MARY MAGDALENE NEWS

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church
 125 Hartsie Drive - 150 Angell Lane
 Waveland, Mississippi 39576
Voice (228) 466-4508
STMM BBS (228) 467-2002

St. Mary Madgalene has its own BBS. the selection of "non-religious" and more general files is greater on STMM BBS than on HIOC BBS.

RETREATS:

Holy Innocents hosts a retreat on the first Saturday of each month, at St. Mary Magdalene. This is an "open" retreat, without the 'rule of silence'. Grounds open at 9 AM, Divine Liturgy is at 11:15 AM, grounds close between 1 PM and 4 PM. Bring your own food, though chicken noodle soup and coffee are provided.

St. Mary Magdalene is primarily a retreat house. Anyone wishing to conduct or participate in a one day retreat for a group or an individual should call either St. Mary Magdalene, Holy Innocents to schedule. We encourage everyone to go on a retreat at least once each year - more often if possible. Talks on various special subjects can be arranged for groups in retreat, and those on private retreat will be left alone as they desire. Overnight retreats are available with "dormitory style" facilities.

Directions: Take I-10 East through Slidell. Cross the Louisiana - Mississippi State line; pass up the truck scales

(Continued PARISH NEWS on page 6)



ICON # 4



ICON # 7



ICON # 11



ICON # 19



ICON # 26

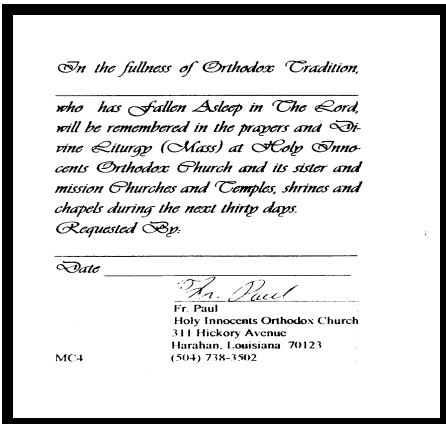


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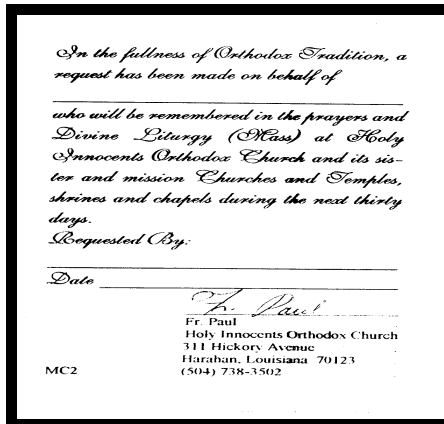
“MASS CARDS”

Commonly called “Mass Cards”, these 4 1/4” by 5 1/2” (folded) Icon cards feature the above Icons, and open to reveal prayer intentions for the living and for those who have Fallen Asleep in The Lord.

For those who have Fallen Asleep in The Lord, Icon # 19 graces the cover, with the following text (reduced here to fit in this column) inside:



General Intentions For the Living, for weddings, illnesses, general need, and for the sake of prayer itself, etc., cards, have Icons nos. 4, 7, 11, and 26, and a photograph of the Icon of Our Lady of Soufanieh showing the olive oil dripping from the bottom of the Icon’s frame, are available on the covers. All the Icons are full color printed cards, except Our Lady of Soufanieh, which is a color photograph.



The text on the inside of the cards for the living is given above, again reduced here to fit inside the column.

These cards are very beautiful, bamboo in color, but they are only a product - something to induce you to make a donation which we use to support the various works we provide, including publication of **REUNION**.

To have a person included in our prayers and at Divine Liturgy, send us a note, or fill out the form in the right column of this page and send it to us. There is no fee for the prayers and Masses, that would be Simony.

These cards are

also available without prayer intentions, and can be used for regular note or religiously oriented note stationery.

Consider obtaining a small supply, and send the prayer request slip which accompanies the cards when you actually use the card.

Like Monasteries which obtain donations for their Icons, or sell Icons and other items, the donations we receive from these cards are of great use to us. Your help is always appreciated.

+

Dear Fr. Paul,
Please include and remember _____

in the Divine Liturgy and Prayers for the (living - dead) at Holy Innocents Orthodox Church and its sister and mission places of worship during the next thirty days, beginning _____, 20_____, on the occasion of _____

Requested by (optional) _____

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City, State Zip) _____

Please mail this slip to:
Fr. Paul
Holy Innocents Orthodox Church
311 Hickory Avenue
Harahan, Louisiana 70123
or telephone (504) 738-3502
[Please note that prayer requests are also normally posted in REUNION BBS (504) 738-2681, www.reu.org, with world wide

PRODUCTS REQUEST FORM

ITEM	QUANTITY	REQUESTED DONATION	TOTAL
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Mass Cards: Each

Icon # 4	_____	\$2.00	\$ _____
Icon #7	_____	\$2.00	\$ _____
Icon #11	_____	\$2.00	\$ _____
Icon #19 (Deceased)	_____	\$2.00	\$ _____
Icon #26	_____	\$2.00	\$ _____
Soufanieh	_____	\$3.00	\$ _____

Icon Stationery Cards: (same as Mass cards but without inside inscription, packs of 10 cards and 11 envelopes)

Icon #4	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
Icon #7	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
Icon #11	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
Icon #19	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
Icon #26	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
Soufanieh	_____	\$22.00	\$ _____

Liturgical Calendars: (may contain errors, we try to correct them as we receive notice)

General Calendar	_____	\$6.00 for one	\$ _____
(55 pages +/-)	_____	\$2.00 for each additional ordered at same time	\$ _____
For Year 2000	_____	\$6.00 for one	\$ _____
(49 pages +/-)	_____	\$2.00 for each additional ordered at same time	\$ _____

Western Rite Divine Liturgy with rubrics:

Pew Size	_____	\$5.00 for one	\$ _____
	_____	\$2.00 for each additional ordered at same time	\$ _____
8 1/2" x 11 " pages	_____	\$9.00 for one	\$ _____
	_____	\$4.00 for each additional ordered at same time	\$ _____

PLEASE PRINT !!!

REQUEST PLACED BY:

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Total \$ _____

There are no shipping charges. Propriety requires the total requested donation amount accompany your products request. Send product request with donation to:

Holy Innocents Orthodox Church
 311 Hickory Ave.
 Harahan, Louisiana 70123

(Continued PARISH NEWS from page 4)

and take the first exit after the truck scales. This is the scenic route to the beaches. (Some people call this the Hwy. 90 exit.) Stay on the highway, pass (and curse) the gambling casino exit until you arrive in Waveland (about 17 miles from I-10). Turn right at the first traffic light, go down the road towards the beach, cross over the rail road tracks and turn left on Central Ave. which is the first road over the rail road tracks. Stay on central until you reach Coleman Ave., which is located at the first stop sign you will come to. Turn right on Coleman and you will see the beach road ahead. Turn right on Beach Road., go two blocks to Hartsie, turn right on Hartsie, travel 550 feet until the bend in the road. St. Mary Magdalene is on the left.

Or, I-10 to Miss Hwy 603 (43), also known as Kiln Rd., then South on Hwy 603 (43) (Kiln Rd.), cross over U. S. Hwy. 90 [Hwy 603 (43) changes its name to Nicholson Ave.], to the Beach, right on Beach Road, pass Coleman Ave., and proceed as above.

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(Continued SIN DENIAL from page 1)

creasing the pool of money and goods from which he can steal. These practices become habitual, and thus the tax collector falls into the habit of stealing. there is no reason to believe the tax collector our Lord was speaking about was different from what has just been described.

It would seem that the tax collector's sins should have been easy for him to avoid, since his sins were not those of a compulsive thief - like a kleptomaniac - but rather, the types of sins which required planning. However, he obviously continued in the practice of these sins, but also had true sorrow for them - meaning he was trying valiantly to stop committing these sins but still committed them. He was in a constant battle within himself; a battle he sometimes won and sometimes lost. Yet he did not give up, he did not despair, he kept on fighting the sins and continued in his disgust for the sins and for having committed them; and persevered in his contrition.

Thus was he justified, declared to be a righteous man, by God the Son Himself, because he truthfully examined and assessed his spiritual state and persevered in his quest for holiness.

These then should be our guides:

First: If you do not go to confession regularly, begin, for it is in Sacramental Confession to a Priest that you receive absolution for you sins, and special graces which assist you to overcome sin. If you go to confession regularly and still sin, think about how much more you would sin if you did not go to confession. If you have not been to confession in a long time, or if you have never been to confession, make an appointment with a Priest to discuss your situation, and to go to confession. Make sure the Priest knows you may need to talk with him for more than just a couple of minutes, so the Priest can set aside sufficient time. All you really have to do is telephone and say, "Father, I would like to see you sometime soon because I have

some personal, spiritual matters I need to discuss." And be on time for your appointment.

Second: Think about what you have done and not done the past week or so, and generally how you have lived your life so far. Pick out the bad stuff, and the things you know you should not do even if you are not sure why you should not do them. Discuss these things with the Priest in confession. Sometimes a Priest's schedule does not allow him to go into your needs in detail if you just drop by, or if you go to confession during regularly scheduled confession time; so judge what your needs are at the time and if needed, just go to confession to get yourself into a position to receive counseling.

Sometimes it seems some Priest are not willing to work with you. It may be the Priest is burdened, or that he is distracted, or that he is not a good Priest, or it could be that you are a "Priest Groupie" and that you are acting in an inappropriate manner. This leads us to the third guide.

Third: Humble yourself. Neither think you are too bad to become good - you are not capable of being that bad so do not put on "airs" - nor that you are too good to be bad.

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(Continued GOD FEELS from page 1)

Imagine what it is like to give special treatment to someone, as the Holy Spirit does when He grants special use of His power to certain individuals, and then has a multitude of individuals claiming those powers which the Holy Spirit only grants for a short term, and very rarely. Such claims, though they are false, as are the claims of the numerous ministers who claim to be able to "zap" you with the Holy Spirit, and who claim to be able to heal you because they command the Holy Spirit's power - these false claims cheapen the actual exercise of the powers the Holy Spirit does grant, and make people skeptical when the Holy Spirit actually does grant use of His power to a human. These liars take the honor which should be given to God alone, thus denying other people the right to honor God, and distracting them into either honoring a human as though he or she were God, or into not believing anything supernatural. When this happens, as it happens continually in our TV society, God feels the same way you feel when you accomplish something very great, and someone else claims and receives the credit.

Even the slightest sin is nothing less than spitting on God. It always, no matter how slight the sin, is as though you have taken God's emotions into your hands and twisted them and ripped them asunder, then stomped on them - as though you have taken the Love He offers to you and thrown it back in His face. You probably have had this happen to you yourself, and if you have, it hurt and you can still feel the pain and emptiness it caused even if it happened half a lifetime ago. There is no reason to believe it hurts God any less.

Think about it.

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Commentator Paul Harvey aired the prayer on The Rest of the Story on the radio and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired !!

THE PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance.

We know Your Word says, "Woe on those who call evil good," but that's exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

- We confess that:
- We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism.
- We have worshipped other gods and called it multi-culturalism.
- We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.
- We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.
- We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.
- We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.
- We have killed our unborn children and called it a choice.
- We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.
- We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem.
- We have abused power and called it political savvy.
- We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.
- We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.
- We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will. I ask it in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ.

SHORTS

Someone we need to get out of office is: United States Representative John Cooksey, R-Monroe, was the only Louisiana member of the U. S. House of Representatives to vote **against!** a Federal law which would outlaw physician assisted suicides. All other members of the Louisiana delegation to the house voted in favor of the ban on October 27, 1999.

The very fact that the U.S. House took up the measure was astounding given the current moral climate in politics. That it passed the House is extraordinary.

Hopefully Cooksey will change his mind to something which God will approve, or get out of office.

