



# Newsletter

*"Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation"*

-CCC § 1816

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## *The Galactic Chess Game: For Good or evil*

In my lifetime I have been on both sides of the board and by far I like the White side. When I was a young man if it looked good I did it. If it felt good I did it, and so on and so on. As I look back over my lifetime it only took 34 years to figure out what side of the board I was on, and once that was done I needed to figure out what I could do for God.

I came to the conclusion that I was a pawn not a king. I realized when you change sides, you need to start at the bottom and work your way up. That was a humbling feeling, to get your comeuppance and to have your eyes opened. Now that I could see clearly I knew that I wanted to tell everybody that God was real and the only way to find him was through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Jesus said, "no man can come to the Father except through me and no Man can come to me unless he is sent by my Father and by no means will I turn him away". When I realized what I had done, I wept bitter tears for all the wrong I had done and I knew what was meant when Jesus said that there will be weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth I new it was better that I learned it now than later and it will be better for anyone else to do the same, For it is written that in Noah's time people were drinking, eating, marrying, and being given in marriage until the rains came and the hearts of men turned cold because they knew that it was to late. But it's not too late for us.

Now, it's your time to figure out what side of the board you are on and what you want to accomplish for God. Are you a pawn, or a king, or something in between? If you are reading this article, in all likelihood you have made up your mind, and you

have chosen the narrow gate that leads to eternal life. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "Blessed are you

that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for you shall obtain your fill." If you are hungry, and I know you are, then this is the beginning of your apostolate as an evangelist for Jesus Christ. May the Blessings of our God be upon you and your works. So from all of us, to all of you, have a most blessed and pleasant day.

## **The Shy Evangelist**



## **Pope Benedict XVI'S January Prayer Intentions 2009**

- **General:** *That the family may become more and more a place of training in charity, personal growth, and transmission of the faith.*
- **Mission:** *That the various Christian confessions, aware of the need for a new evangelization in this period of profound transformations, may be committed to announcing the Good News and moving toward*

*the full unity of all Christians in order to offer a more credible testimony of the Gospel.*

## **THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS**

*From a sermon by Fr. Cletus.*

God gave the Ten Commandments to guide his relationship with Israel and with one another. But with the passage of time, the rabbis developed a list of 613 separate laws: 148 commands and 365 prescriptions. The people had difficulties knowing, remembering and keeping these laws. It became a burden to all. As a divine teacher who came to save (Jn 10:10) and to make life bearable, in response to the man's questions, Jesus referred them to the foundation on which these laws were founded, namely, love; and taught them to love with their mind, spirit, heart and strength. Here Jesus is telling us that love is at the heart of our religion. He also wants us to know that the essence of the commandment is to promote love and guide love. Any keeping and practicing of the faith that does not come from love is like singing outside the choir.

An analysis of what Jesus said about this love is important. According to it, love involves the whole human person mentally (mind), emotionally (heart), physically (strength) and spiritually (unend). It is mental because it is rational and reasonable. It is not blind and ignorant as some think (Hos 4:6). It involves the use of your mind. When love is abused you go looking for mental health practitioners. It is emotional because it is sensitive and affectionate. It comes from the heart. It is not look warm but full of excitement. When you have a friend who does not feel excited by your presence, forget it, such is not a true friend. It is spiritual because it is eternal; it does not end. It does not come to an end even by distance or strife because it forgives hurts and abuses. It is physical because it is action packed. It involves service and care. It lays itself down to serve (Jon 15:13).

To love God then is to know him the only true God and Jesus Christ our Savior (mind)- Jer 31:31; to worship him and to do so in spirit and truth (spirit) – Matt 4:10; Jon 4:24 to serve him (strength) – doings that will bring him honor and glory; and to keep his commandment (heart) – Jon 14:23 and Matt 15:8 – to be sensitive to his laws, and take it seriously.

Love for God is not enough; we have to love our neighbor as ourselves. To love your neighbor as yourself is to be taken with some caution because some of us do not love themselves properly. Should I accept drugs from my friend who does drug since he loves taking it? No, a person who takes drugs does not love himself or herself. This is why we should apply the four pillar-foundation of true love: rational, emotional, physical and eternal.

