



# REUNION

Holy Innocents Orthodox Church  
Parish, and Retreat House for  
The Society of Clerks Secular of Saint Basil  
[Within the Ecumenical Patriarchate]



Volume 23 No. 4 OF THE CHURCH OF MAN WITH GOD November, 2013 A.D.

**~ THOSE WHO  
THINK GOD DOES  
NOT NOTICE IF  
THEY DO OR FAIL  
TO PRAY FOR THE  
DEAD ARE  
MISTAKEN ~**



*From Metropolitan Archbishop Lee S. Mc Colloster, S.S.B.  
To the flock entrusted into my care:*

In the time of Christ, a king or a wealthy person often would supply proper attire to those wedding guests who did not possess attire proper for the situation. Also, simple courtesy of that time included providing water and that which was necessary for a guest to wash and refresh themselves.

The correlation between these customs, and the opportunity to attain eternal salvation which God has made available to us, is obvious.

We also know that the, if you will, process of attaining eternal salvation may accurately be described as operating divinely. What we often neglect is active pursuit of operating divinely, especially as that applies to that which is not constantly brought to our attention.

We should remember that as members of the Communion of Saints, members of the Body of Christ, and aspirants to permanence in the Kingdom of God, we actually are members one of another.

None of us is capable of attaining eternal salvation unaided. We each need God to provide us with what is needed for us to freshen up, and with our wedding attire. The living are able to work with God in this endeavor. The

dead are not.

Without assistance from the living, the dead must proceed through the purification process dependent solely on the parameters which God has established. And only God knows what those parameters are. But the Communion of Saints is a real interconnection of all true Christians, whether living or dead. And the Body of Christ is a real entity. Each in its own fashion shares the positive and the negative of every condition, strength, weakness, effect, and everything else of every member. This means each of us is able to positively effect every other member. Each of us is able to spiritually assist every other member; including the dead; especially the dead who will but have not yet attained heaven.

Assisting the dead through prayers, alms, and sacrifices - particularly the Sacrifice of the Divine Liturgy, is so important that the Devil induces the living to believe that there is no Purgatory, no Limbo, only Heaven or Hell. If he is unable to have one of us join him for all eternity in Hell, he figures he can at least prolong that person's purification process by encouraging the living to believe that prayers for the dead are not necessary.

The Devil also uses the sin of presumption, and the sin of judging the spiritual status of others, to induce the living to neglect praying for the dead. When the living deem a dead person to have been so good and holy that they must be in Heaven, then the living neglect praying for those dead believing prayer for them is not necessary. But this is nothing more, nor less, than engaging in the sin of presumption. It is supplanting God's perfection of knowledge, wisdom, and

holiness, with human imperfection. Only through the operations of the Holy Ghost may a valid declaration of Sainthood be made. When the living deem a dead person to have been so evil as to be unable to enter into heaven, or to have rejected God, then the living neglect praying for those dead, believing prayer for them would be of no benefit to them. In such instances the living not only commit the sin of presumption, but also commit the sin of judging. Judging is the sole purview of God, and none of us is God.

In both instances the Devil induces the living to sin, and deprives the dead of the benefit of prayers from the living.

It is very important to remember and to realize that the dead you are sure are in heaven, and the dead you are sure are in hell, may both be relying on your prayers to expedite their purification and thus usher them into heaven and full union with God.

Prayers for the dead are of such great importance that God singled out a man named Tobias, who was devoted to praying for the dead. The government of his time (as have many governments throughout history) wished to abolish worship of the true God, and to encourage the populace to engage in every possible immorality, as a means of securing their power through permissive behavior. The concept behind this policy is that a culture which has abandoned God's moral absolutes is more likely to be able to be bribed by a government which allows or supports the sins large numbers of members of that culture desire to commit. The government which ruled Tobias therefore banned burial of the dead with religious ceremonies.

*(Continued TOBIAS on page 3)*

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**Q. From Johnny T.**

LAST YEAR.....

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Alabama beat Arkansas and Arkansas fired their coach.  
 Alabama beat Tennessee and Tennessee fired their coach.  
 Alabama beat Auburn and Auburn fired their coach.  
 Then Alabama beat Notre Dame, and the Pope resigned

How do we get the White House to play Alabama?

*A. The question is rhetorical, is it not?*

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*(Continued TOBIAS from page 1)*

Tobias ignored the government regulations, and suffered financially because of it. The Devil even possessed his daughter-in-law, as a test from God - as a test of his perseverance.

Saint Raphael the Archangel then intervened, and told Tobias: ***“When thou didst pray with tears, and didst bury the dead, and didst leave thy dinner, and hide the dead by day in thy house, and bury them by night, I offered thy prayer to the Lord. And because thou wast acceptable to God, it was necessary that temptation should prove thee. And now the Lord hath sent me to heal thee, and to deliver Sara thy son's wife from the devil. For I am the angel Raphael, one of the seven, who stand before the Lord.”*** (Tobias 12:12)

Those who do not think God takes their praying for the dead, or their failure to pray for the dead, into account, should abandon such faulty thoughts and take God’s word for it that He does.

Ref: Eph. 4:23-28, Mat. 22:2-14, Tobias



++ *Lee, S.S.B.*

*God, please help me love You*

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## IN WHICH PROCESSION ARE YOU?

One of many awards ceremonies for entertainers and celebrities was held recently. Many of those in attendance conducted themselves as though they apparently deem themselves to be of some form of nobility. All, men and women, were decked out in their finery: the men mostly in tuxedos, the women, in every form of finery imaginable - many of the women wearing jewels and designer gowns and attire supplied to them for the evening as a form of advertisement for the designers and manufacturers.

There were two scenes which, upon contemplation, were both hilariously funny and tragically sad.

In one, there was a large number of female celebrities standing loosely shoulder to shoulder facing towards the crowds and photographers. Almost every one of these women wore gowns which exposed extensive expanses of their breasts. An observer facing the celebrities experienced difficulty viewing their faces because of the overwhelming volume of mammary glands which were thrust out before the women. Apparently most if not all of these breasts had undergone enhancement of some sort, and were presented in three main styles: massive hubcaps, cabbage ball protrusions, and watermelon torpedoes. They reminded one of gaily decorated sailing ships, men-of-war, sailing in formation, guns - cannons - cradled in gun carriages straining to burst through the coverings of their gun ports.

The men-of-war imagery was enhanced when all of the women celebrities turned, following one another in procession. When war ships engage in battle, one of the formations is to sail - or steam - in single line, stem to stern, towards the enemy. This presents the lowest profile to the enemy guns. As the ships each reach a predetermined firing point, they turn to port and starboard (left and right) that they may each fire a

broadside at the enemy. As the celebrity women processed they reminded an observer of Spanish galleons in this formation: under full sail, guns manned and at the ready, each stylistic Spanish poop deck rinsing high in the air.

There is another form of procession which occurs much more often, and with steady regularity. Though it is not a procession in the stylized form of ships of war entering into battle, it is much more impressive. It is composed of men, women, children, the able bodied, infirm, and every ethnic and cultural group. It is the procession of those entering into the churches where they worship. Though it occurs at various times and places, and may be considered to be many processions, it is but one procession. It is the procession of the faithful into battle, into warfare, even though they may not be aware it is into battle they sail.

They go not to display themselves, nor for their own self aggrandizement. They go to engage in formal worship of God with their compatriots. There they engage in training, exercise, and that which will assist them in their individual struggles against the forces of darkness. There they are nourished and engage in mutual support. There they very often find they engage in battle against the enemy.

What different effects each of these processions has on those who observe them! What different effects each of these processions has on those who process in them!

The first procession teaches greed, self-centeredness, conceite, fraudulent presentation of self, shallowness, that the wrapper is more important than the package. It teaches how to go to hell and literally shows the path and procedures to accomplish that goal.

The second procession teaches there is a God, that none of us is Him, that God established standards He expects to be followed. It leads all to The Way to Heaven.

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## RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN DEFENDS CHRISTIAN VALUES AND CRITICIZES THE SECULARIZATION OF EUROPE and AMERICA

Many Western Europeans and Americans apparently are astounded at the support by President Putin for human dignity as enshrined in the unchanging and absolutist dogma of Christianity and other major religions of the world.

Perhaps this is because Russian President Vladimir Putin was a Lieutenant Colonel (sub-colonel) in the Soviet Union's KGB, and in the minds of many Russia remains closely associated with the Atheistic Communism of the former Soviet Union.

In a (September, 2013) meeting of the Valdai discussion club, President Putin said that people will lose their human dignity without values enshrined in Christianity and other world religions, without the moral standards which have required millennia to take shape.

Reported by Interfax, it is President Putin's belief, intention, plan, and policy, that Russia will defend its national identity, based on religious values.

Defending Christian values and criticized the secularization of Europe, President Putin said, "We believe that it is natural and appropriate to defend those values. Any minority deserves respect for its distinctive identity, but the rights of the majority must not be questioned,"

Putin's comments, also reported by Catholic World News, expressed his belief that Russia can not move forward without cultural and national self-determination. Otherwise the country will not be able to respond to external or internal challenges, and can not be successful in global competition.

Putin continued his comments, saying, "Events that take place in the world rep-

resent one more serious challenge to the Russian identity. There are foreign policy and moral aspects to this. We have been able to see many Euro-Atlantic countries effectively embark on a path of renouncing their roots, including Christian values, which underlie Western civilization."

"That involves the negation of moral principles and any traditional identity - national, cultural, religious, or even sexual," he said.

President Putin further stated, "Policies are pursued that put large families and same-sex partnerships in the same category, (*as well as*) belief in (*following*) God and belief in (*following*) Satan. Excesses of political correctness reach the point where there are serious discussions on (*approving*) the registration of parties that have propaganda of pedophilia as their objective. People in many European countries are ashamed and afraid of speaking about their religion; holidays are abolished or given other (*secular*) names, names that shyly conceal the (*secular and irreligious*) nature of those holidays. And aggressive attempts are made to force this model on the rest of the world.

"This is a direct path to degradation and primitiveness, to deep demographic and moral crises.

"What can be a better indication of a moral crisis in human society than its loss of the ability for self-reproduction?"

It is obvious that the Orthodox Christianity which has been the bedrock of Russia for over a thousand years was little diminished by the seventy-five years of attacks by Totalitarian Atheistic Communism. But the citizens under that rule of immorality suffered horribly.

The same fate awaits Western Europe, America, and other countries as they embrace immorality.

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=19145>

## H. L. MENCKEN "SAYS" STOP COMPLAINING . . . YOU DID IT TO YOURSELF

The larger the mob, the harder the test. In small areas, before small electorates, a first-rate man occasionally fights his way through, carrying even the mob with him by force of his personality. But when the field is nationwide, and the fight must be waged chiefly at second and third hand, and the force of personality cannot so readily make itself felt, then all the odds are on the man who is, intrinsically, the most devious and mediocre — the man who can most easily adeptly disperse the notion that his mind is a virtual vacuum.

The Presidency tends, year by year, to go to such men. As democracy is perfected, the office represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. We move toward a lofty ideal. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last, and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron.

("Bayard vs. Lionheart", Henry Louis Mencken [a/k/a/ H. L. Mencken] the Baltimore Evening Sun, 26 July 1920)

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## ONE OF THOSE NICE STORIES YOU KNOW IS NOT TRUE

A four year old child's next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

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**NOW THEY ARE SAYING THE JEWS GOT SOME OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FROM THE ANCIENT BABYLONIANS**

Who is “they”? Roman Catholic Priest Father John Carville, in the September 20, 2013, issue of The Catholic Commentator, the Diocese of Baton Rouge newspaper.

In the column, Another Perspective, asking the question, “How does God see us?”, Father Carville writes, “. . . Ancient Babylon, from whom the Jews got some of the 10 commandments . . .”

It is the teaching of the Church, and of Judaism, as well as the tradition of both, that the Ten Commandments were given in their entirety by God to Moses.

Simple contact amongst peoples easily accounts for the Ten Commandments being promulgated, at least in part, to the Gentiles and Pagans in general, including Babylon. Since the Ten Commandments are in harmony with the Natural Law, their basics were already within the human character or “psyche”. Thus they were easily inculcated, at least in part or in varying aspects and to varying degrees, into a multitude of cultures.

When a clergyman of a jurisdiction of the True Church presents as fact, an alternative, modernistic, unproven, and even false history of development of God given instructions and their reception by mankind, that clergyman calls into question and casts doubt upon all of what God has taught through His Church.

If one accepts as fact, that the Jews obtained some of the Ten Commandments from the Babylonians, then that one is justified in questioning the viability of those particular Commandments, and perhaps all of them. The reality of Christ Who is both God and Man, His being the Supreme Sacrificial Offering, the provision of redemption, its availability to all who follow Christ, the resurrection of the dead, each of the Sacraments, all God given Dogma, and

everything associated with God and the True Church, have lessened or no viability for such a person.

There well may be strong evidence the ancient Babylonians accepted some of the Ten Commandments in some form or fashion. But there is no evidence these originated with the Babylonians, and strong evidence they were given in their entirety by God to Moses, and thence promulgated throughout mankind.

Those who cast doubt upon the historically supported traditions of the Church give scandal of the type which Christ condemned.

It is logical to follow the reasoning, that if the source of a major aspect of morality is not God, but, rather, is a bunch of Pagans, then the source of all moral standards is questionable. From this stage is is but a small step to challenge all moral standards, and all standards of any nature. The next logical position is to abandon all standards, and to engage in any conduct which an individual desires at any given instant in time.

Those who promulgate that which deviates from, or unwarrantedly challenges, that which is Church tradition based in Dogma and Dogmatic teachings, may assuage their desire for intellectual superiority, and their perception of their own intellectual superiority, and their quest for recognition of their own intellectual superiority. It is even possible they are in good faith . . . with no desire for self aggrandizement . . . with every good intention . . . hoping to assist others in obtaining eternal salvation . . . it is possible . . . but . . .