If we do not learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it: But of course, we can not expect the Washington politicians who are undoing the Depression Era instituted laws which bar merger of banking, insurance, and securities industries firms, to enact fiscally responsible laws. After all, during the Great Depression, vast sums of money were made on the misery of those who failed financially. When a person can not make a margin call, his stock will eventually become available at discount. A "smart operator" can acquire significant interests at low cost in this manner. When a business fails, its equipment and property likewise become available - just like a family owned farm. That intermingling of banking, insurance, and securities, consolidates business risk should override any profit motive, but of course it does not. So, while more stocks are being purchased by individuals and companies who borrow the funds needed to make the stock purchase - similar to what happened in the 1920's - and stock prices are inflated far beyond capital asset value - similar to what happened in the 1920's - and major nations are in danger of default on international loans - as are Russia

(Continued SHORTS on page 24)

READER'S DIGEST IS PRO-ABORTION

By + Paul

Reader's Digest, the monthly magazine known for a moral outlook, "Quotes and Quips", "Humor in Uniform", "Heroes for Today", and condensation of articles and books from other publications, as well as articles from staff and contributing authors, has officially endorsed abortion, pro-choice, and naturally, use of all forms of contraceptives.

This radical change in position took place in the January, 2000, issue, at page 133 of an article entitled "*Trial Lawyers on Trial*", by Trevor Armbrister (the article begins on page 130).

In decrying the activities of plaintiff trial lawyers, Reader's Digest states: ". . . *the litigation stirred up by trial lawyers drives good products off the market and discourages further innovation. Contraception is exhibit No. 1. A generation ago at least eight major companies were researching new birth-control methods . . . that's down to two . . . Lawsuits drive the Copper-7 IUD, a safe and effective contraceptive device, off the market . . . Norplant . . . (a) device inhibits pregnancy . . . (page 134) And what of a new two-capsule Norplant . . . Wyeth-Ayerst has thus far declined to make it available.*" All because of litigation filed by plaintiffs' trial lawyers.

The IUD does not prevent conception. It scrapes the tiny little baby right off the place God prepared for it, mangling and crushing it, and if it survives the mangling and crushing, it is expelled to die of starvation and exposure. The other methods are a little more compassionate in that they do not scrape and mangle the baby, they just prevent it from attaching itself to the place which God prepared for it, so it is expelled and dies from starvation and exposure.

And Reader's Digest, by publishing Armbrister's article, now is pro-abortion.

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(Continued GROANERS from page 2)

A skeptical anthropologist was cataloging South American folk remedies with the assistance of a tribal brujo who indicated that the leaves of a particular fern were a sure cure for any case of constipation. When the anthropologist expressed his doubts, the brujo looked him in the eye and said, "Let me tell you, with fronds like these, who needs enemas?"

Back in the 1800's the Tate Watch Company of Massachusetts wanted to produce other products and, since they already made the cases for pocket watches, decided to market compasses for the pioneers traveling west. It turned out that although their watches were of finest quality, their compasses were so bad that people often ended up in Canada or Mexico rather than California. This, of course, is the origin of the expression; "He who has a Tate is lost!"

A thief broke into the local police station and stole all the lavatory equipment. A spokesperson was quoted as saying, "We have absolutely nothing to go on."

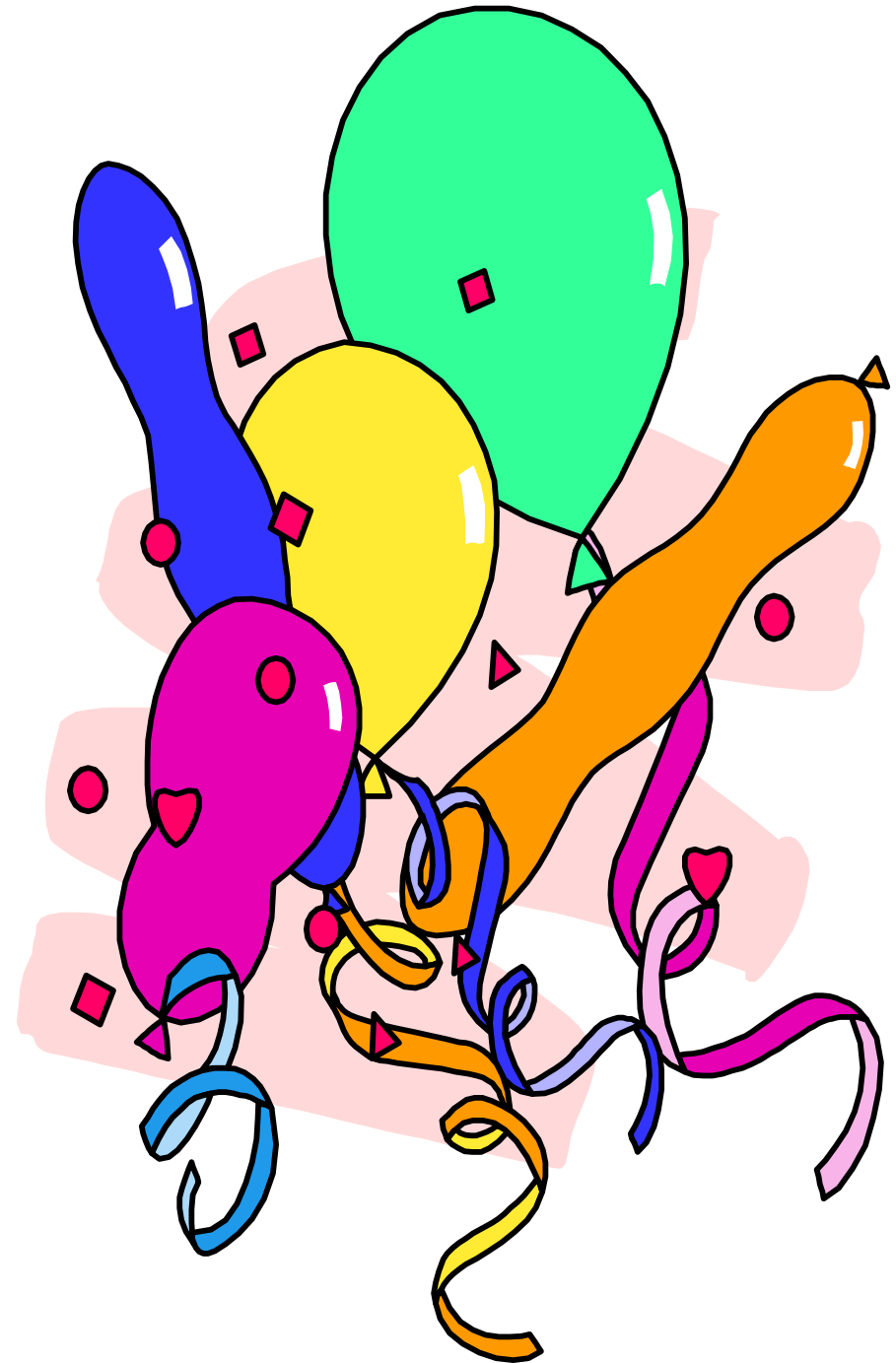
An Indian chief was feeling very sick, so he summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long, thin strip of elk hide and gave it to the chief, instructing him to bite off, chew and swallow one inch of the leather every day. After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling. The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on...."

A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census"

There were three Indian squaws. One slept on a deerskin. One slept on an elk

skin and the third slept on a hippopotamus skin. All three became pregnant and the first two each had a baby boy. The one who slept on the hippopotamus skin had twin boys. This goes to prove that the squaw of the hippopotamus is equal to the sons of the squaws of the other two hides.

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

BIBLE HISTORY FOR CHILDREN

24. The Paschal Lamb

MOSES and Aaron gathered together the people, and spoke to them: "Thus saith the Lord: On the fourteenth day of this month, towards evening, every family shall kill a lamb without blemish. You shall not break a bone of the lamb. You shall take its blood, and with it, you shall sprinkle the posts of your doors. But the flesh of the lamb must be eaten the same night, together with unleavened bread. For on that very night My angel shall slay every firstborn of the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood of the lamb on your doors, he shall pass by, and there shall be no mourning nor death in your houses."

2. The night of the fourteenth day came, and the Israelites did as they were commanded. At midnight the angel of the Lord passed



EATING THE PASCHAL LAMB AND MARKING THE DOOR-POSTS

through Egypt and slew every first-born from the king's first-born to the first-born of the laborer. There arose a fearful cry

from all the land of Egypt, because death was in every house. But the houses of the Israelites were spared; for the doors were sprinkled with the blood of the lamb. Then the king, calling Moses and Aaron in the night, said: "Go ye forth from among my people, and bless me."

3. The Israelites rose up in haste with all that they possessed. Moses said to them: "This day ye shall celebrate as a feast from generation to generation."

The blood of the paschal lamb was a figure of the blood of Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. *What did Moses and Aaron tell the people about the fourteenth day of the month?*

What about the paschal lamb?

Why should they sprinkle their doors with its blood?

2. *Who passed through Egypt at midnight?*

What happened then?

3. *What did the Israelites do?*

25. The Passage of the Red Sea

Now God Himself conducted the Israelites in their march. He went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, by night in a pillar of flame. Thus they reached the sea-shore.

2. Now, Pharaoh repented of allowing the Israelites to depart. So he pursued them with chariots, horsemen and his whole army. At

CHILDREN'S PAGE

night-fall he overtook them near the Red Sea. The Israelites were seized with great fear, and cried to God for help. But Moses said to them: "Fear not, the Lord will fight for you."

3. And behold! The pillar of cloud arose, and came down between the Israelites and the Egyptians. To the Egyptians it made the night darker, so that they could not see the Israelites. To the Israelites, however, it gave light. Then at the command of God, Moses stretched out his rod over the sea, and immediately the waters divided and stood like a wall on either side. A hot wind dried the ground, and the Israelites marched through the midst of the sea.

4. At the dawn of the next day

Pharao pursued the Israelites into the midst of the sea.

But then peals of thunder and flashes of lightning burst forth



MOSES STRETCHING THE ROD

from the pillar of cloud, and the Lord said to Moses: "Stretch thy hand over the sea." Moses did so. And behold ! the divided waters came together again from the right and from the left, covering the chariots, the horsemen and the whole army of Pharao.

5. Thus the Lord miraculously saved the Israelites from the hands of the Egyptians. The people feared the Lord, and believed in Him and in Moses, His servant.



DROWNING OF THE EGYPTIANS

2. *What did Pharao do?*

3. *How did the pillar of cloud come down? How were the waters divided?*

4. *How did Pharao and his army perish?*

5. *In whom did the people believe?*

QUESTIONS

1. *How did God conduct the Israelites?*

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YOUR MUSIC SETS A CEILING

+ Paul, S.S.B.

Epistle Gal 5:25-26; 6:1-10
Gospel Luke 7:11-16

We limit ourselves in so many ways that it seems impossible to count them. Not just in spiritual matters, even though everything ultimately reflects on our spiritual lives, but in every single aspect of our lives we limit ourselves. Not restrict, which can be good, but limit - stunt our spiritual growth.

For example, music. Your music creates a ceiling for you, and creates a ceiling for all who follow you.

Think about it. My generation pretty much abandoned Benny Goodman, Lena Horn, Beethoven, and Opera, in favor of Elvis the Pelvis. Granted, Elvis' voice was a wonderful instrument, and a few of his songs had excellent lyrics, and some had decent melodies. But in the main, Elvis Presley created an atmosphere of sexual excitement in women, and men attempted to emulate and continue that sexual excitement. It is not that Elvis was a product of his times; he did not perform that type of music as a result of societal factors - I lived through those times and saw Elvis create changes in society. Some of the changes were good, but in the main the changes were not good.

The music of the 50's lead to a focus on sex in the guise of love, and the focus of that sex was self gratification. The music of the 60's and the 70's continued the sexual self gratification focus, and introduced acceptance of drugs, and other selfish, self gratification practices, and made frontal attacks on authority without replacing the existing authority with a new authority - in short, it promoted anarchy.

The children born to the teenagers of the 60's and the 70's are the young people of today. Very few of the young people of today are as well adjusted and as happy as the children of the 40's and

the 50's. They are characterized as being over weight, without great innovative imaginative prowess, easily panicked, and virtually without self reliance. Their music, particularly rap, advocates total abandon of all responsibility, violence against those who inhibit their self gratification, violence for the sake of violence, and using others in any manner desired.