True love is reasonable and not on the flesh. When built on the flesh, it is weakened and anything can get you into trouble (Rom 1:26ff). Allow the light of

reason to guide your emotion. One day a young boy came and told me that his girl friend has backed off from him. I told him to forget about her because she was not meant to be but he told me that they had started being emotional and affectionate. They had emotion and affection but failed to know themselves well. Love is to be nourished. Love is as satisfying as food does; as such it is to be cooked before we begin to cherish it. The problem is that we eat it raw (hit and run kind of love) and that is why so many vomit and throw them up after a short time. It is like a house, the foundation is to be laid in God and then built up with the qualities of love in 1 Cor.13:4-8. So, nourish and feed your relationship with positive values.

## **Word of the Month**

***Ex Cathedra*** - (*ex kə thē' drə*). *adj. Or adv.*

From the chair; by virtue of or in the exercise of one's office or position { 1693; < NL}.

[from Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, 2009. Merriam-Webster Online. 31 January 2009 <[http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ex cathedra](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ex%20cathedra)>]

## **The Domestic Church**

The new year, both liturgical and calendar, has begun. This month of January is one of new beginnings for many of us. We finish up the Christmas season and put all of the red and green decorations away. We sweep, dust, mop, rearrange, remove, replace, and repair our homes and the things within them.

The depths of winter are now past and we look forward to the new life of spring. The Savior is born and we look forward to the time when we celebrate His gift of Saving Grace at Eastertime. In preparation for this celebration, many of us try to prepare our hearts and souls as well as our homes.

Spring cleaning is not just a physical activity, but a spiritual one as well. We start thinking, "How can I make this year better than last year? What can I do in my daily spiritual journey that will bring me closer to being what God wants me to be?"

The thing that I want to focus on this year is prayer. There are many ways to pray, and that's a good thing because our Lord enjoins us to pray always. So, I've been doing some reading and trying to learn about prayer, in general.

I hope that you, too, will think about doing a little spiritual spring cleaning this year. There are a lot of books and other resources that can help you in your search for a deeper connection with our Lord. So, see if your parish has a lending library where you can find some help in your search.

## January 2009 Calendar



- 1** Solemnity of Mary {Holy Day of Obligation}
- 2 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
- 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- 4** Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- 5 St. John Neumann
- 6 Blessed André Bessette
- 7 St. Raymond of Panyafort
- 8 Blessed Angela of Foligno ;St Apollinaris of Hieropolis
- 9 St. Adrian of Canterbury
- 10 St. Gregory of Nyssa; St. William of Bourges
- 11** Feast of the Baptism of the Lord; Blessed William Carter; St. Theodosius the Cenobiarch
- 12 St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
- 13 St. Hilary
- 14 Servant of God John the Gardener
- 15 St. Paul the Hermit
- 16 St. Berard & Companions
- 17 St. Anthony of Egypt
- 18** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time; St. Charles of Sezze
- 19 St. Canute
- 20 St. Fabian & Sebastian
- 21 St. Agnes
- 22 St. Vincent of Saragossa
- 23 Blessed Mother Marianne Cope
- 24 St. Francis de Sales
- 25** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time; Conversion of St. Paul
- 26 Sts. Timothy & Titus
- 27 St. Angela Merici
- 28 St. Thomas Aquinas
- 29 Servant of God Brother Juniper
- 30 St. Hyacintha of Mariscotti
- 31 St. John Bosco



## January is the month of The Holy Name of Jesus

### Chaplet of the Holy Name of Jesus

Begin with the Act of Contrition. On the large bead say:

*V:* Incline unto my aid, O God.

*R:* O Lord, make hast to help me.

*First Decade* - Lord, Thou hast said: “: Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.”

I seek, I knock, I ask this favor (*name it*).

*Repeat* Incline unto my aid, etc., *ten times*.

*Second Decade* – “Amen, I say unto you, if you ask the Father anything in My Name it shall be given unto you.” It is of the Father and in Thy Name, Lord I ask this favor.

*Repeat* Incline unto my aid, etc., *ten times*.

*Third Decade* – Lord, Thou hast said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My word shall

not pass away.” Thou wilt grant me this favor  
because Thou hast said it and Thy word is true.

*Repeat* Incline unto my aid, etc., *ten times*.

*Quid ad te? Tu Me Sequere.*

What is it to thee? Do thou follow me.