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**OBAMA MAKES IT A CRIME FOR PRIESTS TO VOLUNTEER TO PRAY DIVINE LITURGY ON MILITARY BASES DURING THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

Due to a shortage of active-duty chaplains, many military bases make arrangements for priests to celebrate Mass (Divine Liturgy) and administer the sacraments on a contract basis. But all such contracts were suspended while the government was shut down.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, explained in a notice dated October 3, 2013, “With the government shutdown, many GS and contract **priests who minister to Catholics on military bases worldwide are not permitted to work – not even to volunteer. During the shutdown, it is illegal for them to minister on base and they risk being arrested if they attempt to do so.**”

It was enlightening that Protestant ministers and ministers of other religions were allowed to volunteer and to provide their services on military bases. But that Roman Catholic and Orthodox Priests were not. That only Orthodox and Roman Catholic Priests were threatened with criminal charges and criminal arrest. Moslem, Wickens, and Satanists “clergy” were also under no restrictions.

It is especially enlightening when one realizes all of this was / is under the control and authority of the Commander in Chief - Obama.

Like to watch the pretend devils and demons on TV shows? Why not watch the real thing on the evening news.

<http://www.milarch.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=dwJXKgOUJiIaG&b=8486699&ct=13344123>  
<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/terry-jeffrey/dod-bars-50-priests-administering-sacraments-locks-eucharist-priest-sues>

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**BUSINESSES: MANAGEMENT, LABOR, COMPENSATION, PROFITS, BENEFITS**  
**Making it all work.**

It is a mathematical certainty that over the past forty years, accurately and honestly adjusting for inflation (or deflation, as appropriate), business income has increased, business profits have increased, the income of upper echelon business employees has correspondingly increased, stock holder dividends - which is their income - has remained somewhat static even though the price of the stock may have increased, those business employees who are not upper echelon have experienced no increase in income, and over the past four or five years those business employees who are not upper echelon have experienced an actual decrease in income - in some instances their effective purchasing power having decreased by as much as twenty-six percent (26%). This is not accurate in every instance, in every area of business, especially as regards small businesses with ten or fewer employees, or small scale sole practitioner professionals. But it is accurate as regards the vast majority of businesses.

People start and operate businesses by using their own money and the money others entrust to them for the purpose of making money through making a profit and thereby earning their living. Some people contest the use of the term "earn a living" when it is applied to those who invest in businesses, but we are not concerned with the debate as to whether "earn a living" or "obtain a living" is appropriate.

In the standard American - European business model, businesses hire employees not for the purpose of giving people jobs but for the purpose of providing additional goods or services or lowering the cost the business incurs in the production of its products or services, and for other business related purposes and reasons, all of which are intended to increase business profits. In all business models, employees work for businesses so-as-to earn a living.

If businesses and employees negotiate from equal positions of strength - as it were on a

level playing field - it would be reasonable to anticipate investors and owners will receive a reasonable return on their investment, employees would receive a reasonable wage in return for good work with the wages reflecting the value to the business of the work the employee performs and the availability of people who are able to do that work. Of course multiple other factors are involved in this process.

But only rarely will the system function with all parties operating from equal positions of strength.

In the most common American - European model or system, so-as-to compensate for their comparative positions, labor often forms associations or unions, skilled individuals often form guilds, what are often termed "professionals" such as physicians, architects, engineers, and attorneys form associations or professional associations, businesses form conglomerates, associations or trade associations. By joining these organizations an individual, whether a human being or a "legal person" (such as a corporation) hopes to parlay their influence vis-a-vis other parties and entities. This attempt to exert influence quickly extends beyond employment and business negotiations, and proceeds into what is perceived to be the general power structure. This often results in these various organizations all attempting to purchase, buy, or rent influence of politicians or the actual politicians themselves.

The actual operations of the system often has union leaders doing what is best for themselves with no concern for the union members, business management doing what is best for themselves with no concern for the actual business owners, the shareholders, and virtually no one being concerned about the customers or the business itself.

Despite this lack of concern, this system actually functioned magnificently in America in the period shortly following World War II through roughly somewhere during the 1970's and possibly the early 1980's.

Economists and demographers postulate

the enhanced functionality was promoted by a reasonably expanding economy, a ready employee base of returning military personnel who had access to education opportunities under the GI Bill, a need for employees such as served to induce businesses to offer to employees incentives which had really never before been offered to employees, and other, similar factors.

There is an additional factor which is rarely mentioned: morality.

Much of management and of labor after World War II had been in or associated with the military service of World War II. At the very least they experienced the home front hardships caused by the war. A large percentage of the labor force - at all levels - had endured horrible hardships and terrible experiences. These people observed and often experienced the horrors of evil, and intuitively knew they were fighting for good and against evil. They brought this sense of morality into the business world where it endured for decades until overcome by the newer management and labor personnel who had no first hand experience of the morality building horrors of the Second World War. As the influence of the morality factor became less and less, there was a return to a gross disparity in income. Management of the larger businesses no longer had incomes thirty to fifty times that of the lowest paid regular employee, but more commonly received one, two, or three hundred times the income of the lowest paid regular employee. A factor of four to six hundred times is not uncommon today.

Governments are able to effect the "lack of morality" situation only to a very limited extent. Increases in minimum wage inevitability lead to increase in prices, decrease in employment, followed by a form of economic equilibrium, often with a return to the former "status quo" only using higher numbers - for everything except the number of gainfully employed.

*(Continued BUSINESS on page 7)*

(Continued BUSINESS from page 6)

The inability of Government to effect "lack of morality" situations, and the correlative inability to meaningfully effect business and wage matters, is most readily evident in government assistance programs and their evolution.

Government assistance, where based on merit and need, are of great benefit with little adverse effect. But government assistance based solely on recipients meeting certain factors or criteria, creates an under-society of people who focus on meting those qualifications even though most of those people have the ability to receive much greater benefits through regular, normal employment. Because of this, society in general becomes encouraged to accept lower standards of living, and to punish anyone who exerts energy to attain a higher standard of living.

There is another business economic model which bears out or establishes a firm footing in support of the morality factor. It is the Mondragon Corporation model. This business model was created in the year 1942, by a Spanish Priest named Dom José María Arizmendiarieta Madariaga. Basically, in this model businesses are created for the purpose of employing people. The businesses are in the form of cooperatives. Often the highest paid employee may earn no more than six times that which is earned by the lowest paid regular employee.

Father "Arizmendi" began the system as a means of providing employment to Basques, to solve the economic problems which plagued the population. He established a school to train people in the various occupations and skills needed for various enterprises, and established businesses which utilized those skills. The school became a university which at that time and to this day provides people skilled in management, technical areas, and all occupa-

tions which the cooperative businesses need, not only for the cooperatives but also for businesses in general.

All of this worked, and continues to work today, with some of the cooperatives employing thousands of people and providing technically sophisticated products. It works because the Basque communities have a strong moral foundation, and the school and cooperatives were founded in moral values.

This model has been attempted in America on numerous occasions, most of which have failed. The most stable example is a bakery in the Bay Area of San Francisco. Avondale Shipyards or Industries took on aspects of this model when its parent company divested itself of most of its interests in the company and the company became seventy percent employee owned. The bakery remains operational. But Avondale has been remodeled and undergone various consolidations and acquisitions. The bakery followed the morality foundation and the maximum wage differential of the model. Avondale did neither.

**The most important factor in the economic successes immediately following World War II, and in all successful business models, is morality.**

The most important factor in the economic successes immediately following World War II, and in all successful business models, is morality. The common acknowledgment of moral absolutes by management, labor, investors, members of the professions, bureaucrats, elected and appointed officials, and society in general, creates a conscience which becomes sorely aggrieved at even the thought of not dealing fairly with others, or of enriching one's self at the expense of others, and especially through impoverishing others.

lutes by management, labor, investors, members of the professions, bureaucrats, elected and appointed officials, and society in general, creates a conscience which becomes sorely aggrieved at even the thought of not dealing fairly with others, or of enriching one's self at the expense of others, and especially through impoverishing others.

No accumulation of government regulations will ever be able to replace common, solid, absolute morality. No labor negotiations will ever result in a morally proper situation if the negotiators on all sides are not of the highest

moral character. Perhaps viable management and labor contracts will stave off slavery. But they will never be "fair" if morality is not their foundation.

When God given absolutes in the form of moral conduct are not part of the foundation of the business, employer, employee, investor, customer relationships, then inequalities, unjust enrichment, impoverishment, envy, greed, and hate will proliferate.

Since only a very small portion of society is interested in attaining union with the totally different from us entity who is God, it is very likely only a small portion of society will endeavor to infuse morality into the business culture.

But if anyone should cease to attempt to infuse morality into the business community, and into society in general, then that individual will also have abandoned or at least weakened their personal drive for their own union with God.

Ref: 1 Cor. 12:2-11; Luke 18:9-14

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**SAINT PAUL (1 Timothy) on Vegans, Six Pack Abs, and Women Establishing Dogma**

4:1. Now the Spirit manifestly saith that in the last times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to spirits of error and doctrines of devils, 4:2. Speaking lies in hypocrisy and having their conscience seared, 4:3. Forbidding to marry, to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving by the faithful and by them that have known the truth.

2:11. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 2:12. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to use authority over the man: but to be in silence. 2:13. For Adam was first formed; then Eve. 2:14. And Adam was not seduced; but the woman, being seduced, was in the transgression.

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**(HUMOR)  
WHAT GOES UPHILL WITH  
THREE LEGS?**

(Thanks Mike)

A lawyer and a senior citizen were sitting next to each other on a long flight. The lawyer thought, "Seniors are so dumb, I can put one over on them easily." So, the lawyer asked the senior if he would like to play a fun game.

The senior was tired and just wanted to take a nap, so he politely declined and tried to catch a few winks.

The lawyer persisted, saying that the game was a lot of fun... "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only \$5.00. Then you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500.00," he said.

This caught the senior's attention and, to keep the lawyer quiet, he agreed to play the game.

The lawyer asked the first question. "What's the distance from the Earth to the Moon?"

The senior did not say a word, but reached into his pocket, pulled out a five-dollar bill, and handed it to the lawyer.

Then it was the senior's turn. He asked the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and come down with four?"

The lawyer used his laptop to search all references he could find on the Net.

He sent E-mails to all the smart friends he knew; all to no avail. After an hour of searching, he finally gave up.

He woke the senior and handed him \$500.00. The senior pocketed the \$500.00 and went back to sleep.

The lawyer began going nuts not knowing the answer. He woke the senior up and asked, "Well, so what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with

four?"

The senior reached into his pocket, handed the lawyer \$5.00, and went back to sleep.

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**MUSLIM LEADER DEMANDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS HIRE MUSLIMS TO TEACH ISLAM IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

Hartoyo, leader of The Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) in Klanten, demanded all private schools, including Catholic ones, to hire qualified staff to teach the Islamic religion to Muslim students, according to a report in AsiaNews.it November 11, 2013. <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Indonesian-ulema-again-demand-Catholic-schools-teach-Islam-29508.html>

Muslim students who go to Catholic schools already take Islamic religious courses sponsored by their own Islamic communities.

School administrators also go out of their way to reassure Muslim parents that Catholic schools do not try to "convert" students and that Christian proselytizing is banned.

Comment: How about Muslims in Pakistan, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Saudi, Indonesia, and everywhere else, providing religious education for Christians by qualified and certified Christian teachers, in their schools first; as a sign of good faith and as a practice of equality.

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**POPE FRANCIS IS WRONG - DEAD WRONG - IN HIS RECENT COMMENTS REGARDING THE MATTER OF INFALLIBILITY**

In matters of belief rather than governance, Pope Francis said that the pope and bishops share authority with the laity. "The church is the people of God on the journey through history," he said. "Thinking with the church, therefore, is my way of being a part of this people. And all the faithful, considered as a whole, are infallible in matters of belief." (Pope Francis I, August, 2013)

First - the Church is not, "the people of God on the journey through history." The Church is the bride of Christ. It is the branches of which Christ is the Vine, and the Father is the Husbandman. It is the Body of Christ of which Christ is the Head. It is eternal for it is of Christ God. As such, it is external to history just as God is external to history.

Of equal importance is the new definition of infallibility, and the process of exercising infallibility, and of establishing dogma infallibly, which is proposed - and actually proclaimed and therefore established for Romans - by Pope Frances.

Since infallibility is a matter of dogma, and Rome holds the Pope of Rome establishes what is and is not dogma under his sole authority, Pope Francis has opened the door to establishing a change in the process of infallibility, change in the procedure of stating dogma, truths, with infallibility; he has changed from that which had claim to infallibility to that which has no claim to infallibility. Succinctly, this new infallibility may claim to be infallibility (infallible) but in actuality it is not.

Reverse the Pope Francis process. It is true that all of the faithful, the faithful considered as a whole, by definition of being the faithful do believe that which

*(Continued FRANCIS on page 9)*



(Continued FRANCIS from page 8)

is true. But it does not follow that what all of the faithful may, at any given time, believe, actually is true, actually is accurate, actually is established as dogma, actually is infallibly dogma.

They are the faithful in part because they do believe that which has been infallibly proclaimed as dogma. But their beliefs, even if universally held, do not constitute a viable process for infallibly establishing dogma.

Were this the process there quickly would be established different groups each of which would have differing - even opposing - beliefs. Each such group would then have a claim to being the true faithful, which claim each group could justify.

God is the One who established the process by which dogma is discerned and proclaimed with infallibility. The process is through true Ecumenical Council in which all of the true Jurisdictions of the True Church of Apostolic Succession are invited and encouraged to participate.

Rome abrogated this thousand year old, God the Holy Spirit established, Holy and Immutable Tradition in approximately the year 1054 A. D., when it adopted the Filioque Clause contrary to the dictates of prior Ecumenical Councils and Roman Popes.

Hundreds of years later a local council of the Roman Catholic Church declared the Pope to be infallible in his proclamations on matters of faith - dogma.

The rest of the True Church acquiesced in neither.

