

# Fr. David's Weekly Newsletter



February 3, 2012

## Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection.

### WE MUST LEARN TO HAVE GREATER TRUST IN DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Mark the Evangelist narrates how, following the Last Supper, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and readied Himself for personal prayer. "But this time", the Pope said, "something new occurred; it seemed that He did not want to remain alone. Many times in the past Jesus had moved away from the crowds, even from His own disciples. ... However, in Gethsemane he invited Peter, James and John to stay close by; the same disciples who had accompanied Him during the Transfiguration.

"The proximity of these three during the prayer at Gethsemane is significant", Benedict XVI added. It represents "a request for solidarity at the moment in which He felt the approach of death. Above all it was a closeness in prayer, an expression of unity with Him at the moment in which He was preparing to accomplish the Father's will to the end, an invitation to all disciples to follow Him on the path of the Cross".

Jesus' words to the three disciples - "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here and keep awake" - show that He was feeling "fear and anguish at that 'Hour', experiencing the ultimate profound solitude as God's plan was being accomplished. Jesus fear and anguish comprehend all the horror that man feels at the prospect of his own death, its inexorable certainty and the perception of the burden of evil which affects our lives".

Having invited His disciples to keep awake, Jesus moved away from them. Referring to the Gospel of St. Mark, the Pope noted that Jesus "threw Himself to the ground: a position for prayer which expresses obedience to the Father's will, an abandonment of self with complete trust in Him". Jesus then asks the Father that, if possible, the hour might pass from Him. "This is not just the fear and anguish of man in the face of death", the Holy Father explained, "but the distress of the Son of God Who sees the terrible accumulation of evil He must take upon Himself, in order to overcome it and deprive it of power".

*Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.*

In this context, Benedict XVI invited the faithful to pray to God, placing before Him “our fatigue, the suffering of certain situations and of certain days, our daily struggle to follow Him and to be Christians, and the burden of evil we see within and around us, that He may give us hope, make us aware of His closeness and give us a little light on life’s journey”.

Returning then to Jesus’ prayer, the Pope focused on “three revealing passages” in Christ’s words: “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want but what you want”. Firstly, Benedict XVI said, the Aramaic word “Abba” is used by children to address their fathers, “therefore it express Jesus relationship with God the Father, a relationship of tenderness, affection and trust”. Secondly, Jesus’ words contain an acknowledgment of the Father’s omnipotence “introducing a request in which, once again, we see the drama of Jesus’ human will in the face of death and evil. ... Yet the third expression ... is the decisive one, in which the human will adheres fully to the divine will. ... Jesus tells us that only by conforming their will to the divine will can human beings achieve their true stature and become ‘divine’. ... This is what Jesus does in Gethsemane. By transferring human will to the divine will the true man is born and we are redeemed”.

## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

O ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfort to the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Deign to cast upon me a look of mercy. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the granting of my requests. Through gratitude for favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

When we pray the Our Father “we ask the Lord that ‘your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’. In other words, we recognize that God has a will for us and with us, that God has a will for our lives and, each day, this must increasingly become the reference point for our desires and our existence. We also recognize that ... ‘earth’ becomes ‘heaven’ - the place where love, goodness, truth and divine beauty are present - only if the will of God is done”.

In our prayers “we must learn to have greater trust in Divine Providence, to ask God for the strength to abandon our own selves in order to renew our ‘yes’, to repeat to Him ‘your will be done’, to conform our will to His. This is a prayer we must repeat every day, because it is not always easy to entrust oneself to the will of God”.

The Gospel says that the disciples were unable to remain awake for Christ, and Pope Benedict concluded his catechesis by saying: “Let us ask the Lord for the power to keep awake for Him in prayer, to follow the will of God every day even if He speaks of the Cross, to live in ever increasing intimacy with the Lord and bring a little of God’s ‘heaven’ to this ‘earth’”.



# ALL ABOUT THE VIRGIN MARY TRIVIA

**1. What does the Blessed Mother have in heaven that the rest of us will not have until the Last Day?**

- a. her Rosary                      b. her body                      c. a house                      d. a pet dog

**2. Who designed the Miraculous Medal, which has been worn around the necks of millions of Catholics?**

- a. the Virgin Mary                      b. St. Catherine LaBoure                      c. St. Michael                      d. Betsy Ross

**3. When the pregnant Blessed Mother showed up at Elizabeth's house, Elizabeth's baby leaped inside her womb. Who was the baby?**

- a. St. Bartholomew                      b. St. Francis                      c. St. George                      d. St. John the Baptist

**4. Who told Mary to name her Son Jesus?**

- a. St. Joseph                      b. St. Michael                      c. St. Gabriel                      d. St. Elizabeth

**5. During the 1917 apparitions of Mary in Fatima, Portugal, an angel appeared to the children seers. What word did the angel cry out three times?**

- a. Penance!                      b. Hello!                      c. Kneel!                      d. Stand up!