When words, which are powerful things, are constantly drummed into one's consciousness, a person begins to accept the significance of those words. Therefore, if one listens to music similar in context to Carley Simon's lyrics, "all I want is you in a sexy hurricane," one begins to accept sex as the foundation of a relationship, especially if there are no modifying lyrics within the song. If one listens to songs with lyrics similar to Reba McIntire's song, "Where were you when I could have loved you," one's thoughts follow a pattern of, "I am bound to honor my marriage vows, so I can only have a friendship relationship with this other person who really could be most fantastic, and a friendship relationship is the most which I will allow to happen." If one listens to songs similar to Whitney Houston's song which says, "I've got the stuff that you want, I have the thing that you need," . . . well, the beat of the music leaves no doubt that she is singing a pagan fertility song, that the song is an open invitation to sexual abandon and wantonness.

The prison of a song can be broken by analyzing the lyrics and the music. You can do this with yourself, and with your children and grandchildren when they visit you. Listen to the lyrics of a song, and analyze them in the light of morality. What emotions are evoked by the music itself? The song, "Memories," by the same Elvis the Pelvis who brought us raunch, evokes tenderness and love. Conversely, "I want to be what he wants when he wants it," when analyzed, are not just an abandonment of morality, but an actual promotion of enslavement.

If you listen to your children's music,

and sit them down and analyze the lyrics with them, asking them what the lyrics advocate - and then asking the child item by item, whether or not the thing advocated meets with God's approval, you will have began the work of releasing your child from the chains forged by the music. A nice by-product could be that the child may either change to a more acceptable music format, or, in the least, may be more amiable to the restrictions you place on their music. At the very least, you will have performed a portion of your obligation to parent, and you will have begun to establish parental authority.

And you will be doing a portion of the work God has set for you to do.

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT ARE BROKEN

Epistle 2 Cor 3:4-9
Gospel Luke 10:23-37

The monastic beginning of daily prayer is, "Oh God take heed and save me, Oh Lord make haste to help me." It is a prayer we should constantly pray, but so few people of today really pray that outside of the daily prayer of the Clergy and Religious, it is seldom heard.

Jesus Christ, God Himself, has by His personal actions shown us that we are to be concerned with the total well being of every person who ever was, is, and will be; but most people ignore anything which does not directly effect themselves and in so doing they ignore both the letter and the spirit of God's instructions to us.

There is a terrible result which follows from this: When both the letter and the spirit of God's very simple requests are ignored by a society or a people, corrupt evil spreads throughout that society, throughout that people. As the evil increases, God sends warnings to us to repent, reform, and return to Him - but is seems these warnings are almost always ignored. The last time they seem to have been acknowledged by an entire people was when the City of Ninive repented in response to the message God gave Jonas to deliver to them.

Within the past hundred years, Fatima was ignored, then the Communist took over Holy Russia and WWI devastated civilized Europe. Geragombaldi (sp?) was ignored, and WWII devastated much of the world. Damascus and hundreds of other warnings all over the world are now being ignored. Since the first two warnings within this past hundred years were given by the Holy Mother of God in several appearances but each being in one place, and since the current warnings are being given by Her, and Our Lord Jesus Christ, and in

at least Damascus, also by Our Lord God the Father, and considering the fact that we have been having slow build-ups of natural disasters of every type, from plagues to floods and droughts, but nothing world wide has yet happened, it seems safe to believe the punishment for the totality of evil which we allow to pervade every aspect of this world, will make WWI, the Great Depression and WWII, appear to be desirable situations. If we do not pay heed to the warnings God has given us through the Blessed Virgin Mary, the disaster which will come will probably be beyond comprehension.

And this will happen simply because people do not love each other enough to even pray for each other: not even enough to just say, "Yo God, take care of that drunk sleeping under the bridge; OK?" If you can not personally attempt to help that drunk, or anyone else, either because of fear or some other impediment, real, imagined, or fabricated, then you can at least pray that simple prayer. What is better is to pray in a manner which contemplates the many possibilities as to why that drunk is sleeping under the bridge, pray for rectification of those causes, **and try to do something to rectify those causes**, even if it is just sending some money to an organization which works on rectifying those problems.

We are running out of time within which to pray, and to live in Love for each other. We are running out of time because we are getting older, which means our remaining years are getting fewer. We are running out of time, because what ever time God has decided to unleash His Judgment is getting much closer. The cup of evil is overflowing, which means the cup of God's Wrath is also overflowing.

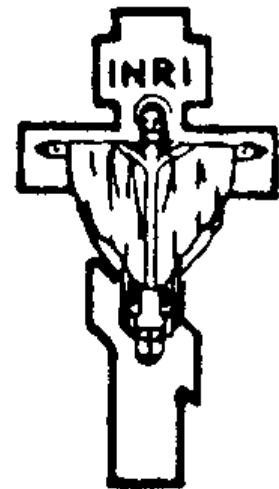
Take advantage of the door to Divine Mercy which God is keeping wide open for us at this time. Pray constantly - not just the formal prayers, but particularly, the personal prayers which are based in examination of conscience and of our good and our bad deeds, and our lack of

deeds, both good and bad. Act on these prayers, and change yourselves and assist others in changing themselves - not by trying to force them to become good, but by assisting them with what they need to become good.

Receive the Sacraments frequently, especially Holy Communion and Confession, for these will provide you with the Divine Life which is necessary for you to be able to do the work God has for you to do.

At this time we can enter eternal life through the door of Divine Mercy, but soon that door will only be opened a very little, and we will experience Divine Justice. If we live in the time of Divine Justice which will come, then we can still practice Divine Mercy and Divine Love towards others, just as the Good Samaritan did. But would it not be much wiser, much better, much more desirable, to pay heed to the warnings, and to practice these things now, and thus avert the world wide imposition of Divine Justice which will otherwise be visited on the evil which pervades this world, and those who do nothing to oppose it?

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THE PROPHECY OF MALACHIAS

[MALACHIAS, whose name signifies The Angel of the Lord, was contemporary with NEHEMIAS, and by some is believed to have been the same person as ESDRAS. He was the last of the prophets, in the order of time, and flourished about four hundred years before Christ. He foretells the coming of Christ; the reprobation of the Jews and their sacrifices; and the calling of the Gentiles, who shall offer up to God in every place an acceptable sacrifice.]

Malachias Chapter 1

(God reproaches the Jews with their ingratitude: and the priests for not offering pure sacrifices. He will accept of the sacrifice that shall be offered in every place among the Gentiles.)

1:1. The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by the hand of Malachias. 1:2. I have loved you, saith the Lord: and you have said: Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau brother to Jacob, saith the Lord, and I have loved Jacob,

I have loved Jacob, etc... I have preferred his posterity, to make them my chosen people, and to lead them with my blessings, without any merit on their part, and though they have been always ungrateful; whilst I have rejected Esau, and executed severe judgments upon his posterity. Not that God punished Esau, or his posterity, beyond their desert: but that by his free election and grace he loved Jacob, and favoured his posterity above their deserts. See the annotations upon Rom. 9.

1:3. But have hated Esau? and I have made his mountains a wilderness, and given his inheritance to the dragons of the desert. 1:4. But if Edom shall say: We are destroyed, but we will return and build up what hath been destroyed: thus saith the Lord of hosts: They shall build up, and I will throw down: and they shall be called the borders of wickedness, and the people with whom the Lord is angry for ever. 1:5. And

your eyes shall see: and you shall say: The Lord be magnified upon the border of Israel. 1:6. The son honoureth the father, and the servant his master: if then I be a father, where is my honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear: saith the Lord of hosts. 1:7. To you, O priests, that despise my name, and have said: Wherein have we despised thy name? You offer polluted bread upon my altar, and you say: Wherein have we polluted thee? In that you say: The table of the Lord is contemptible. 1:8. If you offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if you offer the lame and the sick, is it not evil? offer it to thy prince, if he will be pleased with it, or if he will regard thy face, saith the Lord of hosts. 1:9. And now beseech ye the face of God, that he may have mercy on you, (for by your hand hath this been done,) if by any means he will receive your faces, saith the Lord of hosts. 1:10. Who is there among you, that will shut the doors, and will kindle the fire on my altar gratis? I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts: and I will not receive a gift of your hand. 1:11. For from the rising of the sun even to the going down, my name is great among the Gentiles, and in every place there is sacrifice, and there is offered to my name a clean oblation: for my name is great among the Gentiles, saith the Lord of hosts.

A clean oblation... Viz., the precious body and blood of Christ in the eucharistic sacrifice.

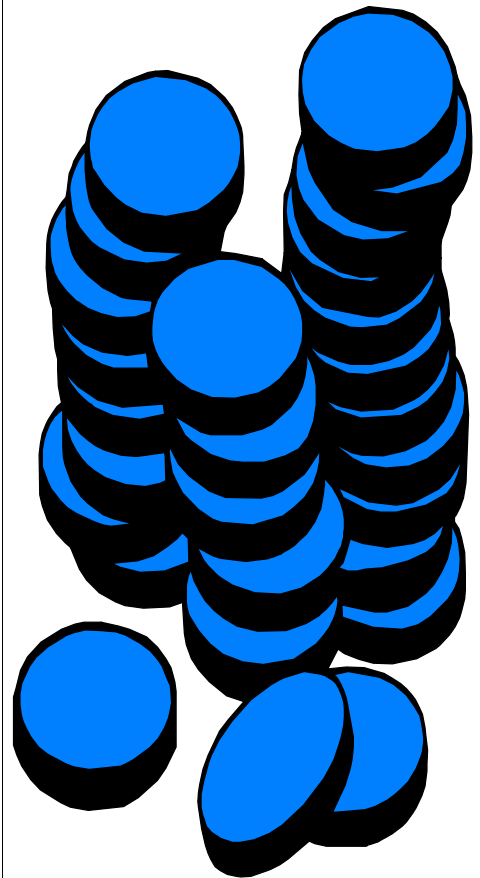
1:12. And you have profaned it in that you say: The table of the Lord is defiled: and that which is laid thereupon is contemptible with the fire that devoureth it. 1:13. And you have said: Behold of our labour, and you puffed it away, saith the Lord of hosts, and you brought in of rapine the lame, and the sick, and brought in an offering: shall I accept it at your hands, saith the Lord?

Behold of our labour, etc... You pretended labour and weariness, when you brought your offering; and so made it of no value, by offering it with an evil mind. Moreover, what you offered was

both defective in itself, and gotten by rapine and extortion.

1:14. Cursed is the deceitful man that hath in his flock a male, and making a vow offereth in sacrifice that which is feeble to the Lord: for I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the Gentiles.

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FOLLOWING THE GREAT COMMANDMENT: OPPOSING FORCES AND EFFECTS

Epistle Ephes. 4:1-6
Gospel Mat. 22:34-46

“Careful to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. One body and one Spirit: as you are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in us all.”

Saint Paul very strongly reminds us that there is but one God, one Lord Jesus Christ, one Faith, one Baptism, one Church which is of the Body of our Lord. We know this, and we know that the greatest Commandment is Two, *“love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and with thy whole soul and with thy whole mind . . . love thy neighbour as thyself.”*

And most of us *really do* love God, but not enough; not with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We *want* to love Him more than anything else, but we do not do it because our desire to do it is not strong enough.

There are many different, correct and proper ways to strengthen our desire to love God totally, so that it finally becomes strong enough to overcome our inclination to place ourselves first, and God and our neighbors a weak second. Each of these correct and proper ways has in common the same Faith, the True Faith.

In considering the True Faith, we must be very careful, for not everyone who claims to be a Christian actually is a Christian. President William Jefferson Clinton claims to be a Christian, but since he openly advocates that which is in opposition to the True Faith, particularly, that he advocates killing unborn children which is in opposition to the Second of the Two Great Commandments, and he sees nothing

wrong in engaging in oral sex with a woman to whom he is not married, that which he proclaims is not Christian and he therefore is not a Christian.

The Pharisees who attempted to discredit our Lord claimed to be Hebrews. They were very learned in the Hebrew religion, but they refused to acknowledge that our Lord was the Messiah even though He fulfilled every prophecy regarding the Messiah. They wanted the Messiah to bring world conquest in a non-spiritual manner and to create a non-spiritual kingdom, even though all the prophecies made it clear the Messiah would work in a spiritual manner.

So, we must be very careful in our approach to loving God. We must be sure that we are following God’s teachings and not our own desires, so that the different things we do and which we avoid, are in concert with God’s Will.