A process by which all of the faithful decide what is dogma will lead to factions each of which promotes its own desired deviation from established dogma and dogmatically based morals.

Very quickly there will be factions which proclaim, supposedly infallibly, that homosexuality and homosexual

unions are permitted and good. That abortion and euthanasia are good. Both of which are anathema under true dogma. One need but consider the Anglican / Episcopalian Communion to verify this is true.

Pope Francis has opened the door to permissiveness and immorality. It is well established that permissiveness and immorality result in diminution of the prospects for temporal happiness as well as eternal happiness.

Within one generation, the Roman Catholic Church has caused confusion and chaos amongst its own members and in its relations with other Jurisdictions of the True Church. It has so done through numerous, irrational novations, amongst which are:

Changing - virtually abandoning - its Divine Liturgy and adopting an innovation which physically focuses on humans and not on God. The immediate result was the abandonment of the Roman Catholic Priesthood by a significant percentage of its Priests, of the religious life by an overwhelming majority of the members of its religious orders, and the falling away from the Church by a significant portion of its laity.

Decreeing many individuals who were acknowledged to be saints, as not being real persons and therefore not saints, or that the deeds attributed to them during their lives were impossible and therefore not to be believed. A classic example is Saint Christopher, who carried Christ across a river. Rome said there was no proof he existed - even though his place of burial is well known and is a place of continuing miracles. Apparently the leaders in Rome had become too sophisticated to believe in anything as unscientific as miracles.

The abandonment of its traditional liturgical calendar, which possessed a certain form of symmetry with that of the Orthodox, Coptic, and other Jurisdictions of the True Church, and substituting a three year Biblical reading cycle which has no harmony with

the other Jurisdictions of the True Church.

The resulting chaos impedes the search for and quest for reunification of the various Jurisdictions of the True Church, of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. With sinful desires now receiving an avenue to apparent dogmatic legitimacy, the Roman Catholic Church will be further fractured.

Very simply, Rome is now abandoning the means of establishing Dogma - the means which were established by the Holy Spirit God Himself.

There are many holy Priests, Bishops, laity, and a few religious, in the Roman Catholic Church. They are entitled to a better Pope than what they have been saddled with. They are entitled to dogmatic security. They are entitled to access to the Sacraments, Sacraments administered by Priest who believe and follow true God given dogma - not popularly supported approval of and access to sin.

The least of the problems regarding Pope Francis I, is his lack of gravitas.

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

# CHILD'S BIBLE HISTORY



### BIBLE HISTORY FOR CHILDREN

During the years 2001 through 2004 we published BIBLE HISTORY FOR CHILDREN in Reunion. It was extremely popular with adults, as well as children.

We recently viewed an acclaimed new Bible video series. What it probably got right is that Jesus Christ is God - but it is uncertain that the series actually acknowledges this is reality. It has the Jews sloshing through a tunnel in the Red Sea carrying torches so they could see their way, Egyptians hot on their rear guard. Samson is portrayed as a reluctant warrior. Moses is loquacious but mostly without fortitude and somewhat bipolar, The Theotokos is depicted as leaving Jerusalem before Pentecost, and Jesus continually bears a silly charismatic smile while lacking the physique to be a first century carpenter.

We realized many people acquire their Biblical knowledge from such videos. It therefore is time to republish the children's Bible history. While not as complete or as in depth as a more formalized history, it covers the basics, doing a much better "job of it" than the videos.

### CHILD'S

### BIBLE HISTORY BASED ON THE BOOK BY THE MOST REV. F. J. KNECHT, D.D.

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### FIRST PART HISTORY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

#### 1. The Creation of the World

IN THE beginning God created heaven and earth. But the earth was dark and empty. And God said: "Let there be light." And there was light. This was the first day.

On the second day God said: "Let there be a firmament." And it was so done. God called the firmament Heaven.

2. On the third day God said: "Let the waters of the Earth be gathered together in one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so done. God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering of the waters He called Sea.

God said again: "Let the earth bring forth grass, herbs and fruit trees." And it was so done. The earth was covered with grass, and herbs, and trees yielding fruit.

3. On the fourth day God said: "Let there be lights in the firmament." And it was so done. God created the sun, the moon and the stars, to rule the day and the night, and to divide the light from the darkness.

On the fifth day God said: "Let there be fishes in the water and birds in the air." And God created the fishes and the birds, according to their kinds.

4. On the sixth day God said: "Let the earth bring forth cattle and beasts of every kind." And it was so done. And God created the beasts and the cattle, and every creature that creeps on the earth. Lastly, God created man.

On the seventh day God rested,



THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

and He blessed that day and made it holy.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What did God create in the beginning? How was the earth? What did God say and create on the first day? On the second? 2. What did God say and create on the third day? What did God say again? 3, 4. What did God say and create on the fourth, the fifth and the sixth days? What did God do on the seventh day?

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**PERHAPS THE BEST SERMON ON THE TOPIC OF THE Trayvon Martin - George Zimmerman MATTER IS BY A NEGRO PREACHER AND AVAILABLE ON THE INTER-NET AT:**

<http://gopthedailydose.com/2013/07/23/george-zimmerman-stoned-trayvon-martin-deuteronomy-21-18-21/>

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**THE CHARACTER OF HERETICS OF THE LATTER DAYS (2 Timothy Chapter 3)**

3:1. Know also this, that in the last days shall come dangerous times.

3:2. Men shall be lovers of themselves, covetous, haughty, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, wicked,

3:3. Without affection, without peace, slanderers, incontinent, unmerciful, without kindness,

3:4. Traitors, stubborn, puffed up, and lovers of pleasure more than of God:

3:5. Having an appearance indeed of godliness but denying the power thereof. Now these avoid.

**3:6. For of these sort are they who creep into houses and lead captive silly women laden with sins, who are led away with divers desires:**

3:7. Ever learning, and never attaining to the knowledge of the truth.

3:8. Now as Jannes and Mambres resisted Moses, so these also resist the truth, men corrupted in mind, reprobate concerning the faith.

Jannes and Mambres... The magicians of king Pharaoh.

3:9. But they shall proceed no farther: for their folly shall be manifest to all men, as theirs also was.

3:10. But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose,

faith, longsuffering, love, patience,

3:11. Persecutions, afflictions: such as came upon me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra: what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me.

3:12. And all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

3:13. But evil men and seducers shall grow worse and worse: erring, and driving into error,

3:14. But continue thou in those things which thou hast learned and which have been committed to thee. Knowing of whom thou hast learned them:

3:15. And because from thy infancy thou hast known the holy scriptures which can instruct thee to salvation by the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

3:16. All scripture, inspired of God, is profitable to teach, to reprove, to correct, to instruct in justice:

If we would have the whole rule of Christian faith and practice, we must not be content with those Scriptures, which Timothy knew from his infancy, that is, the Old Testament alone: nor yet with the New Testament, without taking along with it the traditions of the apostles, and the interpretation of the church, to which the apostles delivered both the book, and the true meaning of it.

3:17. That the man of God may be perfect, furnished to every good work.

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**IF YOU KEEP YOUR HEART AND MIND IN JESUS YOU WILL PROCEED STRAIGHT ON HIS WAY**

*“... make straight the way of the Lord ...”* One best not add any side trips on one’s journey to God. The traveler may just arrive at what the traveler intended to be a temporary side trip and remain there. When the traveler comes face to face with a Commandment of God, the traveler may either embrace that Commandment, or the traveler may attempt to go around the Commandment. But when one attempts to go around a Commandment of God, one, in truth, attempts to circumvent that Commandment. In attempting to circumvent that Commandment the traveler takes a route that diverges from the route that leads to God. Then, if God truly is the traveler’s desired destination, the traveler must regain *“the way of the Lord,”* for The Way taught by our Lord is the only access to God.

Each Commandment of God, and each Beatitude, each Corporal Work of Mercy, each Spiritual Work, each Divine Virtue taught by the Lord, and each Sacrament - as appropriate - all of which were established by the Lord, each opens various gateways through which the traveler must pass on The Way of the Lord. However, each of these gateways may only be opened by the traveler embracing the Commandments, Beatitudes, Corporal Works of Mercy, Spiritual Works, Divine Virtues, and Sacraments, and making them integral parts of the traveler. For the Commandments, Beatitudes, Corporal Works of Mercy, Spiritual Works, Divine Virtues, and Sacraments, not

*(Continued TRAVELER on page 13)*



(Continued TRAVELER from page 12)

only open the gateways, they are the gateways on The Way of the Lord; The Way which would otherwise be closed to the traveler.

The traveler who has left The Way of the Lord, who has strayed from the path, may have difficulty regaining that path. If the traveler attempts to regain The Way of the

Lord by traveling back on the diverging route, the traveler risks being ensnared by the glittering attractions of the many side paths and alleyways. If the traveler attempts to go straight from the place where the decision to regain The Way of the Lord was made, then the traveler may have to travel

over unbroken ground until The Way is regained, and may come upon many other side paths and alleyways in the process. It is best to utilize the Sacraments as instant gateways of return to The Way of the Lord. And then enter the other gateways so their qualities and benefits may be established, or established anew, in the traveler.

Too often travelers express inappropriate interest in the paths taken by other travelers. Each traveler should be concerned for the welfare of all upon whom they come, but many find it necessary to critique *how* others proceed, and *where* they go, to the detriment of *how* and *where* they themselves proceed and go. In so doing the traveler often abandons The Way of the Lord without realizing this has happened.

Whether the traveler seeks stability, safety, adventure, new experiences, or any combination of these, such is only

to be found in a meaningful manner resulting in an experience worth itself, on The Way of the Lord. All that experienced on the by-ways, paths, and alleyways which are not on The Way of the Lord, are less than illusions.

The Way of the Lord is proven and true, made so by the Lord Himself. It is solid and firm, with no stumbling blocks,

traps, box canyons, cliffs, curves, turns, or bends. But it is beset with brigands, and seemingly attractive but false detours some of which quickly lead from The Way, others of which gradually parallel and then diverge from The Way, all of which are false because there are no detours from The Way of the Lord which are

either approved by the Lord or which lead to the Lord.

Ref: Philipp 4:4-7; John 1:19-28

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**It is best to utilize the Sacraments as instant gateways of return to The Way of the Lord. And then enter the other gateways so their qualities and benefits may be established, or established anew, in the traveler.**

**Each traveler should be concerned for the welfare of all upon whom they come, but many find it necessary to critique how others proceed, and where they go, to the detriment of how and where they themselves proceed and go**

## THE OLD PRIEST LAY DYING

(Humor)  
(Thanks Mike)

In Washington, D.C. an old priest lay dying in the hospital. For years he had faithfully served the people of the nation's capital and was well known among the elected officials. He motioned for his nurse to come near.

"Yes, Father?" said the nurse.

"I would really like to see President Obama and Senator Reid before I die," whispered the priest.

"I'll see what I can do, Father," replied the nurse.

The nurse sent the request to the President and Congress and waited for a response.

Soon the word arrived; President Obama and Harry Reid would be delighted to visit the priest.

As they went to the hospital, Obama commented to Reid, "I don't know why the old priest wants to see us, but it will certainly help our images.

"Reid agreed that it was a good thing.

When they arrived at the priest's room, the priest took Obama's hand in his right hand and Reid's hand in his left hand. There was silence and a look of serenity on the old priest's face.

Finally President Obama spoke. "Father, of all the people you could have chosen, why did you choose us to be with you as you near the end?"

The old priest slowly replied, "I have always tried to pattern my life after our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

"Amen", said Obama. "Amen", said Reid.

The old priest continued, "Jesus died between two lying thieves; I would like to do the same."

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## CHRISTMAS

### WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

One of the word sounds which is common to the Nativity of Christ and the Divine Liturgy itself is the word mass. The word Mass is used in the old Latin Rite to designate the Divine Liturgy. It also is used to designate that the old Latin Rite Divine Liturgy is ended. It is added to the end of Christ's name to designate the Nativity of Christ, Christmas. In this religious context it is proper to state it means worship.

This particular word sound is partially related to the Greek *massa* and *massein* - to knead, not just to mingle but to knead, as in to thoroughly make different ingredients into a new thing which actually continues its separate ingredients yet with them so thoroughly "blended" as to make them inseparable.

Lexicologist (or, is it lexicologist?"s") probably will have nightmares if these concepts are combined, but they will just have to suffer.

If we combine these concepts we will perceive a reality - that reality being that Christmas is the presentation to the world of God and of man, as it were, kneaded as the God-Man. And the concurrent reality that Christmas is the worship of Christ for the first time, the worship of that which had not before been, to-wit, the Word Incarnate now born of the Virgin.

Now that we have upset lexicologist?"s", theologians, and bakers, let us remember why we are here and say, "Happy Birthday Jesus. . . Thank you, Jesus."

Ref: Titus 2:11-15; Luke 2:1-14

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### ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH ARE MOST SOUGHT THOSE WHICH WOULD BEST BE SOUGHT? ARE THEY EVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The first public miracle which Jesus Christ God worked was the changing of water into wine at a wedding at Cana. Throughout His public life He continued to work miracles, raising to life people who had been dead for several days and were stinking with decay, curing numerous forms of illness including incurable medical conditions, and various other spectacular works. His Disciples also worked similar miracles before and after His Ascension, and God and the Saints continue to work miracles even to this very day.

It therefore is not surprising that people seek the working of miracles as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

What is surprising is how they seek these gifts, from whom they seek the gifts, and the lack of thought with which the gifts are pursued.

There are many preachers, often generically termed TV preachers, who directly or by implication, claim the ability to dispense or provide the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Their "formula" for dispensation of these gifts usually requires the one seeking the gifts to provide the preacher with what is called "seed," and the preferred form of this "seed" is "seed money". The preachers teach that one can not expect to receive or reap if one does not plant - which is true. But one usually reaps what one sows. If money is the "seed" then does one expect money as the crop? If so, when did money become a gift of the Holy Spirit? This "system" seems like a very bad Ponzi scheme, because the money is delivered to the preacher but he does not even have to give a fake return on investment as is required for a regular Ponzi investment scheme. Also, if you purchase something either for a price or

with a bribe - which is what these preachers are advocating - is what is received actually a gift or is it a purchased product? That is, if anything is received.

What if one prays for the ability to work miracles as a gift of and from the Holy Spirit?

What would a person do if they had the ability to change water into wine? Would they open a winery? Perhaps it would be more viable to be able to turn water into beer and ale - there are greater markets for these. But we already are able to do these things through the Divine gifts of photosynthesis and fermentation. And what does the ability to turn water into wine have to do with the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Or raising the dead to life or healing the sick or injured for that matter?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit may effect the physical well being and physical world but they so do only in conjunction with and ancillary to benefit to the spiritual well being.

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is the continual occurrence of the Sacred Sacrificial Victim who purifies us from the strains of our sins.

It is through the gift of the Sacred Sacrificial Victim, through The Sacred Eucharist, through Holy Communion, that the true gifts of the Holy Spirit are made available to us, and are effectuated in us. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are gifts. They can not be purchased. They can not be earned. One may pray that one receives them or some of them. If one perceives a special need in another or in others and desires to obtain the ability to assist them it is good to pray for the ability to assist those in need - but commensurate with the reception of such gifts is the responsibility to utilize the gifts and render the assistance. If this should occur, then the recipient may encounter one of the most frustrating of situations, that being having the ability to assist someone and having that indi-

(Continued GIFTS?? on page 15)

(Continued GIFTS??from page 14)

vidual exercise their free will to reject the assistance. This often is the situation in spiritual matters.

It also is wise to seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that one may receive assistance in attaining a healthy spiritual life. But only if one accepts and properly utilizes the gifts will one derive any benefit from them.

Very often what one actually seeks is a miracle. Only rarely is the miracle sought associated with spiritual matters. Most often material or worldly matters or gain are the subject of the miracle sought. In their self seeking people regularly forget - if they ever realized - that miracles are wrought by God either personally or through another, in God's love and magnanimity.

Remember, the Psalm (*Psalm 65:1,2,16*) says: "Shout with joy to God, all the earth, Sing ye a psalm to his name; give glory to his praise. Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will tell you what great things he hath done for my soul."

The Psalm does not say, "for my purse," or, "for my wallet," or "for my bank account," or "for my material well being." The Psalm says, "I will tell you what great things he hath done for my *soul*."

Perhaps those who seek material gifts and miracles are more concerned for the things of this world, than they are for those of the permanent next world. We should seek the gift which virtually forces people to have greatest concern for the next world, if there is such a gift.

Ref Rom 12:6-16; John 2:1-11

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**WHAT MANY PEOPLE DO NOT WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS**

It was not being blinded by the Divine Heavenly Light of God and being knocked to the ground from his horse that turned Saint Paul into one of the most if not the most fervent, faithful, and complete servant, Apostle, Disciple, and follower of God. He already was that. What happened in and to Saint Paul was the realization that Jesus Christ was not a Jewish heretic, but Jesus Christ is God, the Son of God, and all that Jesus said and taught was true.

Saint Paul changed his course accordingly.

We probably know of no one who is the equal of Saint Paul. Nor will any of us ever be the equal of Saint Paul if we are waiting for God to blind us with the Light of His Divine Essence and knock us to the ground.

Fidelity to God and to the Will of God come from within the individual. What God has taught is readily and easily knowable even though there exist innumerable attempts to obscure or to warp what God has taught. Our individual failures in fidelity to God and to the Will of God arise in some instances from lack of knowledge - which is easily corrected. More often it arises in our desire to indulge in our selfish temporal desires and a personal lack of spiritual fortitude.

There is a means by which we are able to utilize our selfishness in a positive manner. Normally, selfishness is focused on temporal material or intellectual matters. Were we to focus our selfishness on what is best for us so-as-to obtain a desirable, happy, peaceful, joyful, holy, Divinely spiritual eternity, we would be more inclined bring our talents to bear on obtaining that goal.

But more important is our personal fortitude.

**More often it arises in our desire to indulge in our selfish temporal desires and a personal lack of spiritual fortitude.**

**There is a means by which we are able to utilize our selfishness in a positive manner.**

**It was not the blinding Divine Light of the presence of Jesus Christ God which made Saint Paul the extraordinary servant of God which he is. He had already made himself into that with constant training. The Divine Light merely opened his eyes so he would see the proper course.**

Saint Paul often teaches us using analogy based in warfare. He instructs us, "Let us, therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light." (*Rom. 13:12*) He further instructs us, "Finally, brethren, be strengthened in the Lord and in the might of his power. Put you on the armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceits of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places. (*High places, or heavenly places... That is to say, in the air, the lowest of the celestial regions; in which God permits these wicked spirits or fallen angels to wander.*) Therefore, take unto you the armour of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day and to stand in all things perfect. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of justice: And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In all things taking the shield of faith, wherewith you may

(Continued ST. PAUL on page 16)

(Continued ST. PAUL from page 15)

be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the most wicked one. And take unto you the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit (which is the word of God). By all prayer and supplication praying at all times in the spirit: and in the same watching with all instance and supplication for all the saints: (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Only when a person who desires to be holy realizes and makes part of their essential elements, the reality

**Only when a person who desires to be holy realizes and makes part of their essential elements, the reality that there can be no peace between holiness and evil, no compromise, no truce, no negotiation, no half measures, can that individual establish the resolve to be holy. Only then will there be a foundation from which the individual will have both the ability and the resolve to successfully engage in battle with and against evil, and on the side of goodness, holiness, and God.**

that there can be no peace between holiness and evil, no compromise, no truce, no negotiation, no half measures, can that individual establish the resolve to be holy. Only then will there be a foundation from which the individual will have both the ability and the resolve to successfully engage in battle with and against evil, and on the side of goodness, holiness, and God.

Those who wish there were or think there is some peaceful means by which eternal salvation may be attained are doomed to fail in their seeking such means, and possibly in their seeking eternal salvation. God Himself has told us there was a great battle in Heaven between the forces of evil and the forces of holiness. God's forces of holiness won that battle. That battleground now is each individual soul, and the battle will be determined for each individual by that very individual.

A society which breeds individuals accustomed to receiving without struggle or with minimal effort breeds individuals who are not trained to apply the lessons learned in every day life to the reality that holy spiritual life requires

struggle and overt warfare against evil. Even those individuals who must struggle in their worldly life are often inclined to seek a less difficult, easier, way of life. This inclination readily is applied to spiritual matters, which opens wide the door to spiritual defeat.

But members of that unique society, the military, if they are successful in that society and in their military endeavors, experience that success because they constantly train, constantly hone their skills, constantly improve their abilities in their profession. This is true to varying

extents of those who are successful in any occupation or endeavor. But very few of them so closely parallel that which results from success or failure, as does the military life with the spiritual life.

It was not the blinding Divine Light of the presence of Jesus Christ God which made Saint Paul the extraordinary servant of God which he is. He had already made himself into that with constant training. The Divine Light merely opened his eyes so he would see the proper course.

If we would likewise make ourselves open to receive the direction of Divine Light, we must train ourselves in spiri-

tual warfare. We must train in prayer. We must nourish our souls through the Sacraments, especially that of the Eucharist. We must have our wounds healed through Sacramental Confession and Absolution, and Sacramental Holy Anointing. We must meet every challenge - in spiritual warfare challenges are known as temptations - and batter each and every one of them into submission and into nothingness. When the enemy - and make no mistake, anyone and anything which even slightly detracts from vigorous spiritual health is bait placed in our path by the enemy, the Devil - when the enemy seems to make peace, or to subtly suggest something really is not bad, you must be able to rely on your spiritual training to expose the spiritual threat. Always remember the enemy will attempt every subterfuge possible to entice you to lower your guard. And always remember that no matter what form it takes, evil is always your enemy, always seeking to destroy you.

**Those who wish there were or think there is some peaceful means by which eternal salvation may be attained are doomed to fail in their seeking such means, and possibly in their seeking eternal salvation. God Himself has told us there was a great battle in Heaven between the forces of evil and the forces of holiness. God's forces of holiness won that battle. That battleground now is each individual soul, and the battle will be determined for each individual by that very individual.**

If these things you do not, then your future is, at best, uncertain. If these things you do, then as successful as Saint Paul will you be.

Ref: Acts. 9:1-22; Mat. 19:27-29

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**HUMOR - SATIRE  
WHY ATHLETES CAN'T  
HAVE REGULAR JOBS**

*(We attempted to ascertain the origin of this compilation but were unable so-to-do.)*

1. Chicago Cubs outfielder Andre Dawson on being a role model: "I wan' all dem kids to do what I do, to look up to me. I wan' all the kids to copulate me."

2. New Orleans Saint RB George Rogers when asked about the upcoming season: "I want to rush for 1,000 or 1,500 yards, whichever comes first"

3. And, upon hearing Joe Jacobi of the 'Skin's say: "I'd run over my own mother to win the Super Bowl," Matt Millen of the Raiders said: "To win, I'd run over Joe's Mom, too."

4. Torrin Polk, University of Houston receiver, on his coach, John Jenkins: "He treats us like men. He lets us wear earrings.."

5. Football commentator and former player Joe Theismann: "Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein."

6. Senior basketball player at the University of Pittsburgh : "I'm going to graduate on time, no matter how long it takes." (Now that is beautiful)

7. Bill Peterson, a Florida State football coach: "You guys line up alphabetically by height." And, "You guys pair up in groups of three, and then line up in a circle."

8. Boxing promoter Dan Duva on Mike Tyson going to prison: "Why would anyone expect him to come out smarter? He went to prison for three years, not Princeton ."

9. Stu Grimson, Chicago Blackhawks left wing, explaining why he keeps a

color photo of himself above his locker: "That's so when I forget how to spell my name, I can still find my clothes."

10. Lou Duva, veteran boxing trainer, on the Spartan training regime of heavyweight Andrew Golota: "He's a guy who gets up at six o'clock in the morning, regardless of what time it is."

11. Chuck Nevitt , North Carolina State basketball player, explaining to Coach Jim Valvano why he appeared nervous at practice: "My sister's expecting a baby, and I don't know if I'm going to be an uncle or an aunt." (I wonder if his IQ ever hit room temperature in January)

12. Frank Layden , Utah Jazz president, on a former player: "I told him, 'Son, what is it with you? Is it ignorance or apathy?' He said, 'Coach, I don't know and I don't care.'"

13. Shelby Metcalf, basketball coach at Texas A&M, recounting what he told a player who received four F's and one D: "Son, looks to me like you're spending too much time on one subject."

14. In the words of NC State great Charles Shackelford I can go to my left or right, I am amphibious.

15. Amarillo High School and Oiler coach Bum Phillips when asked by Bob Costas why he takes his wife on all the road trips, Phillips responded: "Because she is too #&\*\*\* ugly to kiss good-bye."

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**THAT IS A GOOD LAW  
BUT IT DOES NOT APPLY TO  
ME!**

It seems very interesting that when Jesus asked an important question of the leaders of the community, of those in charge of governing the people, that the leaders could not answer. Or, perhaps it was that they would not answer. Or, perhaps, would not give an honest answer. Not much has changed in some two thousand years.

Jesus obviously had some fun with those same leaders.

He asked them if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath day? Which of them, if ill and especially if in pain, would not have sought medical treatment for themselves even on the Sabbath day? Perhaps one of them had recently done just that. Yet each of them probably would have condemned anyone else who had sought treatment.

He asked them if they had an ass or an ox which had fallen into a pit on the Sabbath, would they not have pulled it out? In the normal course of events it is very unlikely that one who owns livestock for any length of time would have had no occasion to tend to that livestock on the Sabbath. And livestock was commonly owned by the economic class to which Christ's listeners belonged on that occasion.

Perhaps, just perhaps, in the parable of the wedding guest who sat himself at a place of high honor and was told by the host to move to a place of lower honor, Jesus was relating something which had actually recently happened.

Jesus also was exposing a fault which is very common. That fault is best expressed as: "That is a good law but it does not apply to me," sometimes with the additional phrase, "at this time."

That thought can begin as a simple slowing through a stop sign without actually, fully stopping. It can be the rela-

*(Continued BUT on page 18)*

(Continued **BUT** from page 17)

tively mindless or careless placing of an inexpensive pen in your pocket after having borrowed it. The flicking of a minute and unnoticed piece of icing off of a cake. Glancing at a classmate's paper during an examination. Playing hookey from school. Smoking a marijuana joint. Running a red light. Pre-marital sexual intercourse with your fiancée, or someone else. Taking a dollar out of petty cash. Burning down your house to reap the insurance money rather than have it sold at foreclosure and lose everything. Lying on a home purchase money mortgage, or certifying such an application when you know it is false, bundling numerous such mortgages as part of a stock investment when you know many of them are worthless. Lying about a candidate you do not wish be elected, and lying about or ignoring the truth about a candidate you do desire be elected.

The "That law does not apply to me," people laugh with ridicule at those who promulgate the concept that one puff on a marijuana cigarette can lead to heroin, cocaine, and other strong drug addiction. Yet, how many of those who ridicule with laughter, are addicted to such drugs.

It is not just those who have an overinflated sense of their own importance, who practice the, "That law is good but it does not apply to me," or, "That law is good but it does not apply to me in these circumstances." People in everyday circumstances constantly practice this falsehood.

But those who think they are important are more inclined to flaunt their misbehavior.

However, the end result is the same for anyone who practices the, "I do not have to follow this law," mind set. The result is, they will be moved to a lower place - perhaps the lowest of the low, where it is unbearably hot.

Ref: Eph. 3:13-21; Luke 14:1-11

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## CHRISTIAN ANTICIPATION

True Christians anticipate much, spend much time anticipating, celebrate anticipation and anticipating, but to be true Christians they also must act on the anticipation.

If what a person anticipates is not holy, then that person is not engaged in Christian anticipation. But if what a person anticipates is holy or at least good, then it is possible that person is engaged in Christian anticipation.