We can become more loving of God by associating with others who are also attempting to get to Heaven. Simple discussions amongst ourselves, regarding current events, whether they be everyday, national, international, or even household and family events, is one of the best means of attaining actions on our own part which are in accordance with properly loving God and man. Not gossip, but considered discussion in the Light of Faith, with planned action in accordance with Faith.

For example, stating that a certain politician’s child does not look like the father, but obviously looks like a male friend of the mother, is gossip. Wondering how the publicly known immoral acts of the child’s father effect the child, and perhaps sending the child something nice but without referring to the father’s waywardness - perhaps with a little note saying “we love you”, and praying for the child, will better inform us of the spiritual horror and harm caused by the father’s actions, assist us in avoiding the philosophy which

permits such actions and thereby avoid such actions. It will also open up our hearts to the child.

Discussing how society has become so hardened so that it does not listen to God when what God wants is in opposition to what the individual wants, if done in a proper, Christian manner, will assist us in learning what was done by others to make society so troubled. In understanding the causes we can combat them, and thus have the opportunity to strengthen our own Faith, and our individual relationship with God.

What is very nice about this is, that when we do this in one area or subject, what we learn, and in what we become strengthened in one spiritual area, applies to all spiritual areas. Thus, when we realize that the foundation of the loss of spiritual values in modern society lies in the successful attempt to break the increasing political strength of the Roman Catholics who, with the Orthodox Catholics were a cohesive political voting unit throughout the history of the USA until the 1960’s, we understand that lack of spiritual and moral values is an intended result of intended actions and policies of the political forces which have run the USA.

We will then realize that as a nation, we must give atonement for the sins of the nation, and that we must vote for candidates who espouse morally and spiritually proper government actions even though such individuals may also espouse paths which will not be to our economic benefit.

Let us look at abortion and birth control as an example. Abortion provides great economic benefits. It employs thousands of people who in turn feed the economy. So does the production of birth control paraphernalia. By limiting the number of persons in a household, the income for the household can be spread over a wider economic base. In a large household,

(Continued FORCES on page 16)

(Continued *FORCES* from page 15)

the necessities of life are purchased first, and the non-necessities and luxuries are not purchased very often. Since the necessities of life cost much less than the luxuries, the economic effect of purchasing primarily necessities is not as far reaching as purchasing luxuries. Therefore, a return to having children will initially have a negative effect on world economy. However, the economic effect of purchasing necessities is the foundation of every economy, whether it be local, regional, national, international, or world wide. Therefore, an increase in purchase of the necessities of life will actually result in an increase in economic stability, but it will cause the luxuries to increase in price.

You can see from this brief examination, that discussion of such things can lead to a better comprehension of spiritual and moral reality, and thus provide each of us with better reasons for acting in a more morally and spiritually responsible manner. This will also assist us in being correct in our daily, intuitive, actions and reactions, to daily situations, and will assist us in gaining an insight into the causes of actions by others and how to react and relate to them.

For instance, if a child is misbehaving, ask the child, "Why?" Consider the child's answer or lack of an answer while asking yourself, "Why is this child misbehaving?" Invariably, you will understand that in children who are babies, the baby is reacting to stimuli, but that in older children, generally those over the age of six or seven, the child is misbehaving because the child is doing what the child wants to do and is not considering the wants, needs, and desires of anyone else.

Once you comprehend this, then you can look to the factors which induce the child to misbehave, and effect those factors.

At the same time you can teach the child a very basic fact of moral and spiritual reality. That fact is, goodness is rewarded and badness and evil are punished; extreme goodness receives fantastic rewards, and being really bad results in severe, sometimes permanent, punishment.

If you do these things with a child, only because you want some peace in your life, or if you kill the personality or otherwise remove the actual child from your life, your life will become miserable, and you will not be successful in the moral retraining of the child because your motivation will not allow you to sustain the strain necessary to effect the reformation. But if you attempt to reform the child at least *in part* out of love, be it love for another person, including love of God, or just general love, your chances of success will increase.

What is success in such an instance? Success is *NOT* achieving the actual modification of behavior of the child, for there is the factor of the free will which the child has. Success is in achieving an implanting of knowledge within the child: that God approves of certain acts and disapproves of certain acts; in knowing which acts He approves and which He disapproves; in *generally* comprehending the why of God's approval; and that good is rewarded and evil is punished.

While these may be matters over which philosophers have argued from the beginning of time, they are also matters which mankind has spiritually and morally comprehended since the beginning of time.

It is interesting to realize that these things all have their foundation in loving God



(Continued BASIL from page 1)

General) of The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil (our part of the The Basilian Fathers). All have been entrusted to us. We did not and do not want to be in this position, but here we are. We will therefore, this one time, speak as what we are, and we will make clear, what we whom some say Govern the Church, really are.

It was immediately after he cured the palsied man (Mat 9:1-8) that our Lord called Saint Matthew to follow Him. If you are realistic, then you will realize that Saint Matthew, and every Bishop, every man man who is a successor to the Apostles, is exactly the same as Saint Matthew and the other Apostles, and in exactly the same position as the Apostles. We are sinners, most of us constantly failing yet constantly striving to be good. We also exercise inconceivable power and authority; the same power and authority that forgave the palsied man's sins; the same power and authority that cured his physical ailments. The smallness of our Faith does not effect this exercise in its spiritual effects, but it does effect this exercise in the physical realm, and therefore very few Bishops can cure physical ailments.

While this power and authority which we exercise is without limits, *WE* are limited in our ability and authority to exercise or wield this power and authority, for it is not ours, but is God's. No human can command God.

Some people, mostly power hungry (so called "feminists") women and people who want to have their favorite sins made morally acceptable, raise a fuss because we do not pay attention to their sinful desires. According to them, we will not share our power and authority with them, nor will we give moral approval to their favorite sins.

These people misdirect the truth, and if their apparent high level of education is an indication, they intentionally misdirect the truth - in short they spew falsehood.

The sinful desires of these people can not be made moral, for moral standards are set by God. Those who wish to obtain moral approval of the use of artificial birth control, and those who wish to obtain moral approval of abortions, or of extramarital sexual relations, or of homosexual activities, can never obtain this approval, for no matter what any man, any human, may say, God has stated such things are immoral, and, since no human has authority over God, no human has the authority to change these things. The classical historical example of a human attempt to change Dogma is the English King Henry VIII. Henry wanted Church approved marriages, to woman after woman, until he would finally have a son born to him. When the Roman Catholic Church refused to grant his desires, Henry declared himself to be head of the Church in England, and enforced his decree with his army. Yet, this did not change God's truth, and Henry committed sin after sin after sin; from fornication to murder of the women he bedded as though they were his wives. Nothing he could do could make the additional women he called wife actually be a wife to him, and nothing he could invent could justify his murder of them.

The Church is part of Jesus Christ's Body, and He is God, which means unlike us humans, He has complete control over His Body. He may allow us to mess things up, but this will only be allowed for a little while. When He desires, He will repair His Body by removing the contaminated cells and expelling them into the permanent infection control center of Hell.

God's authority was made evident in His simply speaking His will and the palsied man was instantly cured - completely and totally cured. Our Lord did such things over and over again, constantly exercising His own power and authority for all to see during the three years of His public life, as proof that He Is who He says He Is, God the Messiah.

It is obvious that the authority we exercise belongs to God and is given to us to use properly, and that we have no authority to change what God has established as true, as dogma. Therefore, those who understand this reality and who still seek to obtain our level of authority for the expressed purpose of "sharing power" and of "listening to the wishes of the people", are evil seeking evil purposes; for anything which they may utter which is contrary to God's teachings, will be without effect but may serve to lead people astray from God. Thus, those organizations which call themselves Christian religions, and which allow abortions, are in actuality evil organizations and are not followers of Christ. They are part of the true Evil Empire.

Those who seek the Priesthood and those who seek the Episcopacy, because they believe they can save souls by their wisdom and eloquence, are mistaken, but they are not necessarily evil, just mistaken. Saint Paul tells us (1 Cor 1:4-8) that the world will be saved by preaching The Cross, not by human eloquence or human wisdom.

This, then, is our true authority as successors to the Apostles. We are servants of God and of His flock. We are assistant shepherds of God's flock, and attendants to His Body on Earth. It is not our position to act as many physicians act, and order those in our care to do what we want. It is our duty to assist those entrusted to our care, to follow what God has said He wants.

If you allow us to assist you, then, whether you be rich or poor, attractive of physical features or plain, after you have undergone a brief purification and proper orientation more fully to God, you will receive the Divine Crown God has reserved for you. But should any Bishop or Priest ever tell you that you may engage in that which God has expressly forbidden, or should he ever tell you that you may omit that which

(Continued BASIL on page 18)

(Continued BASIL from page 17)

God has expressly said you must be or do, then flee from that man, for he is attempting to lead you to evil.

Now I will speak as me, the man. Earlier I informed you that most of us in my position constantly fail in our attempts to be good, yet we never give up trying to be good. Before I was made a Priest, and even after I was made a Priest, there were many wrongs which were part of my life. Since I was made Bishop, God has favored me with Grace such that active participation in most of these wrongs are no longer part of my life; yet the temptations remain and I therefore engage in a constant battle to remain in a state of Grace. If God did not fight these battles for me, with me mostly just barely hanging on to God's coattails while He vanquishes the enemy, I would be spiritually lost; I would be damned.

I therefore beg you to pray for me always. It would be so easy to replace all the cares which have been given to me, with the seemingly pleasant escape of sensual and intellectual delights, even though I fully know from experience that such seeming delights are not real, and their experience vanishes leaving one both empty and enslaved if they are sought. It is not in just intellectually willing and emotionally desiring and in spiritually thirsting for holiness that I will attain holiness. It is in accepting the freedom of being made one with God's will, that I escape the enslavement of sin.

It may be, and it probably is, that we have been placed in our position, so that we may attain eternal salvation; and that without being in our office, it would be much more difficult for us to attain eternal salvation. We promise we will be here for you for so long as God allows our body, spirit, and soul, to function, until we receive our Eternal, Divine Crown of Glory within the Essence of God Himself. Since this may be sooner than any of us imagine, and since there is so much remaining which it appears we are best suited to

provide, particularly in the areas of teaching aids and tools and liturgical references, we will redouble our efforts to complete those works in progress, as well as engage in new areas designed to assist as many people as possible to attain salvation, always remembering that it is in Teaching The Cross, and not in human wisdom or eloquence, that we will assist in salvation.

We therefore beg you to pray for us, and to pray for more men to answer the Divine call to the Priesthood. We began with only so much of me, yet I have been poured out as though I were water coming from a bottomless lake. The waters of this lake are enriched by the minerals of Grace which the waters carry to feed and rejuvenate those who quench their thirst. You, in turn, revive us with the different ways in which you both support us, and work with us to make our work easier and more fruitful. But a lake can only flow from its rivers; a pair of hands can only perform so much work; a human heart can only beat and break and yearn with love for you just so much. You and the rest of the world need more Priests, so that the lake may flow through more rivers, and there will be more hands to work, and more hearts to beat, and break, and yearn with love for you. For your own sakes, pray that those men called to be Priests will soon answer that call.

+ *Paul, S.S.B.*



ABORTION IS THE SIN OF SATAN'S CHOICE

It is leading the USA and other countries to destruction.

Epistle Ephes 4:23-28
Gospel Mat 22:1-14

God loves you. He offers you a place in His home. If you wish to accept the invitation, you must meet His terms because it is His house in which you will be living.

To accept His invitation, you must therefore make sure you stop doing that which He has forbidden, and do that which He has commanded. If you do not stop opposing Him and do not work with Him, then you will have the same fate as those who have outright rejected His invitation. You will go to Hell and once in Hell you will never leave. However, if you accept His invitation, and also stop doing what He has forbidden, and start doing what He has commanded, and work with Him, you will go to Heaven and be with God and happy for all eternity.

Most of us give half-hearted attempts at following God's instructions, but half-hearted attempts are without positive effect for they are basically lukewarm, and God can not stand lukewarmness. If those who continually strive to follow God's Will constantly fail, and constantly rise again to continue to try to follow His Will, think of how little chance the lukewarm efforts have of being successful.