Liturgically we anticipate the birth of the Incarnate Word of God, the Saviour Jesus Christ. We also at other liturgical times anticipate His death and His Resurrection from the dead. Those who desire to ignore God have quite successfully campaigned to diminish the focus on Christ in these liturgical celebrations and to secularize the celebrations - often secularizing them into occasions which promote various and sundry sins from which money may be made.

Those who hold steadfast in their sight the true purpose of the period of anticipation named Advent, even though they engage in some of the sinless forms of the secular celebration, will be well prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Let us devoutly thank God the Son for His acting on His love for us and becoming one of us while remaining God. For by so doing He has provided to us an unsinkable life boat on which to ride the waters of life. We may be drenched with towering seas, blown off course, baked in scorching heat. But always there will be spiritual provisions of every kind necessary and sufficient to sustain spiritual life in the craft supplied by God.

We simply have to hold on, and attempt to follow the chart God has provided.

Since it is easier to follow the course, and whether the storms, if one has company, it behooves us to encourage others to enter their life boats which God has

provided for them. Thus we will encourage others to also engage in Christian anticipation.

Ref: 1Cor:4:1-5; Luke 3:1-6

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## MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS

What people discuss, their opinions regarding various matters, as well as their reasons for those opinions, at times are somewhat entertaining, often revealing, may be of use in marketing strategies or political campaigning, but very often are regarding matters of little substance and also are often totally irrelevant.

Whether or not you believe or think a particular sports team or individual will win a particular championship usually will have no effect on the outcome. It may make you feel better to express your opinion, and may serve to assist marketing people to develop programs which have a greater probability of success when they consider your and others' opinions. But it is highly unlikely it will effect the outcome of the championship.

Whether or not you think a particular individual is guilty of a certain, specific crime, before the jury has reached a verdict, is immaterial, and to a certain extent improper for you to express unless you attend every session of the trial. Your opinion definitely should have no effect on the verdict unless you are on the jury, and in that event it would be improper for you to express an opinion until the jury deliberates.

In private and public discussions as well as in the various radio and television discussion and opinion programs, the topics only occasionally are topics of substance or great importance. And when the topics are of substance or importance, often those involved in the discussions are so ill informed as to make their actual engagement in the discussions both improper and

(Continued **MEANINGFUL** on page 19)

(Continued MEANINGFUL from page 18)  
worthless.

The opinions and positions which people hold and express regarding every day matters as well as those of great importance are usually based in “gut” reactions, “gut” instincts, often effected by bias, envy, and jealousy, often made without any substantiative investigation, research, examination, or contemplation.

When people discuss the weather, politics, medical advances, the economy, or other current events, when they discuss the effects of these events or facts upon their daily lives, their discussions are valid only if their assessment of the facts are correct and they also have the ability to properly process and assess those facts and to coherently express their opinions.

Every day we are bombarded with opinions and discussions of every nature on virtually every topic except the most important one, the most important topic.

The topic about which we receive little or no “bombardment” is that of implementing God’s expressed will and implicit instructions in our daily lives.

What usually is discussed when God’s will and instructions are the topic, are means of circumventing God’s expressed will and implicit instructions in our daily lives. Shifting focus, seeking exceptions, misrepresentations, rephrasing, and outright inventions or deletions, capped by the expression, “I just can’t believe an all loving God would . . . ‘whatever’,” are discussed and presented as fact and reality.

Such traits and conventions lead to Christmas being termed the time of peace - isn’t every day a time for peace; the time for gifting - what in the world is gifting; the season for children’s fairy tales, especially about “rescuing” Christmas - how in the world does one rescue a factual, historical event? They lead to Easter or Pascha being termed the time for renewal - well that is not on

target, but it is not far off the target. But of what form of renewal? Usually some pagan form.

Great Lent, under the influence of materialism, becomes a time to loose weight, buff up, and prepare to display your body on the beach or pool-side for lustful purposes.

It would be very nice to once in a while hear a radio or TV pundit state, “We must do what ever we are able to do to make our elected officials do \_\_\_\_\_ (blank) or refrain from doing \_\_\_\_\_ (blank) because that is in accordance with what we know to be God’s expressed will and instructions.” Unfortunately, on those rare occasions when we do hear something similar to this, usually it does not actually follow God’s expressed will and instructions. Often it is an attempt to misdirect the listeners and viewers from God’s expressed will and instructions and to follow the pundit’s desired deviation from God’s will and instructions.

When we consider any matter, any subject, a substantiative weight should be given to God’s will and God’s instructions as related to that particular matter. What are God’s will and God’s instruction as they relate to tax breaks for the rich, or for the poor? Include what constitutes being rich or being poor. What are God’s will and God’s instruction as they relate to abortion? What is abortion? What are God’s will and God’s instruction as they relate to Christmas? What is Christmas?

Now, if done honestly, those would be meaningful discussions.

Ref: 1Cor:4:1-5; Luke 3:1-6

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## WHEN CHRIST FED THE MULTITUDE, WHAT DID HE NOURISH FIRST?

When Our Lord fed the multitude that had followed Him into the wilderness to listen to His teaching, that probably was the best meal they had ever eaten. Probably none of them had ever tasted bread as tasty, fresh, filling, and satisfying as that bread. The same for the fish. And nourishing! More nourishing than any food ever before eaten. And the same for the teaching with which He fed their minds, souls, intellect, hope, faith, and love.

For three days Our Saviour filled the spiritual needs of the multitude to an extent never before experienced by more than one or a very few persons at a time. Up until that event all of those who had received such spiritual fulfillment throughout all of history were very few in total number. But this time there were thousands and their spiritual lives were so filled none of them were aware of their physical needs.

Therefore, having provided for their spiritual needs, Our Lord and God Jesus Christ provided for their immediate physical needs.

While there are a multitude of very important lessons to be learned from this event, we will only examine three of them, and these only very briefly.

First, let us cast in to the very well deserved depths of Hell, from whence it originated, the concept that one must first take care of the physical needs of a person before one can take care of the spiritual needs of that person. This concept has been applied to shelters for the poor as well as to the missions. It is the concept that a person will have no interest in spiritual matters until their physical needs are met. That only after food, shelter, and clothing are provided will one be able to successfully teach Christ’s Gospel to the poor. Tell that to Saint Paul - he was quite successful teaching the Gospel of Christ and from

(Continued NOURISH on page 20)

(Continued **NOURISH** from page 19)

the Gospel being learned and lived came the sustenance of the needy. And as far as the concept that missionaries must first teach hygiene and hygienic practices, and how to farm and fish, and obtain social justice, prior to teaching the Gospel of Christ - well tell that to Saint Thomas the Apostle, who taught the Gospel of Christ, The Way, in Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Assyria, Mesopotamia, India, China, and even in Japan. And no where did he establish Saint Thomas' Veggies and Meat Products, or Saint Thomas' Center for Social Justice. Look neither to the physical needs nor to establishing social justice before teaching The Way, the Gospel of Christ, for it is only in living The Way, the Gospel of Christ, in attaining spiritual health, that physical well being: one, has any significance; two, has any possibility of being attained.

Second, in a very real sense you are what you eat. No, if you eat pop corn you are not pop corn. But if you eat excessive amounts of high cholesterol food you will in all probability have high cholesterol. If you eat foods that generally are healthful you generally may expect to receive health benefits. Simply put, if you eat stuff that will damage your body your body will be damaged. If you eat stuff that will benefit your body's health you will experience a health benefit. The same is true regarding your mind, intellect, emotions, soul, and spiritual health.

If your entertainment is immoral it will effect your moral health. A very simple experiment is to observe those who regularly watch the TV show "*Two and a Half Men*". If you knew the person before they began watching that show, and compare their prior and current humor - what they deem is funny - you will find their level of vulgarity has increased. You will find the sexual connotations, innuendoes, and slants in their conversations have increased, and an increase in their level of vulgarity. This particular program actually is more of a threat than most programs with an immoral bent because the quality of the

writing, from dialogue to plot situations, is much better than that of most other programs. Repeated exposure to the provocative manners in which the female cast members are presented - regardless of age - initiates acceptance of such presentations and the demeaning of an entire gender of human creatures who are actually made in the image and likeness of God and therefore deserve much more respect. It also demeans the other gender into being perceived as having sexual conquest as its main initiative. These serve to further the acceptance of immorality and crushes inclination to pursue a spiritually rewarding and morally acceptable (to God) approach to human relations and human sexuality.

Observe those who have regularly watched the show, "*Seinfeld*". You will find they are less tender, more demeaning, more self centered, than those who have never seen the show or who have not watched it regularly. You will find its regular viewers exhibit a greater level of unsupported intellectual snobbery than non regular viewers. These are some of the the main stays of, "*Seinfeld*", and are readily inculcated into the personalities, characters, and moral standards of its regular viewers.

Look at pornography and it will peak your curiosity. Appease that curiosity and you will expend great effort to avoid it should you ever began to appreciate the totality of its demeaning immorality.

Watch shows and movies filled with gore wherein human bodies are treated as slabs of meat in a butcher shop and when you are no longer squeamish viewing such material you will have become hardened to atrocities inflicted upon people, and eventually you will become hardened to inflicting atrocities upon others, and possibly even yourself.

It is very difficult to contemplate the intricacies of God, to engage in assisting others in need, and even to see to the necessities of your own life and the needs of your family, while under the

effect of extramarital or any improper experience of sexual stimulation. It is difficult to perceive the needs of others or of one's self when one has been hardened to physical abuse through repeated images of butchered, autopsied, human bodies.

One need not go around with mental images of the Ever Virgin Mary floating in the air, or Our Saviour rising glorified from the dead. But if you neglect to feed your soul, spirit, mind, intellect, emotions, and imagination, with prayer, worship of God, contemplation of God and His desires for us and the "whys" associated therewith, and similar matters, from time to time every day, holiness will not be a part of your life.

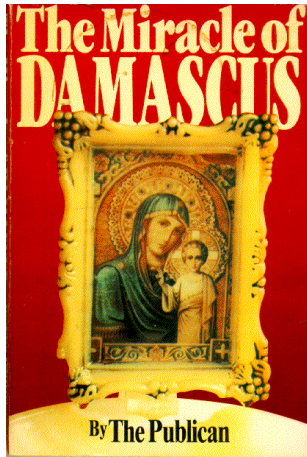
Your spiritual health will be questionable at best if your focus is on money and the means of acquiring what ever it is you desire of this world without a greater focus on matters of the life hereafter.

Third, an intelligent and successful person will attend to the most important items prior to attending to less important items, and will attend to the most pressing of those important items before attending to the less pressing of the important items. God obviously established the spiritual welfare of the multitude, of each and every human being, and of all human beings, as being of vastly greater importance than their physical needs and even their physical well being. This Divine logic is easily comprehended even by us creatures who are limited to creature human logic - for the physical is temporary and the spiritual is permanent. Therefore, spiritual health and the means and knowledge necessary to attain spiritual health and well being are of vastly greater importance than anything in the physical realm. This does not mean the physical well being should be ignored, but nothing in the physical should ever be allowed to interfere with spiritual health.

Ref: Rom 6:3-11; Mark 8:1-9

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**THE  
MIRACLE  
OF  
DAMASCUS  
by  
the publican**

**CHAPTER 1**

*(Continued)*

*My Daughter Is My Mother*

On the eve of the feast of Mary's Assumption into Heaven, August 14, 1987, and into the morning, Mirna had a vision of Christ. 24 They were at their home in Damascus, a home that now belongs to the Mother of God. We now call it the House of Soufanieh. As on every feast day of Our Lady, thousands came. They were packed into the little home, on the stairs, on the roof, in all the rooms, in the street and in the park across from the house.

*24. The Assumption is the feast of Mary's Assent into Heaven of Her body and Her soul. It seems to be one of the biggest days of this miracle.*

Everyone was praying the Rosary, singing songs, and saying the prayers of the apparitions. Mirna's face and hands broke out in oil. Oil came from her eyes and they began to burn like fire. They took her to the bedroom and put her

down on the bed. They held her hands. She was in lots of pain from the oil in her eyes. Everything was filmed. She went into an ecstasy and the pain stopped.

Father Malouli took everyone out of the room except the priests. (See film.) Mirna saw a beautiful white light and nothing else for a long time. To her everything was now calm and peaceful. All thoughts of earth disappeared as she enjoyed the light. Then the figure of a man appeared in the light. He was made of a brighter light. It was Christ.

**MY DAUGHTER,  
SHE IS MY MOTHER FROM  
WHOM I WAS BORN.**

**HE WHO HONORS HER HONORS  
ME. HE WHO DENIES HER DE-  
NIES ME,**

**AND HE, WHO ASKS FROM HER,  
RECEIVES, BECAUSE SHE IS MY  
MOTHER.**

Father Malouli waited for her to come back to earth. Her heart was beating but she didn't appear to be breathing. No one was afraid. She woke and could hear Father, but she couldn't see anything excepting the beautiful white light. Father asked her all about the vision and wrote it down. He wrote the message very carefully. Everything remained very clear to Mirna while she was still bathed in the light. Then her eyes opened. She could see Father Malouli again, but her recollection of the vision became less clear. This is why she asked father:

"Was it very beautiful?"

The Mother of God? Many would disagree with that statement. Many have claimed that Mary could not be the Mother of God, and that Christ was not really God. Others claim that Mary was no different than any of us. Some say that you shouldn't ask those in Heaven to pray for you; you should pray only to God. Some say to honor Mary is the

same as idol worshiping. There is much doctrine being presented in these messages.

Father Malouli obtained the "Nihil Obstat" from his major superior for all the messages from the beginning until August 14, 1987.

***God Renounced Me***

On September 7, 1987, the evening of the birth of the Virgin Mary, a large number of people were at Nicol's and Mirna's house for prayer.

Mirna asked Father Malouli if she could leave. "I'll go to my room to pray because I feel everyone is looking at me I don't want them to think about me instead of thinking about the prayers."

In her bedroom, oil came from her hands, face, and eyes. Her eyes were on fire. She went into an ecstasy. When it was over, she opened her eyes. She cried bitterly. She couldn't see anything, but she could hear Father Malouli. "I don't want anyone in the room. Leave me. I don't want anyone," she cried

Her father asked her, "Mirna, what is wrong?"

"Nothing. Leave me. . . This is something concerning me."

Nicolas asked her if the priests could stay.

"I am afraid the others will be angry. I don't want anybody. Please." She was still crying, but no one knew why.

"Can you see?" asked Father Fadell.

"No... a shadow."

"Do you want me to leave?"

"No... Stay."

Father Malouli asked her, "Did you see anything?"

*(Continued DAMASCUS on page 22)*

(Continued DAMASCUS from page 21)

"Yes... I saw Him alone... He renounced me... He doesn't want me."

"Did He tell you that?"

"He gave me a chance. . . God is merciful. . . No. . . He is not merciful. . . [she cried again]. . . This is the first time He called me by my name which means He renounced me."

"What did He tell you?"

"Why did He choose me from the beginning? Why did He choose me?"

"What did He tell you--exactly?"

"Suicide is preferable, if Heaven is refusing me."

The priests decided to leave her alone. They told the faithful that Mirna was crying and asked them to end the prayers and leave the house. Father promised to tell them later about what happened. When everyone was gone, the priests and Nicol went back into the bedroom. They asked Mirna about the vision.

Christ was reprimanding her, but He was not rejecting her as she thought. She confused the Arabic word "Alsatian" for "Lassti." The first means "Aren't you the young girl," but the second word means "You are not the young girl." This is the real message of Christ to Mirna, whose real name is Mary. Mirna is a nickname.

**MARY,**

**AREN'T YOU THE YOUNG ONE  
THAT I HAVE CHOSEN,**

**THE CALM GIRL, WHOSE  
HEART IS FILLED WITH LOVE  
AND COMPASSION?**

**IT APPEARS TO ME THAT YOU  
CANNOT ENDURE ANYTHING  
FOR MY SAKE.**

(Continued DAMASCUS on page 23)



Additional photographs of Mirna suffering the stigmata. During her vision of 1987, she saw in a vision the Crucifixion of Our Lord and later described it.

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Mirna suffering the stigmata. During 1987 she saw a vision of the Crucifixion of Our Lord and later described it.



(Continued DAMASCUS from page 22)

**I SHALL GIVE YOU TIME TO CHOOSE**

**BE CERTAIN THAT IF YOU LOSE ME,**

**YOU WILL LOSE THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO ARE AROUND YOU.**

**AND KNOW THAT THE BEARING OF THE CROSS IS INEVITABLE.**

My personal feeling is that she just wanted people to pay more attention to God and less to her, but God was using her and wanted her to accept that.

In fact, God is forcing her to travel, since miracles happen one hundred times more often when she travels than when she stays home in Damascus.

#### *United Hearts*

Nineteen days later, on the fifth anniversary of the start of the apparitions, Mirna asked Father Malouli to come and pray with her. He brought Father Paul Fadel and Father Michel Farah. Father Rene Laurentin was there. Dr. Jamil Margi arrived. At 4:30 P.M. oil came from her hands, face, eyes, and wrists. She fell into an ecstasy. Dr. Jamil Margi tested her pulse, her reactions, breathing, etc. He cut her hand. She felt nothing. When she recovered, the cut hurt her immediately.

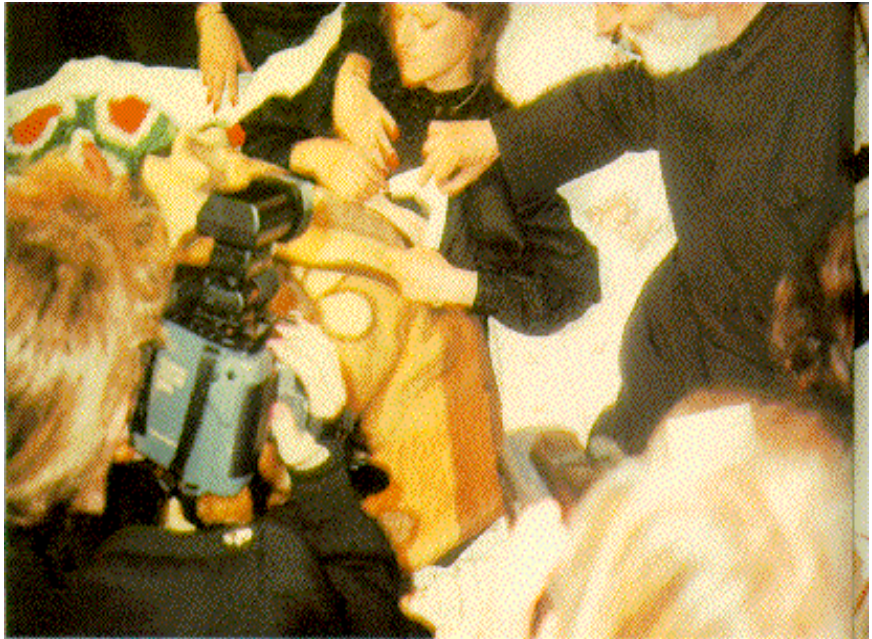
Christ appeared to her as pure light, bathed in light. His body was all light and brighter than the light around Him. His outline was clear, but His features were not. He spoke with her again. At the end of the ecstasy she smiled.

It was November 26, 1987:

**MY DAUGHTER,**

**I VALUE YOUR DECISION TO CHOOSE ME, BUT NOT IN WORDS ONLY.**

(Continued DAMASCUS on page 24)



104 8 Mirna again shown suffering the stigmata. Thousands of photographs were taken of these events, and starting early in 1984, Nabil Shoukeir, who owns a video shop across the street from Mirna's home, began to video tape all her stigmata and ecstasies.



(Continued DAMASCUS from page 23)

**I WANT YOU TO JOIN MY HEART TO YOUR SOFT HEART SO OUR HEARTS WILL BE UNITED.**

**LIKE THIS YOU WILL SAVE MANY SUFFERING SOULS.**

**DO NOT HATE ANYONE, OTHERWISE YOUR HEART WILL BE BLINDED TO MY LOVE.**

**LOVE EVERYONE JUST AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME,**

**ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HATE AND SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT YOU. IT IS THROUGH THEM THAT YOU WILL EARN GLORY.**

**GO ABOUT YOUR LIFE AS A WIFE, MOTHER, SISTER.**

**ALLOW NEITHER DIFFICULTIES NOR SUFFERINGS TO BURDEN YOU. DEFEAT IT. I AM WITH YOU. OTHERWISE YOU SHALL LOSE MY HEART.**

**GO AND PREACH TO ALL NATIONS, AND TELL THEM WITHOUT FEAR THAT THEY HAVE TO WORK FOR UNITY.**

**IT IS NOT SO MUCH THE FRUITS OF THE HANDS THAT ARE CONSIDERED SHAMEFUL IN A MAN BUT THOSE OF HIS HEART.**

**MY PEACE IN YOUR HEART SHALL BE A BLESSING TO YOU AND TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED WITH YOU.**

#### *Unity and My Mother*

Nicolas and Mirna were invited to California, by a Syrian doctor. Mirna was pregnant for the second time, but Christ had said, "GO AND PREACH TO ALL NATIONS." He had also said, "GO TO THE LAND IN WHICH CORRUPTION HAS PREVAILED." Nicolas left it up to God as to what nation God meant, but he knew they had to go

wherever they were called.

In California, oil came out of her hands almost everywhere they went. Many copies of the Icon poured out oil. Many people were cured. Only once during a Mass did oil not come from her hands.

Fred Anderson, news commentator for Channel 7, interviewed her. He not only saw the oil come from her hands and the picture but witnessed the ecstasy of August 14, 1988. Anderson brought a specialist in magic with him to see if he could find any tricks. He did not. (See Film.)

John Emmanuel Nazour was born to Nicolas and Mirna on July 26, 1988, the feast of Ann and Joachim, the grandmother and grandfather of Christ. He became an American citizen.

On August 14th Mass was said in the patio of the doctor's house. All was on film. After Mirna received communion, oil started coming out of her hands. She asked to be taken away so the Mass could continue. They took her to a bedroom. The cameras followed. Oil came from her face and eyes. Her eyes were on fire. Christ spoke to her again:

**MY CHILDREN,**

**MY PEACE I GAVE TO YOU, BUT YOU, WHAT HAVE YOU GIVEN ME?**

**YOU ARE MY CHURCH, AND YOUR HEART BELONGS TO ME,**

**UNLESS THAT HEART HAS CHOSEN TO FOLLOW ANOTHER GOD.**

**I HAVE SAID:**

**"THE CHURCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ON EARTH. HE WHO DIVIDES IT HAS SINNED.**

**HE WHO IS HAPPY IN ITS DIVISIONS HAS ALSO SINNED."**

**IT IS EASIER FOR ME THAT AN**

**INFIDEL BELIEVES IN MY NAME,**

**THAN THOSE WHO CLAIM TO HAVE FAITH AND LOVE, AND SWEAR [take an oath] IN MY NAME.**

**YOU OUGHT TO BOAST IN GOD ALONE.**

**PRAY FOR THOSE SINNERS WHO FORGIVE SINS IN MY NAME,**

**AND YET, RENOUNCE MY MOTHER.**

**MY CHILDREN,**

**I GIVE YOU ALL MY TIME. GIVE ME A PART OF YOURS. 25**

25. This passage about "another God" reminds me of the story of St. Jerome. He was a lover of Greek writings, especially of Cicero. He was a Christian, but he preferred the writing style of the Greeks. God sent him a vision of his Judgment, where he was asked who he was. The saint replied: "I am a Christian, and I profess no other faith than yours. O my Lord."

"You are lying," replied the Divine Judge. "You are a Ciceronian, for where your treasure is, there is your heart also."

Regarding "Boast in God alone," some use God for their own gain, money, honor, prestige. Many are caught up in what God is doing for them, but very few are asking, "What can I do for God, for Unity?" Of course, "another god" could also mean a false or demonic apparition.

#### *Work For Unity*

On September 6, 1988, Mirna and Nicol arrived in Damascus from the United States. The following day (September 7, 1988), they prayed before the Icon with a large group of followers. Mirna fell into an ecstasy and had to be carried to bed. She saw Christ bathed in light. He was pure light also. He stood still as she left her body and moved closer to Him.

(Continued DAMASCUS on page 25)

(Continued DAMASCUS from page 24)

He spoke:

**MY DAUGHTER,**

**I TOLD YOU TO OVERCOME ALL YOUR DIFFICULTIES, AND KNOW THAT UP TILL NOW YOU HAVE ONLY MET WITH A FEW.**

**TELL MY CHILDREN, IT IS FROM THEM I ASK UNITY.**

**I DON'T WANT IT FROM THOSE WHO ARE ONLY ACTING; PRETENDING THEY ARE WORKING FOR UNITY.**

**GO FORTH AND ANNOUNCE THIS MESSAGE. WHEREVER YOU ARE I WILL BE WITH YOU.**

When Christ finished talking, Mirna moved away from Him and back into her body. She woke up but could see nothing but light. She repeated the messages while still in the light and then opened her eyes.

*Mirna and the Mass*

Mirna and Nicol went to Lebanon at the invitation of their friend, Tony Hanna. Together they went to the Maronite Bishop and asked him to organize a Mass for all the different churches to pray together for unity. He did as they requested and called all the different churches. At the last minute he could not come himself. However, more than 500 people showed up, and it couldn't be held inside the church. They organized it in the schoolyard.

Majed Grayeb, who had been saved from a car accident by the Virgin Mary, passed out pictures and messages of the Virgin. The people built a large flower arch. On both sides of the path to the schoolyard they placed signs with the messages printed on them. On the ground and on the houses were candles.

When Mirna saw all this she cried with tears of joy. At the Mass were Chris-

tians from every kind of church, Catholic, Orthodox, Maronite, etc. It was October 10, 1988, in St. George Church in Maad, Lebanon.

As soon as Mirna received communion, oil poured out of her hands. Everyone turned away from the Mass and began to gather around her. She was very upset because they were disrupting the Mass.

"The oil is from Him up there on the altar, Not from me."

She began to cry and ran away. The church was over 100 yards away from the field. She ran to the church crying. She ran inside and laid her head down under the crucifix of Christ. She went into an ecstasy.

The large crowd of people came into the church following her. A TV cameraman came taking pictures. They all stared at Mirna in awe. There she was kneeling in a chair with her head and hands laying on the table directly beneath the crucifix.

Oil was pouring down the legs and feet of Christ and onto her right cheek. Her face was only five inches below the feet of Christ. (See video.)

As the people and the camera watched the oil go from Christ's feet to Mirna's face, she was having a vision of Christ. She saw Him as pure light, bathed in light.

He gave her the following message:

**MY DAUGHTER,**

**WHY ARE YOU AFRAID? I AM WITH YOU.**

**YOU SHOULD SPEAK AT THE TOP OF YOUR VOICE THE WORD OF TRUTH ABOUT YOUR CREATOR SO MY POWER WILL BE SEEN IN YOU.**

**I WILL GIVE YOU FROM MY WOUNDS TO MAKE YOU FOR-**

**GET THE SUFFERINGS PEOPLE CAUSE YOU.**

**DON'T CHOOSE YOUR OWN PATH, BECAUSE I HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN IT FOR YOU.**

Majed Grayeb has built a chapel to Our Lady of Soufanieh and awaits Mirna's return.

Mirna's love for the Body and Blood of Christ is an inspiration to everyone who knows her well. She will not bless a priest with oil. She always asks his blessing instead, for she knows that in his hands is the power to bring Christ into the world.

She will not go up the steps to the altar, for she does not believe that women should be on the altar. Even when the priests place chairs for her on the altar, she will not go. She prefers to be with the rest of the people.