One of the most common failings has to do with sexual relations. When sexual relations are for our own personal self gratification, we demean that which satisfies our passions by using that person instead of loving that person. In so doing, we teach the satisfier of our passions that they are no more than a thing, and they become inclined to treat us similarly. That which interferes with our own self gratification quickly becomes something to be discarded, and so temperance in sexual matters quickly

is disregarded.

When temperance in sexual matters is disregarded, planning sexual intercourse to coincide with either the most or least opportune time for procreation is also disregarded, especially in those instances when procreation is not desired. This in turn quickly leads to use of artificial methods of birth control, and artificial methods of birth control are against God's wishes. We will not discuss those reasons here, nor will we discuss their Biblical origins, for that is not within the scope of this presentation and has been presented numerous times in earlier editions of REUNION. We will also disregard the use of condoms, for in past issues of REUNION we have published studies which show use of condoms is actually less effective than natural birth control methods. These studies also show that men really do not like to use condoms, and will usually take measures to avoid their use.

The most commonly used form of birth control in our society is the "pill" - birth control pills. The pill is touted as preventing pregnancy. It does not prevent pregnancy. The pill prevents a fertilized egg, a human being, from properly attaching itself, so that it is starved to death and expelled from the woman's body, or is expelled from the woman's body and dies of exposure and starvation. In this process of being murdered the unborn child, though very tiny, feels and experiences everything you would feel and experience if you were to die of starvation or of exposure and starvation. These are simple facts.

The IUD scrapes the baby from its God prepared home, and the baby dies just like the baby who dies from use of the pill if it survives the crushing and smashing of the device. The morning after pill causes the baby to be expelled from its God prepared home, and it dies from exposure and starvation.

And, second only to the pill in killing children, abortions, including the procedure called D&C, simply kill the

child either by scraping it out of its home, or dissecting it alive and pulling it apart in pieces until its quivering pieces are thrown into the garbage, or by burning its nervous system with a salt solution and then butchering it into the garbage.

So as to not waste anything, the tissues of some of these butchered children are being used in experiments, and in treating Parkinson's Disease, which means a new category of people live through the intentional murder of children.

When you sin, if you are truly sorry, if you truly repent and intend to never commit that or any other sin ever again, and ask for God's forgiveness in the manner which He Himself established, in Sacramental Confession, then God will forgive you through the power He has given to His Priests. We know that we probably will continue to commit certain sins, for even Saint Paul had a thorn in his side which he prayed God to remove. But the sins which we will probably continue to commit usually are sins of impulse, or sins which do not take days of planning.

Murder of children takes planning. Abortions, whether by scalpel or by use of the pill, are sins which we can avoid. But we must not just avoid them ourselves. We must do all which is within morality, to oppose this killing of children. We must regain control of our government, and even if it means we suffer economic hardship, we must elect government officials who will stop abortions, re-establish the ban on contraceptives, and lead our nation and the whole world into proper morality.

If this does not happen, and happen very soon, God will step in and personally protect His babies. Then it will be impossible to say, "God help the murderers" for God will be the One the murderers need protection from, and no one can give protection against God's wrath.

**POLITICAL
ENSLAVEMENT BY
THE RULING CLASS
Through purchase and sexual
“freedom”**

Epistle Ephes 5:15-21
Gospel John 4:46-53

Imagine you are part of today's ruling class, a member of the ultra-rich and having great political influence. You might not be a celebrity - and indeed most celebrities of today are merely pawns of the truly ultra-rich ruling class - and the general public may not be aware of your status, but the political elite of all parties know of you and your power and authority.

Now, imagine one of your children falls grievously ill. The physicians can not provide a cure, but there is a chance a low class beggar who travels around the country may be able to provide a cure. Would you humble yourself and seek this beggar and beg for a cure?

You probably would, but the typical member of today's ruling class would not. These people have too much pride to humble themselves. They may ponder their personal situations and relations, and they may experience sorrow, but they do not humble themselves for anyone.

In fact, the rulers of today, and we have a ruling class even in our democratic and republican forms of government, the rulers of today may become upset and even experience sorrow by the death of one of their children, but they will not publicly seek God's help if they have to actually humble themselves, and especially if they have to publicly humble themselves. Much less will they publicly seek help from what they perceive to be just another human, and particularly from a member of the servant class.

The ruling class really believe how history records them is important, and how they are remembered within their

own ruling class is most important. They believe history is the eternal reward, and so they pursue their own agendas, seeking to walk in the respect of powerful men and women.

To obtain and to maintain this power they must control the lower classes - us. When a particular group begins to attain a cohesive population which could remove the rulers from power, these rulers seek to manipulate the up and coming group, particularly by purchasing the loyalty of members of the very group which threatens the "status quo".

One such example is obvious in the community which is made up of descendants of Negro Africans. A few, carefully selected individuals of this group are allowed to appear to wield power, but their power foundation is made of sugar and will melt with the dew. Large voting blocks in the larger cities were purchased with government money in the form of welfare. It is true that numerically, Negroes make up a small percentage of welfare recipients, but their concentration in the larger cities formed a concentration of power in State legislatures, and especially in the United States Senate, a little less in the United States house, and provided an influential swing vote in the Electoral College which actually elects the President of the United States.

The traditional Negro family unit was destroyed by targeting Negroes to receive special treatment and benefits which were designed to entrap large portions of that group into reliance on government assistance, and to replace the concept of a breadwinner father with a provider government. This was done particularly through the early welfare system which for decades did not allow assistance to families where there was a "man in the house". Demolition of the family unity was completed through a system which encouraged promiscuity and numerous pregnancies by incremental increases in government assistance for each child born to a woman provided there was no

breadwinner husband and father in the household.

Once abortion and other birth control measures were firmly established within the more affluent and politically elite portion of the Negro community, the ruling class knew they had won the battle, and perhaps the war, for control of the entire Negro population. Therefore, there was no longer a need to purchase that population's support through government funding under the guise of welfare, and the entire welfare system was restructured.

Now the Spanish or "Latino" population is growing, not particularly by births within the established population, for it was decimated by the same welfare system which decimated the Negro population; but rather by immigrants, both legal and illegal. This immigrant population has strong ties to Roman Catholicism - and while many so called Orthodox may not like to admit it, the Roman Catholic Church once was the bulwark of morality in the USA, and is that bulwark in Latin America, expressing the same moral values and concerns as Orthodox Catholics.

The ruling class is now attacking these immigrants, and anyone who looks like them, and anyone of their culture, in many instances encouraging terrorization of these people by the same methods which were used against the freed slaves and three to four generations of their descendants throughout the USA.

What does this have to do with how you live your life? When you describe yourself or another as being a religious liberal or a religious conservative, you are in fact saying it is proper to pick and chose those dogmatic values which one will follow, and those which one will not follow. This leads to the concept that humans can declare what is moral and what is immoral, and that heretofore immoral conduct can be made moral by human consensus - by the human leaders of a church or

(Continued ENSLAVEMENT on page 21)

(Continued ENSLAVEMENT from page 20)

religion. This is the belief system the rulers follow. It has no relation to God's reality, and is therefore invalid.

History is not a river which will force it way; history is not our eternity; the one who dies with the most toys does not necessarily win; nor is the one who is remembered with respect by those who rule after him, remembered by them for very long.

But everyone is remembered by God. He will remember you as an eternal resident of His home if you practice what He has said He requires; otherwise He will remember you as you eternally reside in Hell.

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**Catholicos
His Holiness Karekin I
Fallen Asleep In the Lord**

(Announced From the Chancery)

It is with the deepest pain and sorrow that we announce the passing away of His Holiness Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, which occurred on Tuesday, June 29, 1999, at 17:50 p.m., at the residence at the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, after a long period of severe illness. He was 67.

Karekin I was elected Catholicos of All Armenians in 1995 by the National-Ecclesiastical Assembly convened in April of the same year and he became the 131st occupant of St. Gregory the Illuminator's throne. Before his election he had already served as Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia for eighteen years. During the four years of his pontificate at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, he guided the Armenian Apostolic Church with wisdom and unfaltering devotion and he dedicated all his mental and physical abilities, in word and deed, to the sacred task of spiritually reviving,

strengthening and unifying the people in the Motherland, in Artsakh and in the Diaspora.

With a deep-rooted feeling of duty. H. H. Karekin I set his eyes on that milestone event, the 1700th anniversary of that crucial turning-point in history, when Armenia declared Christianity as state religion in 301 AD, and he filled every hour and minute of that short period of his pastorate to render them effective and fruitful.

Due to his efforts, the Dioceses of the Armenian Church were reorganized in Armenia and in CIS countries: in an unprecedented flourish of construction activities, many churches and monasteries that were in decline, were renovated and revived, even new ones were built. A new generation of



spiritual servants began to grow at the Gevorgian Seminary which was thoroughly renovated. The activities of the Center for Christian Education and Preaching were invigorated and expanded. The St. Mesrop seminary in Oshakan opened its doors. The Press of the Mother See launched an extensive program of publications, and many works of theological, spiritual and Armenological nature saw the light, including a number of books authored by the Pontiff himself. Within the context of the 1700th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Armenia a number of expositions were opened in Moscow, in the Kremlin, at the Vatican and in many other sites, and scholarly symposia were organized.

Also as part of these activities, pilgrimages were planned and some were already executed, in various venerated sites in Armenia and abroad related to the Armenian Church history. A number of social development projects were introduced aiming at overcoming the economic difficulties faced both in Armenia and Artsakh.

Due to the prestige he commanded internationally, H. H. Karekin I was instrumental in strengthening the ecumenical ties between Sister Churches and by means of numerous pastoral-pontifical visits he established closer relations between the Motherland and the Diaspora. His Holiness was an honorary member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia. A prominent scholar, he was the recipient of the title "Honorary Doctor" from a number of academies and universities around the world.

The members of the religious Order of the Holy See, with mournful hearts and moved by the filial love and devotion manifested by our faithful people and also the State, pray Lord for consolation of the Holy Spirit for the entire Armenian population. On this occasion, the Religious Order and the Supreme Spiritual Council proclaim a forty-day mourning period in respect of H. H. Karekin I.

Prayer, incense and blessing to the eternal memory of His Holiness! May God Almighty receive into His eternal glory and peace the soul of our beloved Pontiff along with other Armenian Patriarchs of blessed memory. Blessed is the memory of the righteous.

CHANCERY OF THE MOTHER SEE

THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR SERIES TURNS PORNOGRAPHIC

**Series which we once highly
recommended must be
condemned by its latest work**

It may be that the pornography was insidiously present even in the earlier works. If so, it has been presented with a blatant advocacy in this work which can not be dismissed, can not be overlooked.

This series of books is popularly known by the first book in its series, *Clan of the Cave Bear*, by Jean M. Aurel, an extremely well written full length novel chronicling the life of a prehistoric, ice age (Paleolithic Era) girl (Homo Cro-Magnon) who at age five, is orphaned in an earthquake. Told from the girl's perspective, this undoubtedly is one of the best adventure novels ever written for young girls - though it requires adult supervision in the areas which naturally conflict in presenting the religious thoughts of a prehistoric pagan in light of Christian reality.

The first two books in the series, *Clan of the Cave Bear*, and *The Valley of Horses*, provide a mixture of self-reliant adventure and an apparently well researched view of what various societies of Homo Sapiens (Homo Neanderthal and Homo Cro-Magnon) may have been like, and their possible interrelations. The equivalents of "racial" suspicions and "hatreds" are lightly explored and positively (which means moral acceptance of God's diversity in creation) presented within the context of the adventures.

In the early novels, sexuality is lightly explored in a non-obtrusive manner which adults will normally overlook, and which may be glossed over by children who probably are more interested in the adventures than they are in "psychological" "inner workings" and, shall we say,

"barnyard" activities. This aspect is also sometimes utilized to express acceptance and sometimes to express the evils of manipulative control and racial hatred. However, in the two earlier works, nominal adult supervision and nominal parenting skills should be sufficient for parents to provide proper guidance for their children who read these works.

Also, *Clan of the Cave Bear*, and *The Valley of Horses*, are interesting, even for boys and adults. Parents can therefore easily read ahead of their children, and discuss the books with their children at the various stages where parental guidance is necessary. Parents should be cautioned not to spoil the books for their children by disclosing what the child has not yet read, and especially by avoiding making the books into "tasks".

The adventure aspect of the series is somewhat lost in *The Mammoth Hunters*, due to an exploration of and "guessing at" various aspects of different societies of the Paleolithic Era. *The Mammoth Hunters*, also delves into aspects of society and individuals which are improper in a work which will more than likely be read by children, and present blatant pagan religious views in a manner which can easily thwart or diffuse Christian religious teachings.

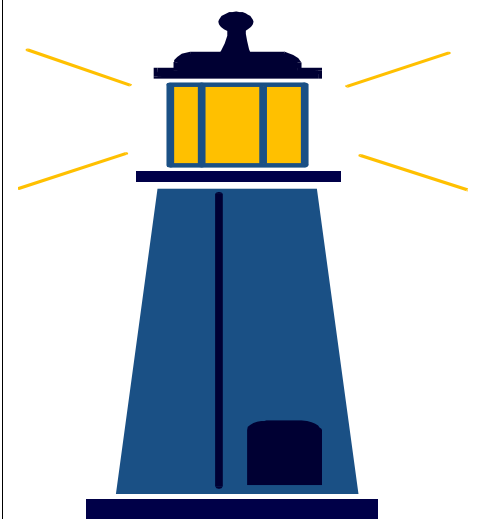
This divergence into unacceptable subject matter is fully born in *The Plains of Passage*. The first five chapters of *The Plains of Passage*, focus on animals in sexual heat, with a rather graphic relation of a female mammoth in heat, the animal's seeking the largest and most virile male mammoth with which to mate, and their "thunderous" copulation. Ms. Aurel then equates the heroine, Ayla, and her "mate" with the mammoths in their somewhat graphically presented sexual relations. The pagan presentation of the mother earth goddess concept is also presented as an integral aspect of life, in conjunction with Ayla's physical and emotional responses to sexual stimulation.

It is with *The Plains of Passage*, that this series becomes so opposed to Christian dogma, values, teachings, and life, as to not just become unacceptable, but to actually present an extremely influential teaching of material which is in total opposition to basic Christianity, and to the basic tenants of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

Ms. Aurel's true intentions and purposes in writing *The Plains of Passage*, must remain unknown. If the series was contemplated as her adventure in writing, and as an enjoyable adventure series, she succeeded in *Clan of the Cave Bear*, and *The Valley of Horses*, but began teaching unacceptable matter in *The Mammoth Hunters*, and crossed the line of moral propriety in *The Plains of Passage*.

For the reasons given above, *Clan of the Cave Bear*, and *The Valley of Horses*, are recommended, provided proper parental supervision is exercised. *The Mammoth Hunters*, is not recommended. *The Plains of Passage*, is condemned.

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ANGELS

Epistle Tob. 12:7-15
Gospel John 5:1-4

There is a delightful television program which is a fantasy about angels, and there are several nasty imitators and a few vulgar movies about them as well.

Perhaps a refresher about angels would be beneficial. There is no such thing as an angel in training. When angels were created, they were created complete, with intellects which do not have to learn like human intellects learn. When an angel makes a decision, he makes it with full comprehension as to what he is deciding, and as to the full ramifications of his decision. Unlike humans, who spend a lifetime making the decision as to whether they will follow God or separate themselves from God, the angels made their decisions in this regard instantaneously.

Angels are messengers from God, but they also are independent beings each with free will, who have decided to serve God and to be with Him for all eternity. By their very nature they are powerful creatures who have the ability to effect the physical world as well as the spiritual world. Since we are accustomed to using destructive powers as examples of power, it is proper to state that any angel, should he desire, could destroy our galaxy with ease - and he could also protect it from all harm with equal ease. They are so attuned to God's will that, using the same example, they do not even contemplate their destroying or saving our galaxy, unless such actions are in accord with God's intent.

There are several compliments of angels, but for us there is a practical, self centered division which separates them into two groups: those who are guardians to each of us, and those who perform other heavenly functions.

When we incense the altar during Divine Liturgy, we incense it seven times in the front and seven times in the

back, for the seven angels who stand before the Lord, for the seven Spirits of the Lord. We should think of heaven as being populated by more angels than we can begin to imagine, just as we can not really imagine the billions of humans who inhabit the Earth.

But when we think of the guardians of mankind, we can readily imagine a type of person who is there just for us, one angel for each one human. And that is they way it really is, except that Bishops get at least one extra angel, and I can promise you, often several extra angels.

Tobias had his own guardian angel when the Archangel Raphael came to him. We can guess that God did not use Tobias' Guardian Angel to deliver His messages, because the situation was very special and very unusual. Usually our Guardian Angel is the messenger.

While a human is a child, the child's Guardian Angel has a special position, always before the Face of God, for children are special to God. Imagine the special retribution which awaits those who kill little children in abortions. Not only do they have God and the eternal punishment He will adjudge unto them, but they also have the child's Guardian Angel to recon with.

Have you ever seen a baby just babbling away, looking at something you can not see and giggling and making other happy noises? Guess who is playing with the baby. When you were a child, did you ever get into a situation where you should have been injured but were not? Guess who saved you from injury. Ever wonder if a child's "pretend" friend is not really a "pretend"?

Guess who is there in addition to God, watching your every action, and participating in those acts you do which are good? Guess who anguishes in shame over your shameful deeds and desires.

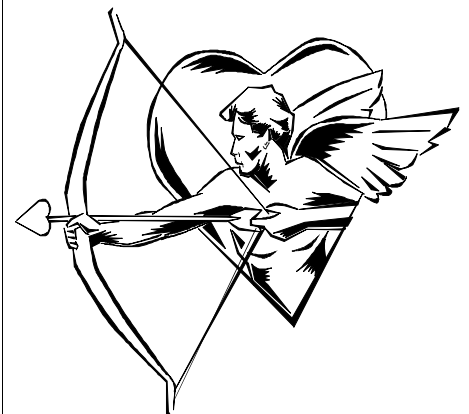
Angels do not wonder what God is going to do, they do not lose their

powers, they do not have to be taught lessons, they do not make mistakes. Their emotions are the kinds of emotions spirits have, which is different from the kinds of emotions humans have for humans are composed of both spirit and material.

And in this is something really worth contemplating. Man is composed of spirit and matter. Matter and energy can convert one into the other, and energy "drives" matter. So too is there a correlation to and a relationship in the spiritual, but it is greatly different, for the energy which drives the spirit, the energy which enables each angel, is the manifestation of God in that angel - and this manifestation is one of the things the Devil and his followers voluntarily gave up in order to follow their own wishes.

Some people think anyone who has a relationship with their Guardian Angel must be a member of the Charismatic Movement. Experience shows otherwise, and in fact, shows that those who actively pursue the Charismatic Movement are the least likely to have a real relationship with their Guardian Angel.

Whether or not you remember it, you had a relationship with your Guardian Angel when you were a child. You can re-establish that relationship just by talking to him. Do not worry about his name, just talk with him and he will talk with you. And while you are at it,



give your Guardian Angel something to brag about by being good.

(Continued SHORTS from page 8)

and several Central and South American countries in a manner similar to Germany in the 1920's - all that is needed is to weaken the U.S. financial establishments is to continue allowing banks, insurance companies, and security firms, to operate in each other's realms - just like in the 1920's - so we can experience another Great Depression - just like in the 1920's.

What is needed is a re-focus, away from exorbitant profits and obscene salaries and benefits for management of the super corporations, into a focus of the reason corporations were allowed to be created in the first place: When Corporations were first allowed to be formed, they were allowed to be formed only if the incorporators could prove to the legislature, that the public would benefit - profit for the incorporators and/or investors was not a consideration. The legal foundation of corporate existence is therefore based in the corporation existing for the public good, with profits for the officers and shareholders being at their risk. What exists today is a system wherein corporations suck in as much money as possible, and corporate management sucks in as much of that money as is possible.

Example, Walt Disney just gave its CEO a \$500 Million bonus. It also is borrowing \$450 Million to build another facility in Europe. That is smart personal greed management, and stupid corporate/public responsibility practice. It makes more sense to give the CEO \$50 Million and spend the other \$400 Million on the expansion - but who should expect moral practice from a company which promotes "kiddy porn" movies and aberrant sexual behavior.

SACRED HEART is a term referring to our Lord, Jesus Christ. Used primarily by Roman Catholics and a comfortable reference for Western Rite Orthodox. The devotion and acknowledgment of the Divine Love which exists within The Sacred Heart of

Jesus places the term, Sacred Heart, into the realm of reverence which should be specially respected by all Christians, even though they may not believe that which is associated with the term. The very fact that it is our Lord's Sacred Heart to which reference is made should suffice to establish the need for reverence.

It is therefore with surprise that we note Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts were scheduled to entertain in the Mansion Ballroom of the New Orleans Harrah's gambling casino on opening day.

That any entertainment group which would be acceptable entertainment in a gambling hall, would have the audacity to call itself the Sacred Hearts, is disgusting. That Harrah's would hire such a group, particularly in Roman Catholic New Orleans, indicates how little Harrah's thinks of upon whom it tramples.

It is hoped that Harrah's fails in its New Orleans operations, and fails miserably, bringing down and ruining all who support it and its immoral operations so they can never again marshal the forces necessary to lead God's children astray.

As for the group known as the Sacred Hearts, well, if they do not forsake the immorality and scandal they promulgate through the very use of their name, they can go to hell if that is what they wish.

Of course, this correlates with the attacks on the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, particularly in light of two movies recently released: "Stigmata", and "The Omega Code". But these are another comment, for another day.

Freedom of Speech: Street musicians and other noise makers disrupt Divine Liturgy at St. Louis Cathedral (RC, New Orleans) on a regular basis. State laws and city ordinance designed to lower the outside noise during Liturgies were declared unconstitutional. Why not sue the noise makers for interfering

with the worshipers' right to freedom of speech? Guess the RC's just don't want to make waves - which is rather stupid on their part. Our Lord made waves.

Roman Catholic colleges and Universities are in an uproar because Roman Catholic bishops, under order from the Pope of Rome, must approve the theological staff and teachings of the colleges/universities. If the colleges and universities really are Roman Catholic, they should not perceive adherence to Roman Catholic Dogma as being a problem. If they do perceive it as a problem, perhaps they really are not Roman Catholic.

NBC'S Noah's Ark: Must have been based on a revised Old Testament.

Dennis the Menace, the cartoon strip, as published in The New Orleans Times-Picayune for Thanksgiving weekend of 1999, has old Mr. Wilson thinking of what piece of the turkey he will give to Dennis, "I think I'll give him the **Pope's Nose.**" (emphasis in original). The term "Pope's Nose" is a derogatory term used to refer to the fleshy part of a bird's tail. Christians can have differences in opinions regarding dogma and still maintain common decency towards one another, but when common decency gives way to nastiness, then there exists little or none of Christ in the nasty ones. This, of course, is a polite way of saying: Christ's teachings were not followed in



that cartoon.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

What Kind of King is He?

+ *Paul*

Epistle Colos. 1:12-20
Gospel John 18:33-37

If you really think about yourself as a citizen of Christ's Kingdom, and about our Lord as King, most of us have to repeat our citizenship exam, for we may only pass it conditionally.

Most of us are spiritual slob - me and you, we all probably are spiritual slob. Our Lord has given us temporary quarters in His house, and we keep it and ourselves a mess. Yet, just as a self-willed child who is most difficult to teach is loved by its parents, so too are we loved by our King. While parents will from time to time say they do not know what to do with an extremely disobedient child, God always knows what to do with us, but our relationship with Him often is as though He does not know what to do with us. This is because a parent will attempt to impose its will on a child, for the betterment of the child and all with whom the child comes in contact. God, however, gives us His guidance, but allows us to exercise our will - with this proviso: we can do whatever we want, but in the end He will impose His will on us in-so-far-as His will applies to our place of eternal residence.

It is always amazing that most of us know these things, and yet most of us continue to do things God does not want us to do. Perhaps in this examination period of our existence there is a positive trade off in that there are many things which we do which are in accordance with God's will; but most of the time we do them because we want to and it is only because they just happen to coincide with God's will that they turn out to be things of which God approves.

What kind of Ruler is this that accepts

such behavior? Obviously, He is the most fantastic Ruler, ever. Obviously He has such great love, and such unmeasurable compassion, that He must of necessity and balance, also possess perfect mercy and perfect justice.