She has expressed to me that she doesn't like to see women doing the reading at Mass, and especially, she doesn't like to see women passing out Holy Communion.

Once during our trip to Detroit, she was not able to receive Communion and we stayed up until 2 A.M. In spite of this, she woke Chor-Bishop Joseph C. Feghali up at 6 A.M. and asked if he would say a Mass. The Bishop and Mirna had a private Mass together.

Sometimes she has had to sneak away from people in order to attend Christ's greatest miracle. In Damascus Father Malouli will bring Communion to her at the house when she cannot attend during the week.

Those who think they are doing the Will of God and do not attend Mass, should reflect on Mirna's love for Christ's Body and Blood, for this is what makes a Church into God's Kingdom.

*Why Didn't I Feel You?*

(Continued DAMASCUS on page 26)



(Continued DAMASCUS from page 25)

On November 26, 1988, at 6:30 P.M. at Soufanieh, the sixth anniversary of the Miracle of Damascus, hundreds of people came to the evening prayer session. Most of the people could not get into the house, so they prayed outside in the street. Mirna had another vision of Christ.

It would be the last one as of the writing of this book. Three drops of oil hung from the Icon. Nine months later (even though a hot light shines inside the housing of the Icon) these three drops just hung there without dropping.

Two months after the following ecstasy, I arrived in Damascus and began my investigation of this miracle.

Christ spoke to Mirna:

**MY CHILDREN,**

**IS EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR LOVE OF ME?**

**DO NOT SAY: "WHAT SHALL I DO?"**

**BECAUSE THAT IS MY WORK.**

**ADOPT FASTING AND PRAYER,**

**BECAUSE BY PRAYER YOU FACE MY TRUTH AND BEAR ALL THE BLOWS.**

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO FORGOT THE PROMISE THEY MADE TO ME, BECAUSE, THEY WILL SAY:**

**"WHY DIDN'T I FEEL YOUR PRESENCE, LORD, WHEN YOU WERE WITH ME?"**

**ALL I WANT IS TO GATHER TOGETHER ALL OF YOU IN ME AS I AM IN EACH ONE OF YOU.**

**AS FOR YOU, MY DAUGHTER, I SHALL LEAVE YOU.**

**DO NOT BE AFRAID IF YOU DO NOT HEAR MY VOICE FOR A LONG TIME.**

**BE STRONG AND MAY YOUR TONGUE BE A SWORD WHICH SPEAKS IN MY NAME.**

**BE SURE I AM WITH YOU AND WITH ALL OF YOU.**

The miracles don't stop. As I write this book, miracles continue everyday. Yesterday, July 7, 1989, four miracles took place, and I personally saw three of them.

So the light goes on.

Each day it shines brighter and brighter.

Each day more and more of the children of the Kingdom are seeing the need for unity.

Each day more and more are hearing the prayer of Christ:

**THAT ALL MAY BE ONE, EVEN AS YOU, FATHER, IN ME AND I IN YOU;**

**THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IN US,**

**THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME.**

**AND THE GLORY YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, I HAVE GIVEN TO THEM,**

**THAT THEY MAY BE ONE,**

**EVEN AS WE ARE ONE:**

**I IN THEM AND YOU IN ME;**

**THAT THEY MAY BE PERFECTED IN UNITY,**

**AND THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME,**

**AND THAT YOU HAVE LOVED THEM EVEN AS YOU LOVE ME. (John 17:21-23)**

I believe it started in 1916 when the angel of God gave to the two little children of Fatima the Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Why? Because He gave it to them according to the Orthodox Rite (from the Chalice) and not according to the Catholic Rite.

It continued when John XXIII called a Ecumenical Council to "promote the restoration of unity among all Christians."

It received a loving heart when the Orthodox Bishops joined with the Catholic Bishops on March 25, 1984 to consecrate Russia and the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

It is gaining the grace it needs from Lucia of Fatima, who has said that she will give the rest of her life to prayer and sacrifice for the unity of the Church.

Father Messias Coelho (Lucia's messenger) said that God created the World to create the Church in order to have a family to love.

Each day we draw closer and closer to this marvelous day when all Christians will be in the same family of Christ and Mary.

Each day more and more are realizing that to be Christian is to work for unity.

Each day more and more Christians from different religions are praying together as one.

Each day more and more Orthodox and Catholic priests and bishops are praying together as brothers.

Let us keep the light burning. Let us keep marching towards unity. Let us say to Christ,

**"Here we are, Lord.**

**We came to do your will.**

Let us sing and march:

**Block by block we will build it up.**

**Stone by stone we will mend the walls.**

**Soul by soul we will make it whole.**

**Light by light we will light the world.**

When all Christians have this UNITY, we will **light a candle for Our Lady** so big we will light the world.

When the non-Christians, the Moslems, the Jews see this **light**, they will **know** and be converted.

Then we will have a true KINGDOM ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN, and the Lord's Prayer will be answered.

--the publican

(To be continued)

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**THE CHURCH HISTORY OF  
EUSEBIUS**

**BOOK III.**

(Continued)

**CHAPTER XXX.**

The Apostles that were married.

Clement, indeed, whose words we have just quoted, after the above-mentioned facts gives a statement, on account of those who rejected marriage, of the apostles that had wives. "Or will they," says he, "reject even the apostles? For Peter and Philip begat children; and Philip also gave his daughters in marriage. And Paul does not hesitate, in one of his epistles, to greet his wife, whom he did not take about with him, that he might not be inconvenienced in his ministry." And since we have mentioned this subject it is not improper to subjoin another account which is given by the same

author and which is worth reading. In the seventh book of his Stromata he writes as follows: "They say, accordingly, that when the blessed Peter saw his own wife led out to die, he rejoiced because of her summons and her return home, and called to her very encouragingly and comfortingly, addressing her by name, and saying, 'Oh thou, remember the Lord.' Such was the marriage of the blessed, and their perfect disposition toward those dearest to them."

This account being in keeping with the subject in hand, I have related here in its proper place.

**CHAPTER XXXI.**

The Death of John and Philip.

The time and the manner of the death of Paul and Peter as well as their burial places, have been already shown by us. The time, of John's death has also been given in a general way, but his burial place is indicated by an epistle of Polycrates (who was bishop of the parish of Ephesus), addressed to Victor, bishop

of Rome. In this epistle he mentions him together with the apostle Philip and his daughters in the following words: "For in Asia also great lights have fallen asleep, which shall rise again on the last day, at the coming of the Lord, when he shall come with glory from heaven and shall seek out all the saints. Among these are Philip, one of the twelve apostles, who sleeps in Hierapolis, and his two aged virgin daughters, and another daughter who lived in the Holy Spirit and now rests at Ephesus; and moreover

John, who was both a witness and a teacher, who reclined upon the bosom of the Lord, and being a priest wore the sacerdotal plate.

He also sleeps at Ephesus." So much concerning their death. And in the Dialogue of Caius which we mentioned a little above, Proclus, against whom he directed his disputation, in agreement with what has been quoted, speaks thus concerning the death of Philip and his daughters:

"After him there were four prophetesses, the daughters of Philip, at Hierapolis in Asia. Their tomb is there and the tomb of their father." Such is his state-merit. But Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, mentions the daughters of Philip who were at that time at Caesarea in Judea with their father, and were honored with the gift of prophecy. His words are as follows: "We came unto Caesarea; and entering into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we abode with him. Now this man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophecy." We have thus set forth in these pages what has come to our knowledge concerning the apostles themselves and the apostolic age, and concerning the sacred writings which they have left us, as well as concerning those which are disputed, but nevertheless have been publicly used by many in a great number of churches, and moreover, concerning those that are altogether rejected and are out of harmony with apostolic orthodoxy. Having done this, let us now proceed with our history.

**CHAPTER XXXII.**

Symeon, Bishop of Jerusalem, suffers Martyrdom.

It is reported that after the age of Nero and Domitian, under the emperor whose times we are now recording, a persecution was stirred up against us in certain cities in consequence of a popular uprising. In this persecution we have understood that Symeon, the son of Clopas, who, as we have shown, was the second bishop of the church of Jerusalem, suffered martyrdom. Hege-sippus, whose words we have already quoted in various places, is a witness to this fact also. Speaking of certain heretics he adds that Symeon was accused by them at this time; and since it was clear that he was a Christian, he was tortured in various ways for many days, and astonished even the judge himself and his attendants in the highest degree, and finally he suffered a death similar to that of our Lord. But there is nothing like hearing the historian himself, who writes as follows: "Certain of these heretics brought accusation against Symeon, the son of Clopas, on the ground that he was a descendant of David and a Christian; and thus he suffered martyrdom, at the age of one hundred and twenty years, while Trajan was emperor and Atticus governor."

And the same writer says that his accusers also, when search was made for the descendants of David, were arrested as belonging to that family. And it might be reasonably assumed that Symeon was one of those that saw and heard the Lord, judging from the length of his life, and from the fact that the Gospel makes mention of Mary, the wife of Clopas, who was the father of Symeon, as has been already shown. The same historian says that there were also others, descended from one of the so-called brothers of the Saviour, whose name was Judas, who, after they had borne testimony before Domitian, as has been al-

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ready recorded, in behalf of faith in Christ, lived until the same reign. He writes as follows: "They came, therefore, and took the lead of every church as witness and as relatives of the Lord. And profound peace being established in every church, they remained until the reign of the Emperor Trajan, and until the above-mentioned Symeon, son of Clopas, an uncle of the Lord, was informed against by the heretics, and was himself in like manner accused for the same cause before the governor Atticus.

And after being tortured for many days he suffered martyrdom, and all, including even the proconsul, marveled that, at the age of one hundred and twenty years, he could endure so much. And orders were given that he should be crucified."

In addition to these things the same man, while recounting the events of that period, records that the Church up to that time had remained a pure and uncorrupted virgin, since, if there were any that attempted to corrupt the sound norm of the preaching of salvation, they lay until then concealed in obscure darkness. But when the sacred college of apostles had suffered death in various forms, and the generation of those that had been deemed worthy to hear the inspired wisdom with their own ears had passed away, then the league of godless error took its rise as a result of the folly of heretical teachers, who, because none of the apostles was still living, attempted henceforth, with a bold face, to proclaim, in opposition to the preaching of the truth, the 'knowledge which is falsely so-called.'

#### CHAPTER XXXIII.

Trajan forbids the Christians to be sought after.

So great a persecution was at that time opened against us in many places that Plinius Secundus, one of the most noted of governors, being disturbed by the great number of martyrs, communicated

with the emperor concerning the multitude of those that were put to death for their faith. At the same time, he informed him in his communication that he had not heard of their doing anything profane or contrary to the laws, -- except that they arose at dawn and sang hymns to Christ as a God; but that they, renounced adultery and murder and like criminal offenses, and did all things in accordance with the laws. In reply to this Trajan made the following decree: that the race of Christians should not be sought after, but when found should be punished.

On account of this the persecution which had threatened to be a most terrible one was to a certain degree checked, but there were still left plenty of pretexts for those who wished to do us harm. Sometimes the people, sometimes the rulers in various places, would lay plots against us, so that, although no great persecutions took place, local persecutions were nevertheless going on in particular provinces, and many of the faithful endured martyrdom in various forms. We have taken our account from the Latin Apology of Tertullian which we mentioned above. The translation runs as follows:

"And indeed we have found that search for us has been forbidden. For when Plinius Secundus, the governor of a province, had condemned certain Christians and deprived them of their dignity, he was confounded by the multitude, and was uncertain what further course to pursue. He therefore communicated with Trajan the emperor, informing him that, aside from their unwillingness to sacrifice, he had found no impiety in them. And he reported this also, that the Christians arose early in the morning and sang hymns unto Christ as a God, and for the purpose of preserving their discipline forbade murder, adultery, avarice, robbery, and the like. In reply to this Trajan wrote that the race of Christians should not be sought after, but when found should be punished." Such were the events which took place at that time.

#### CHAPTER XXXIV.

Evarestus, the Fourth Bishop of the Church of Rome.

In the third year of the reign of the emperor mentioned above, Clement committed the episcopal government of the church of Rome to Evarestus, and departed this life after he had superintended the teaching of the divine word nine years in all.

#### CHAPTER XXXV.

Justus, the Third Bishop of Jerusalem.

But when Symeon also had died in the manner described, a certain Jew by the name of Justus succeeded to the episcopal throne in Jerusalem. He was one of the many thousands of the circumcision who at that time believed in Christ.

#### CHAPTER XXXVI.

Ignatius and his Epistles.

At that time Polycarp, a disciple of the apostles, was a man of eminence in Asia, having been entrusted with the episcopate of the church of Smyrna by those who had seen and heard the Lord. And at the same time Papias, bishop of the parish of Hierapolis, became well known, as did also Ignatius, who was chosen bishop of Antioch, second in succession to Peter, and whose fame is still celebrated by a great many. Report says that he was sent from Syria to Rome, and became food for wild beasts on account of his testimony to Christ.

And as he made the journey through Asia under the strictest military surveillance, he fortified the parishes in the various cities where he stopped by oral homilies and exhortations, and warned them above all to be especially on their guard against the heresies that were then beginning to prevail, and exhorted them to hold fast to the tradition of the apostles. Moreover, he thought it necessary

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to attest that tradition in writing, and to give it a fixed form for the sake of greater security. So when he came to Smyrna, where Polycarp was, he wrote an epistle to the church of Ephesus, in which he mentions Onesimus, its pastor; and another to the church of Magnesia, situated upon the Maeander, in which he makes mention again of a bishop Damas; and finally one to the church of Tralles, whose bishop, he states, was at that time Polybius. In addition to these he wrote also to the church of Rome, entreating them not to secure his release from martyrdom, and thus rob him of his earnest hope. In confirmation of what has been said it is proper to quote briefly from this epistle.