When we look at our relationships with God, they really are a sorry mess.

Think about the times when you know you were closest to God, when you know you tried to follow His will for His sake, when your were most attuned to God. For many of us those times were when we were in the habit of self imposed discipline, a habit imposed on us by those who had control over our lives in some important manner. For many of us those times were when we were in sorrow, or fear, or despairing of there ever being better times.

The relative financial prosperity which most of us are experiencing makes this life acceptable or makes it approach the acceptable, and in our shortsightedness we ignore the reality which we know. We ignore the reality that this life is temporary, and we fail to look forward with fervor to a better life to come. The result is, we give only lip service to the better life to come.

When our Lord told us it was easier for a camel to fit through then eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter His kingdom, we know He was telling us the truth.

Does that mean we toss everything out of the window and go live in caves? No, especially in our geographic location, for the nearest cave is hundreds of miles away.

If we but think of the things we have acquired as being things which our Lord has given to us to use while He is away, just like the three servants who were given silver talents for which they would have to make an accounting, then we will have taken a step in the right direction. We should think of that accounting to our Lord as being like an

Internal Revenue Service audit - something to be feared even though we know everything is in order.

However, we are intelligent beings, and intellectually we know that conformity with God's will induced through our own temporal necessitous circumstances is not the desirable route. In plain language, while it is to our benefit to be brought into conformity with God's will through any means, the most desirable means is NOT through being poor, in need, or unhappy during this life. The most desirable means occurs when we want, with our mind, heart, and soul, with our intellect, emotions, and spirit, to live in accordance with God's will just because that is the way things ought to be; and then keep on trying to do it.

Think of anyone who is in charge of any organization, be it a country, or a company, a club, or a family. Of all the leaders of the different associations of people, which leaders are inclined by their nature, and have established as standard practice, the allowing of probation membership to constantly violate the organization's rules? Only one - the Kingdom of Heaven.

This tells us that we have the most desirable of Rulers. He will withhold banishment until we are totally and intractably against Him - this happens to those who die in a state of ignoring God's desires. However, for those who die in the state of trying to follow God's desires, and who do not make excuses for their spiritual failures, this most desirable of Rulers has a sort of "Finishing School" where He sends them, so they can be fit to enter His house.

Truly there is no King like our King.

+

**THE HOLY SPIRIT SEEN AS
MOTIVATION IN LOVE
AND AS THE FOCUS OF
YOUR LIFE**

Epistle Acts 8:14-17
Gospel John 14:23-31

When you both receive and accept the Holy Spirit, you open the door to participation in that part of God's purpose for us which we have the capacity to comprehend, Love.

The who, what, when, where, how, and why of your love will provide you with a significant analysis of your focus in life. Ascertaining that focus will then provide you with an indicator as to your spiritual status.

This can best be made comprehensible by example and analogy.

Are you overtly concerned with your life on Earth? Is the hereafter a concern for which you make extensive preparations, or do you presume your hereafter will "work its way out" in some manner? Do you believe surviving some catastrophe is better than the alternative, especially if the alternative is death? Do you strive to look eighteen when you are fifty-five? Have you achieved an age of maturity, but wish you were younger? If you are old, do you have no pride in your advanced age? Do you really think youth is wasted on the young? Are you young, but wish you were older? Do you believe the one who dies with the most toys, wins? Do you believe history determines your eternity? These are some of the many indicators of your actual focus in life, and your focus and belief as to what constitutes eternity.

If you truly love God, then you desire to be with Him as fully and as completely as possible. Full and complete union with God is only possible for us after our physical death, and then, only if we have properly prepared for that union and if it comes in God's time and not

ours. Thus those who focus on things of this world do not properly prepare to be united with God, for their focus is not on God.

This focus on God must be such that we strive to actually perform every thought and act as Jesus would, and so do for the same reason Jesus would - and we believe that reason is or is founded in Love. We therefore must look at every person, even the most despicable, through eyes of Divine Love, with that same Divine Love in our hearts.

How can we do this for the most despicable, such as the rapist of children? We can begin with attempting to imagine what eternal

your flesh will corrupt in the grave and then no one will be able to tell the difference between you and the ugly person who died when you died - and pray that your soul was not the ugly person who died when you died.

punishment awaits such a person if they do not repent. Some may feel even the most horrible punishments of hell to too light for such a person, but if those who think such thoughts would just imagine such punishments were meted to themselves, then perhaps mercy will germinate in their hearts. When those who overbearingly pray that justice will overtake such a rapist, and then believe any punishment for such a rapist is too light - by definition - and that they themselves will never merit such punishment, those overbearingly self-righteous have just placed themselves in the same position with God that the rapist holds - for God loves the rapist; He just hates the rape.

We can begin to feel mercy and fear for the well being of the most deservedly despised if we but contemplate ourselves as being in the position of possibly meriting an eternity of separation from God. This in turn may serve to lead us to love for such persons; and if we attain love for such persons, even though it be founded only in fear for their eternal disposition, then we have begun the process which will

allow - not cause but allow - us to do everything as Jesus Christ would do, and so do for the same reason Jesus Christ would do - Love: Pure Love, not love of self, but an actual energy of God, an emanation of God's essence manifested in a manner perceivable to us.

If you are concerned with the things of this world, it is not likely you will focus sufficiently on attaining, acquiring, practicing, and living this Divine Love. So: do dress pleasantly, but do it for God; do take care of the financial and other needs of your family, but forget about dying with the most toys; do try to live at a decent level of comfort, but pay a living wage to your underlings; do try

to make yourself look as reasonably attractive as possible, but remember your flesh will corrupt in the grave and then no one will be able to tell the difference between you and the ugly person who died when you died - and pray that your soul was not the ugly person who died when you died.

If you contemplate and reflect on these words, you will readily perceive the relationship between your ultimate and minute by minute practiced focus in life, and your final place in eternity. Your final place in eternity will not be written in the history books. It will be written in the Heart of God.

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Count Your Blessings And Live Peaceably With Everyone As Far As possible

Epistle Rom. 12:16-21
Gospel Mat. 8:1-13

There are many matters which we can take care of for ourselves. These we should do ourselves. But there are also many matters which we can not take care of ourselves. We should pray that God take care of such matters, and that we take care of those aspects of which we are capable.

We are very blessed by God. All of us, from the very young to the very old, have experienced great sadness, have known overwhelming distress, have been betrayed by persons on whom we have had the right to rely. Yet we all are in positions and situations to be happy. It may not be total happiness, yet despite the illness, infirmity, adversity, and diminishment or lacks which we do experience, we really are being blessed by God, and we should thank Him for those blessings.

We thank Him by sharing His blessings with others, by following His examples as best we can given our varying situations. It may be that a criminal in prison does not think he or she has been blessed, particularly if the prisoner is about to be executed and is innocent of any crime. But there really are a multitude of blessings in such a situation, and they are just waiting for the prisoner to accept them. The prisoner in such a situation may not think there are good things which he or she can share or give to others, yet there are and if the prisoner just accepts the blessings God has provided, the blessings can be shared.

Most of us overlook these blessings, but those in less fortunate circumstances are very much aware of them. Have you eaten today? Then you have been blessed. There are millions who have not and will not eat today, for they do not have food to eat, yet they too have blessings.

Has someone harmed you today? Then you have been blessed, even if it is only with the opportunity to forgive. Forgiving does not mean you have to ignore the harm, but it does mean you must follow the Apostle's instructions, "*To no man rendering evil for evil. Providing good things, not only in the sight of God but also in the sight of all men. (Rom. 12:17)*"

Nor are you guaranteed to be at peace with everyone, for the Apostle admonishes us, "*If it be possible, as much as is in you, have peace with all men. (Rom. 12:18.)*"

You should not simply accept immoral, improper, or unjust behavior, by yourselves or by others; nor should you simply accept good, moral, proper, and just behavior by yourselves or others. Your thoughts and actions should be guided by Faith.

Perhaps this strange example will give you an inkling of what all of this means. In our community the Roman Catholic Church has attempted for several years, to have people in the area around St. Louis Cathedral act with common courtesy while Liturgical services are being conducted within the Cathedral. Since the Cathedral is located in the French Quarter, on Jackson Square, and since there are many evil people who find the Cathedral an easy "target" for attack against our Lord, these evil people engage in noisy activities designed to disrupt as many religious services at the Cathedral as possible. If these evil people acted with simple, common courtesy, they would lower the noise level when religious services are being conducted.

However, St. Rita's in Harahan, which is part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans, conducted its Parish Fair the weekend of November 13-14, 1999. Music and other noises were amplified through an electronic sound system such that the sound could easily be heard one and a half miles away. The music was so loud

that no one within an almost two mile radius could focus on afternoon prayers and vespers. It continued until after 11:00 O'Clock PM, disturbing all attempts to sleep. Attempts to telephone the Priests or anyone at St. Rita's were unsuccessful - which makes one wonder what those in emergency need of a Priest were supposed to do. If the Priest in charge of St. Rita's would conduct his parish activities with the same level of common courtesy the Priests at St. Louis Cathedral desire, then, not only would residents around St. Rita's be able to conduct their lives in a reasonable manner, but there would also be provisions for those in need of a Priest from St. Rita's, to obtain the services of one.

Perhaps this can be summed up in this manner: God has given us Blessings beyond our comprehension. All He asks is that you just try to be decent, and that you do so in all that Faith entails. If you accept His Blessings, and be decent, in all that Faith entails, then God will welcome you into His home.

The phrase, "all that Faith entails," is a topic for another day.

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WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON HAS SOLD THE USA DOWN THE RIVER

MORALLY: One need not have an advanced degree in dogma, theology, or Bible studies to know that abortion is contrary to God’s command. Yet Clinton has encouraged and promoted abortion at every opportunity, even to the point of forcing abortions on those who do not wish them.

When the U.S. Congress, in positive response to an overwhelming majority of the U.S. population, approved paying the U.S. dues to the United Nations with the restriction the dues not be used for abortions, Clinton vetoed the bill.

Under Clinton, financial assistance packages to South American and “Third World” countries often have allocations which must be used to provide abortions. The recipient countries must agree to apply the funds as allocated.

Under Clinton’s initiative, the U.S. government now provides abortions at military and government institutions, and has begun requiring hospitals run by religious organizations provide abortion services.

AT LAW: Clinton lied while under oath in his sex trial depositions. He was even fined by the District Court Judge. He was impeached, but not convicted, and his non-conviction was based to a great extent in the spinelessness of his opposition party. His perjury other than before the District Court remains unrectified, and his perjury denied the plaintiff her right to a fair trial - actually denied her right to a trial. This sets a legal precedent, allowing perjury so-as-to avoid civil liability for one’s actions.

MILITARY: In 1994, Clinton approved export of B-1 bomber and Peacekeeper missile manufacturing machinery by McDonnell Douglas to

China, with the proviso the machinery only be used for civilian purposes. In 1995, McDonnell Douglas informed Clinton’s commerce Department that China was using the machinery to manufacture missiles and military aircraft, expecting Clinton to suspend sale of the machinery. He refused to suspend the sales.

In fact, in 1998, at the same time Clinton was visiting China and saying his policies had stopped the spread of “weapons of mass destruction,” China was loading hundreds of tons of chemicals for missiles onto ships for transport to Iran - a country with a publicly stated policy of war and terrorism against anything not controlled by it, and particularly and especially against the U.S.A.

In 1997 and 1998, Clinton approved sale of sixteen high-speed advanced design computers to China. These are the same computers the U.S. uses to “test” nuclear bomb designs. Other countries sell computers, but the U.S. designed and manufactured computers are generations ahead of those available in the rest of the world. China can now test advanced theoretical nuclear bomb designs without having to expend the funds and time necessary to develop the initial experimental prototypes - saving years and perhaps 80% of research costs and time.

Clinton encouraged Motorola, in 1993, to have China launch eleven global communication satellites for Motorola. In the mid 1990’s this was set to include multiple dispenser launches - another way of saying several satellites were to be deployed from one rocket - which is yet another way of saying funding was provided to China for China to develop a rocket which could launch multiple warheads each of which could be programmed for a different target.

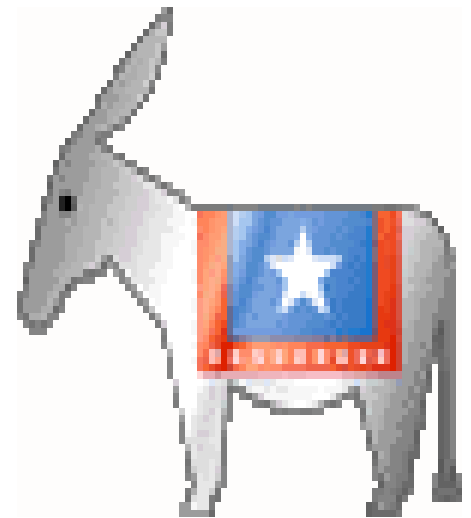
In the mid 1990’s, Martin Marietta and, after their merger, Lockheed, following Clinton’s directive, corrected faults in Chinese rocket “motor” development such that China has not experienced a

single failure in orbital rocket launches since the design corrections were made.

EDUCATION: Under Clinton’s direction, U.S. Education Secretary Richard W. Riley has approved and endorsed new math teaching methods which intentionally omit basic skills such as multiplying two digit numbers and dividing fractions. We already have a generation which can not tell time if the clock has “hands”. The next thing they will not be able to do is multiply 10 x 15.

PRESIDENT? Whose president *is* he?

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WHY DO PEOPLE HATE?

To make people hate, you must teach them young, and must teach them well, otherwise they will not hate or will not hate sufficiently!

Epistle Sirac (Ecc.) 24:14-16
Gospel Luke 11:27-28

Every one of us are siblings. Your parents are your siblings, your children are your siblings, and every person you have never met and every person you ever meet is also your sibling. God the Father is our Father, and the Ever Virgin Mary is our Mother, given to us and us to her by her first Son, our Brother and Lord Jesus Christ.

This is not some softheaded and soft hearted dribble. This is reality, because God said it is so.

If we all are siblings, why is there so much hatred in this world? We can learn why by watching little babies. If you take several babies, making sure there is a mix of sexes, colors, religions, clothing, body smells, abilities and disabilities, making the most thorough mix of individual types possible, and put them all together, and watch them, they will explore each other, kiss, caress, and generally be both gentle and excited all one with one another.

What makes them change? They are taught. In the movie South Pacific there is a song the Lieutenant sings about prejudice. He says: you have to teach them to hate, you have to teach them young, before they are five, or six, or seven, or eight. And you have to teach them well.

Babies are both loving and self centered, but they are guided into what they will eventually be by those who provide them examples to emulate, and by learned responses to those people with whom they have the most contact.

Beat a little child unmercifully when it does something wrong and you will wind up with a child who lies about everything and who can not accept

responsibility for its own actions. That child will become an adult with the same characteristics, and if that adult realizes these deficiencies, it will spend a lifetime trying to overcome these character, personality, and moral flaws.

Ignore a child's daydreams, discourage or fail to encourage its exploration of its world, and you will have a child and then an adult who never finishes anything, who is afraid to take a chance, and who may over compensate by taking inappropriate risks.

Fail to struggle instant by instant to maintain a proper balance regarding catering to a baby and maintaining your own self interests, and you will have a grasping, greedy, child and adult.

This is not to say that the no-good people and the living saints are without responsibility for their own actions, or that their parents make them what they are despite the child's own free will. Every person is responsible for their own actions and their responses to situations. But what you teach a person from the instant of birth through the rest of its life, by example as well as by word, will greatly influence that person, and either make attaining eternal salvation easier or more difficult for them.

Husbands, look at your wife, she is your sister. Children look at your father, he is your brother. Look at the people you know and the people you do not know - they are your brothers and sisters. Your Mother is the Virgin, your Father is the Creator, and your Brother is the only Child born of your Still and Ever Virgin Mother.

Live like all this is true, because it is.

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The Simplicity of Christ's Coming

Epistle Rom. 13:11-14
Gospel Luke 21:25-33

We often see preachers who do not have a Church foundation in the Sacraments confound themselves and those they lead with complexities, particularly in matters Apocalyptic. Thus they will often preach that certain references to the sun, the star about which Earth travels, are hidden references to our Lord as the Son of God, because both words are pronounced the same and written similarly. Their analogy fails, because the Bible was not written in 20th Century English, but, rather, primarily in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, and the words for the star named Sun and the person, Son, in those languages, do not follow 20th Century English usage. What these preachers wind up doing with the aforereferenced Epistle and Gospel citations is so contorted and complex as to be incomprehensible.

Let us take a look at the above referenced passages. First, the fact that these are readings the Church, under Divine inspiration, has set for Advent, are a hint. The base message is, prepare and be prepared. Stated differently: prepare and remain prepared.

“walk honestly, as in the day: not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and impurities, not in contention and envy” - Very simply, act as though everyone in the world sees everything you do and knows everything you think, and you desire them to think well of you and that you are a good, moral, and upright person of great integrity.

“put on the armour of light” - The only way to accomplish good and avoid sin, thus accomplishing this goal, is to acquire and become imbued in the Holy Spirit.

“put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ” - Follow Him, copy, Him, emulate Him,

and do not think that our Lord Jesus Christ is a woos or a pansy. To follow Him requires more bravery than any human possesses, requires a willingness to fight the most terrifying of foes, combined with a balance and judgment based in knowledge acquired by hard work in study and self discipline seeped in God the Trinity.

“and make not provision for the flesh in its concupiscences” - This does not mean you should stop gainful employment, or not establish a retirement plan and funds, or fail to do that which is meet and proper. But, as an example, you should not establish a retirement plan so that you can live like royalty, but rather, so that you can take care of your needs - and if that results in the ability to live like royalty, then act on that situation in an appropriately moral manner. Above all, do not make this world the focus of your life and existence, but view it as a testing place which has a important role in determining your final and eternal existence.

“And there shall be signs . . . and upon the earth distress of nations . . . Men withering away for fear and expectation of what shall come upon the whole world . . .” - Every generation has thought it has qualities of the “end times” but in so thinking has lost the focus of what we have been taught.

“when these things begin to come to pass, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is at hand” - Do not focus on what is commonly termed the end of the world. Focus instead on the end of your participation in this world. If you focus on the end of your participation in this world, then you will perceive that our Lord Jesus Christ is here for you now, and that He has provided for your redemption from inability to be eternally with God the Father, so that if you obey His commands, and do not try to replace His commands with your corrupted interpretation of His commands, you will receive that redemption and attain eternal salvation. This is not a one time

choice on your part, but rather is a continual mode of living through unto your physical death.

“And he spoke to them a similitude. See the fig tree and all the trees: 21:30. When they now shoot forth their fruit, you know that summer is nigh; 21:31. So you also, when you shall see these things come to pass, know that the kingdom of God is at hand.” - These things are happening now, so understand that the Kingdom of God is at hand, NOW! And further understand that for each person each day from the time of Christ until now and into the future of life as we know it before physical death, that the Kingdom of God is here for each person instant by instant, NOW!

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.” - And so shall it be throughout all ages of ages, for all eternity, that the Kingdom of God is here, NOW!

So, now you should be able to understand the simplicity of what our Lord has taught us. Do not give up sin in stages, like the person who tries to give up cigarettes a little at a time, or the alcoholic who keeps a bottle of booze “just in case” - just in case of what? Just accept our Lord's teachings, and as often as you fail to follow His teachings, call on Him to assist you in overcoming those failings, and obtain the Holy Spirit in the only manner possible under circumstances of sin, through Sacramental Confession. And this last is the reason those who are not Orthodox, or Roman, or Coptic, or under the Catholicos, or otherwise do not have the fullness of the Sacraments in Apostolic succession have difficulties in comprehending Apocalyptic writings. Since they do not believe in, or follow, or accept obtaining forgiveness of their sins through a man, they can not receive the Aspect of the Light of the Holy Spirit which the Holy Spirit gives only through Sacramental Confession.

Prepare for the second coming of our Lord, by preparing to be with Him for all eternity through accepting all of the gifts He has provided for us. Do not accept just some, and reject others, for then you will not be fully prepared to meet Him.

**INTEGRITY IN RELIGION,
GOVERNMENT, AND THE
INDIVIDUAL
Clinton and Herod
Herodias and Mrs. Lewinski
but
Who and St. John the Forerunner?**

Epistle: Jer 1:17-19
Gospel: Mark 6:17-29

Salome, Herodias's daughter, danced a lewd dance for the King, and Herodias approved of it. The whole situation revolving around the murder of Saint John reminds us of more recent history: the conduct of Monica Lewinski and President William Jefferson Clinton, the approval of Lewinski's mother, and the official destruction of governmental integrity and justice in the United States of America by the President of the United States and the United States Senate.

Integrity is the firm adherence to a code of moral values; it is firm adherence to God's commandments, our Lord's teachings, and the thrust of the Holy Spirit.

St. John has integrity. King Herod was doing wrong by marrying Herodias, his own brother's wife, and St. John preached that this and Herod's entire life style was wrong and immoral. St. John also preached God's commandments, he accepted and followed the Holy Spirit, and he prepared the way for our Lord. He tried to make sure everything he did, and everything he did not do, was exactly what God wanted, and he was successful in doing this and in doing it willingly.

Today, all of us have a God given task. That of integrity. The whole world, and especially the United States, suffers from lack of integrity, and seeks true examples of true integrity particularly from its religious leaders. What it usually gets instead is: religious leaders who change application our Lord's teachings to meet popular demands; leaders who cover up problems rather

than correcting them and correcting the damage they cause; leaders who accept and do not attack the evil of the "status quo" because they do not wish to jeopardize their own situation; individuals in every walk of life who stand for nothing other than their own physical, social and economic well being without a thought to their spiritual well being and that of everyone.

Yet all of this could change virtually instantly, if the so called common, everyday person would accept and follow God and continually strive to accept and to follow God and His unadulterated and clearly expressed wishes.

A parent who has integrity does not let MTV into their house because the parent has watched MTV and know it teaches, applauds, and induces immoral behavior. They know this because they have watched MTV. Parents with integrity probably do not even have the television set turned on very often, because they know there is very little material on television which is fit for consumption either by children or by adults; and that watching television actually impairs a child's mental and emotional growth by supplanting the imagination process in a child.

This supplanting of the imagination process impairs logical development - look at today's children and young adults and you are looking at a population which has never played in the mud in the back yard and thus have never experienced the laws of physics in their play. They have never poured water into a pretend lake, and have never made a little river flow from that lake. They therefore have never experienced the fact that water can form a bubble which is higher than the edge of its container, and have never experienced the fact that water seeks its own level, and have never experienced the application of gravity. They have learned these things, but they have never experienced them within the child imagination, and they therefore

have not integrated these things into themselves.

So too have they not made morality and moral values part of their very beings.

Having integrity means being a hard case; it means not giving an inch or a centimeter when someone or something attempts to change you. It means letting it be known when someone, something, some situation, offends the values by which you live. It also means opposing that which offends the values by which you live.

In a very real sense, Bill Clinton, Monica Lewinski, Herod, Salome, and Satan, do have a form of integrity, for they have a moral code which opposes God and which promotes instantaneous self pleasure and self-interest and which also says, "to hell with everyone else." And they do not vary from this code.

Such tar pit examples of how to live are readily adsorbed, and result in our fear of being raped and sodomized, of being robbed, beaten, maimed, and murdered; of losing our jobs and being replaced by someone who will result a lower salary expense which will not result in higher profits for stock owners but in higher income for corporate managers.

If this world is to have a chance of decency, if everyone in this world, including ourselves, is to have a chance at true happiness, then we must all strive to have integrity within God's desires in every aspect of our lives. We are the only generation which has experienced the expansive results of integrity to the Divine and to the Satanic, simultaneously. If you prefer the results of adherence to integrity based in the divine, then live it with integrity.

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Matthew 12:32. And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but he that shall speak against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him neither in this world, nor in the world to come. Saint Gregory and Saint Augustine tell us the phrase "in the world to come" refers to Purgatory. Makes sense. Thus another blow against those who say there is no reference to Purgatory in the Bible, and that therefore Purgatory must not exist. incidentally, the Bible does not say how many teeth a horse has, so, according to the Purgatory non-believers, horses must not have teeth.

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REUNION

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