He writes as follows: "From Syria even unto Rome I fight with wild beasts, by land and by sea, by night and by day, being bound amidst ten leopards? that is, a company of soldiers who only become worse when they are well treated. In the midst of their wrongdoings, however, I am more fully learning discipleship, but I am not thereby justified. May I have joy of the beasts that are prepared for me; and I pray that I may find them ready; I will even coax them to devour me quickly that they may not treat me as they have some whom they have refused to touch through fear. And if they are unwilling, I will compel them. Forgive me. I know what is expedient for me. Now do I begin to be a disciple. May naught of things visible and things invisible envy me; that I may attain unto Jesus Christ. Let fire and cross and attacks of wild beasts, let wrenching of bones, cutting of limbs, crushing of the whole body, tortures of the devil,--let all these come upon me if only I may attain unto Jesus Christ." These things he wrote from the above-mentioned city to the churches referred to. And when he had left Smyrna he wrote again from Troas to the Philadelphians and to the church of Smyrna; and particularly to Polycarp, who presided over the latter church. And since he knew him well as an apostolic man, he commended to him, like a true and good shepherd, the flock at Anti-

och, and besought him to care diligently for it. And the same man, writing to the Smyrnaeans, used the following words concerning Christ, taken I know not whence: "But I know and believe that he was in the flesh after the resurrection. And when he came to Peter and his companions he said to them, Take, handle me, and see that I am not an incorporeal spirit. And immediately they touched him and believed." Irenaeus also knew of his martyrdom and mentions his epistles in the following words: "As one of our people said, when he was condemned to the beasts on account of his testimony unto God, I am God's wheat, and by the teeth of wild beasts am I ground, that I may be found pure bread." Polycarp also mentions these letters in the epistle to the Philippians which is ascribed to him.

His words are as follows: "I exhort all of you, therefore, to be obedient and to practice all patience such as ye saw with your own eyes not only in the blessed Ignatius and Rufus and Zosimus, but also in others from among yourselves as well as in Paul himself and the rest of the apostles; being persuaded that all these ran not in vain, but in faith and righteousness, and that they are gone to their rightful place beside the Lord, with whom also they suffered. For they loved not the present world, but him that died for our sakes and was raised by God for us." And afterwards he adds: "You have written to me, both you and Ignatius, that if any one go to Syria he may carry with him the letters from you. And this I will do if I have a suitable opportunity, either I myself or one whom I send to be an ambassador for you also. The epistles of Ignatius which were sent to us by him and the others which we had with us we sent to you as you gave charge. They are appended to this epistle, and from them you will be able to derive great advantage. For they comprise faith and patience, and every kind of edification that pertaineth to our Lord." So much concerning Ignatius.

But he was succeeded by Heros in the episcopate of the church of Antioch.

#### CHAPTER XXXVII.

The Evangelists that were still Eminent at that Time.

Among those that were celebrated at that time was Quadratus, who, report says, was renowned along with the daughters of Philip for his prophetic gifts. And there were many others besides these who were known in those days, and who occupied the first place among the successors of the apostles. And they also, being illustrious disciples of such great men, built up the foundations of the churches which had been laid by the apostles in every place, and preached the Gospel more and more widely and scattered the saving seeds of the kingdom of heaven far and near throughout the whole world. For indeed most of the disciples of that time, animated by the divine word with a more ardent love for philosophy, had already fulfilled the command of the Saviour, and had distributed their goods to the needy. Then starting out upon long journeys they performed the office of evangelists, being filled with the desire to preach Christ to those who had not yet heard the word of faith, and to deliver to them the divine Gospels.

And when they had only laid the foundations of the faith in foreign places, they appointed others as pastors, and entrusted them with the nurture of those that had recently been brought in, while they themselves went on again to other countries and nations, with the grace and the co-operation of God. For a great many wonderful works were done through them by the power of the divine Spirit, so that at the first hearing whole multitudes of men eagerly embraced the religion of the Creator of the universe.

But since it is impossible for us to enumerate the names of all that became shepherds or evangelists in the churches throughout the world in the age immediately succeeding the apos-

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cles, we have recorded, as was fitting, the names of those only who have transmitted the apostolic doctrine to us in writings still extant.

#### CHAPTER XXXVIII.

The Epistle of Clement and the Writings falsely ascribed to him.

Thus Ignatius has done in the epistles which we have mentioned, and Clement in his epistle which is accepted by all, and which he wrote in the name of the church of Rome to the church of Corinth. In this epistle he gives many thoughts drawn from the Epistle to the Hebrews, and also quotes verbally some of its expressions, thus showing most plainly that it is not a recent production. Wherefore it has seemed reasonable to reckon it with the other writings of the apostle. For as Paul had written to the Hebrews in his native tongue, some say that the evangelist Luke, others that this Clement himself, translated the epistle. The latter seems more probable, because the epistle of Clement and that to the Hebrews have a similar character in regard to style, and still further because the thoughts contained in the two works are not very different.

But it must be observed also that there is said to be a second epistle of Clement. But we do not know that this is recognized like the former, for we do not find that the ancients have made any use of it.

And certain men lengthy writings under his name, containing dialogues of Peter and Apion. But no mention has been made of these by the ancients; for they do not even preserve the pure stamp of apostolic orthodoxy. The acknowledged writing of Clement is well known. We have spoken also of the works of Ignatius and Polycarp.

#### CHAPTER XXXIX.

The Writings of Papias.

There are extant five books of Papias, which bear the title Expositions of Ora-

cles of the Lord. Irenaeus makes mention of these as the only works written by him, in the following words: "These things are attested by Papias, an ancient man who was a hearer of John and a companion of Polycarp, in his fourth book. For five books have been written by him." These are the words of Irenaeus. But Papias himself in the preface to his discourses by no means declares that he was himself a hearer and eyewitness of the holy apostles, but he shows by the words which he uses that he received the doctrines of the faith from those who were their friends. He says: "But I shall not hesitate also to put down for you along with my interpretation.

#### BOOK IV

... his episcopate, was succeeded by Telesphorus, the seventh in succession from the apostles. In the meantime, after the lapse of a year and some months, Eumenes, the sixth in order, succeeded to the leadership of the Alexandrian church, his predecessor having held office eleven years.

#### CHAPTER VI. (OF BOOK IV)

The Last Siege of the Jews under Adrian.

As the rebellion of the Jews at this time grew much more serious, Rufus, governor of Judea, after an auxiliary force had been sent him by the emperor, using their madness as a pretext, proceeded against them without mercy, and destroyed indiscriminately thousands of men and women and children, and in accordance with the laws of war reduced their country to a state of complete subjection. The leader of the Jews at this time was a man by the name of Barcocheba (which signifies a star), who possessed the character of a robber and a murderer, but nevertheless, relying upon his name, boasted to them, as if they were slaves, that he possessed wonderful powers; and he pretended that he was a star that had come down to them

out of heaven to bring them light in the midst of their misfortunes. The war raged most fiercely in the eighteenth year of Adrian, at the city of Bithara, which was a very secure fortress, situated not far from Jerusalem. When the siege had lasted a long time, and the rebels had been driven to the last extremity by hunger and thirst, and the instigator of the rebellion had suffered his just punishment, the whole nation was prohibited from this time on by a decree, and by the commands of Adrian, from ever going up to the country about Jerusalem.

For the emperor gave orders that they should not even see from a distance the land of their fathers. Such is the account of Aristo of Pella. And thus, when the city had been emptied of the Jewish nation and had suffered the total destruction of its ancient inhabitants, it was colonized by a different race, and the Roman city which subsequently arose changed its name and was called Aelia, in honor of the emperor AELIUS ADRIAN. And as the church there was now composed of Gentiles, the first one to assume the government of it after the bishops of the circumcision was Marcus.

(To be continued  
with

#### CHAPTER VII.

*The Persons that became at that Time  
Leaders of Knowledge falsely so-called.)*

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**Six Pack Abs, and Women Establishing Dogma** page 7

**(HUMOR) WHAT GOES UPHILL WITH THREE LEGS? (Thanks Mike)** page 8

**MUSLIM LEADER DEMANDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS HIRE MUSLIMS TO TEACH ISLAM IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS** page 8

**POPE FRANCIS IS WRONG - DEAD WRONG - IN HIS RECENT COMMENTS REGARDING THE MATTER OF INFALLIBILITY** In matters of belief rather than governance, Pope Francis said that the pope and bishops share authority with the laity. "The church is the people of God on the journey through history," he said. "Thinking with the church, therefore, is my way of being a part of this people. And all the faithful, considered as a whole, are infallible in matters of belief." (Pope Francis I, August, 2013) page 8

**CHILDREN'S PAGE BIBLE HISTORY FOR CHILDREN FIRST PART HISTORY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT 1. The Creation of the World** page 10

**THE BEST SERMON ON THE TOPIC OF THE Trayvon Martin - George Zimmerman MATTER** page 12

**THE CHARACTER OF HERETICS OF THE LATTER DAYS** (2 Timothy Chapter 3) page 12

**IF YOU KEEP YOUR HEART AND MIND IN JESUS YOU WILL PROCEED STRAIGHT ON HIS WAY** ". . . *make straight the way of the Lord* . . ." One best not add any side trips on one's journey to God. The traveler may just arrive at what the traveler intended to be a temporary side trip and remain there. page 12

**THE OLD PRIEST LAY DYING (Humor) (Thanks Mike)** In Washing-

ton, D.C. an old priest lay dying in the hospital. page 13

**CHRISTMAS WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?** One of the word sounds which is common to the Nativity of Christ and the Divine Liturgy itself is the word *mass*. . . . This particular word sound is partially related to the Greek *massa* and *massein* - to knead, not just to mingle but to knead, as in to thoroughly make different ingredients into a new thing which actually continues its separate ingredients yet with them so thoroughly "blended" as to make them inseparable. page 14

**ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH ARE MOST SOUGHT THOSE WHICH WOULD BEST BE SOUGHT? ARE THEY EVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

What would a person do if they had the ability to change water into wine? Would they open a winery? Perhaps it would be more viable to be able to turn water into beer and ale - there are greater markets for these. But we already are able to do these things through the Divine gifts of photosynthesis and fermentation. And what does the ability to turn water into wine have to do with the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Or raising the dead to life or healing the sick or injured for that matter? page 14

**WHAT MANY PEOPLE DO NOT WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS** It was not being blinded by the Divine Heavenly Light of God and being knocked to the ground from his horse that turned Saint Paul into one of the most if not the most fervent, faithful, and complete servant, Apostle, Disciple, and follower of God. He already was that. What happened in and to Saint Paul was the realization that Jesus Christ was not a Jewish heretic, but Jesus Christ is God, the Son of God, and all that Jesus said and taught was true. Saint Paul changed his course accordingly. page 15

**HUMOR - SATIRE WHY ATH-**

**LETES CAN'T HAVE REGULAR JOBS** page 16

**THAT IS A GOOD LAW BUT IT DOES NOT APPLY TO ME!** It seems very interesting that when Jesus asked an important question of the leaders of the community, of those in charge of governing the people, that the leaders could not answer. Or, perhaps it was that they would not answer. Or, perhaps, would not give an honest answer. Not much has changed in some two thousand years. Jesus obviously had some fun with those same leaders. He asked them if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath day? Which of them, if ill and especially if in pain, would not have sought medical treatment for themselves even on the Sabbath day? page 17

**CHRISTIAN ANTICIPATION** True Christians anticipate much, spend much time anticipating, celebrate anticipation and anticipating, but to be true Christians they also must act on the anticipation. page 18

**MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS** Whether or not you believe or think a particular sports team or individual will win a particular championship usually will have no effect on the outcome. page 18

**WHEN CHRIST FED THE MULTITUDE, WHAT DID HE NOURISH FIRST?** For three days Our Saviour filled the spiritual needs of the multitude page 19

**THE MIRACLE OF DAMASCUS** by the publican CHAPTER 1 (Continued) page 21

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**PUBLICATION NOTICE** page 2

**LETTERS** How do we get the White House to play Alabama? page 2

**IN WHICH PROCESSION ARE YOU?** One of many awards ceremonies for entertainers and celebrities was held recently. . . . An observer facing the celebrities experienced difficulty viewing their faces because of the overwhelming volume of mammary glands which were thrust out before the women. page 3

**RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN DEFENDS CHRISTIAN VALUES AND CRITICIZES THE**

**SECULARIZATION OF EUROPE and AMERICA . . .**

"What can be a better indication of a moral crisis in human society than its loss of the ability for self-reproduction?" page 4

**H. L. MENCKEN "SAYS" STOP COMPLAINING . . . YOU DID IT TO YOURSELF**

when the field is nationwide, and the fight must be waged chiefly at second and third hand, and the force of personality cannot so readily make itself felt, then all the odds are on the man who is, intrinsically, the most devious and mediocre page 4

**ONE OF THOSE NICE STORIES YOU KNOW IS NOT TRUE**

A four year old child's next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. page 4

**NOW THEY ARE SAYING THE JEWS GOT SOME OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FROM THE ANCIENT BABYLONIANS**

Who is "they"? Roman Catholic Priest Father John Carville page 5

**OBAMA MAKES IT A CRIME FOR PRIESTS TO VOLUNTEER TO PRAY DIVINE LITURGY ON MILITARY BASES DURING THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

page 5

**BUSINESSES: MANAGEMENT, LABOR, COMPENSATION, PROFITS, BENEFITS**

Making it all work. It is a mathematical certainty that over the past forty years, accurately and honestly adjusting for inflation (or deflation, as appropriate), business income has increased, business profits have increased, the income of upper echelon business employees has correspondingly increased, stock holder dividends - which is their income - has remained somewhat static even though the price of the stock may have increased, those business employees who are not upper echelon have experienced no increase in income, and over the past four or five years those business employees who are not upper echelon have experienced an actual decrease in income page 6

**SAINT PAUL (1 Timothy) on Vegans,**

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**HAS PRESIDENT OBAMA APPLIED FOR OBAMA CARE????? If he has not, is the IRS going to issue a fine against him and confiscate the fine in accordance with the Obama Care Law (The Affordable Health Care Act)????? Oh, I forgot . . . We already pay for his health care.**

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