**6. Venerable Anne Catherine Emmerich, a mystic nun, gave a precise description that helped investigators find what in Turkey?**

- a. Mary's Bible                      b. Mary's sandals                      c. Mary's luggage                      d. Mary's house

**7. To whom did the Virgin Mary state "I am the Immaculate Conception"?**

- a. Conchita Gonzales                      b. Bernadette Soubirous                      c. St. Padre Pio                      d. St. Maximilian Kolbe

**8. In 1973, Sister Agnes Sasagawa was visited by the Virgin Mary with a message to pray the Rosary and to not sin. Where in the world did the Virgin Mary appear this time?**

- a. Akita, Japan                      b. Rome, Italy                      c. Taxco, Mexico                      d. South Bend, Indiana

**9. During this apparition of Mary on October 13, 1917 in Fatima, Portugal, approximately 70,000 thousand spectators saw what miracle occur?**

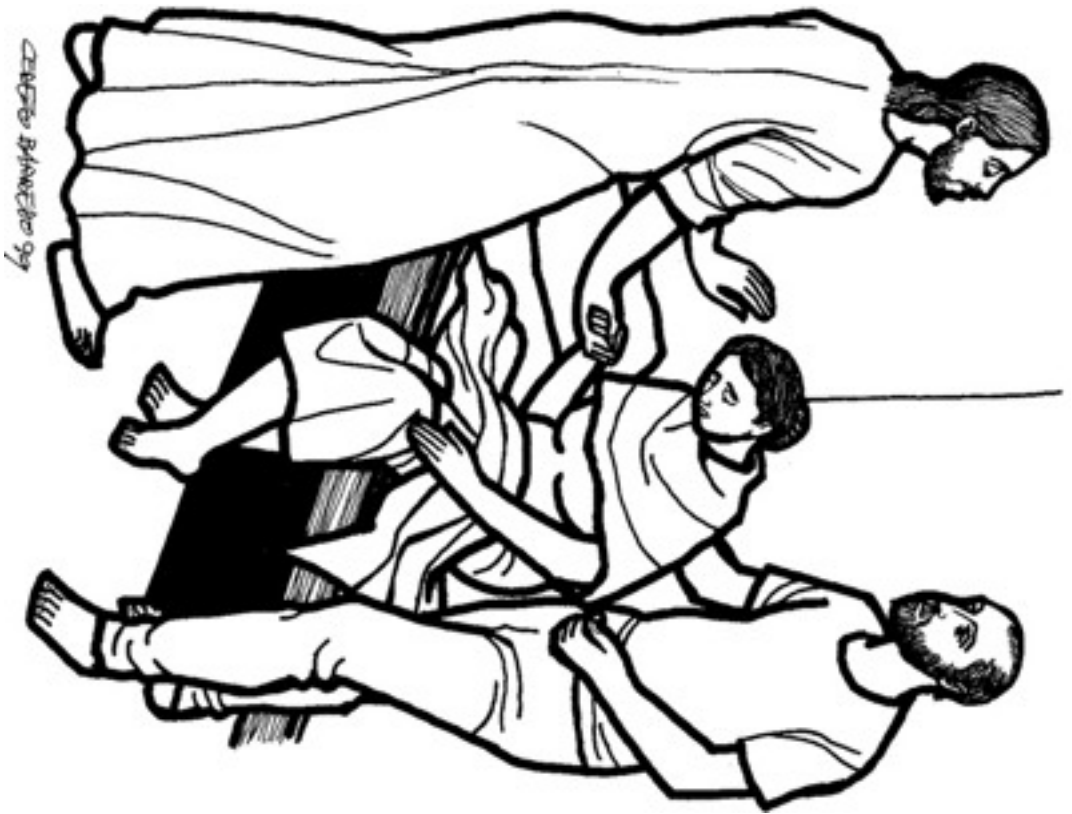
- a. snow in summer                      b. an eclipse of the sun                      c. the sun spun and fell                      d. it rained flower petals

**10. In 1968, this apparition of the Virgin Mary was viewed by more than a million people. It was broadcast live on television and is recorded on film. Where in the world did this occur?**

- a. Korea                      b. Egypt                      c. Slovakia                      d. Lithuania



Answers: 1. b; 2. a; 3. d; 4. c; 5. a; 6. d; 7. b; 8. a; 9. c; 10. b



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On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.



sick  
fever  
bedside  
helped  
crowd  
people  
gathered

Z	C	T	Z	B	H	I	X	J	C	X	B	A	G	G
T	T	H	M	Y	Q	E	K	Y	F	R	V	B	G	A
O	P	P	A	U	B	V	L	K	S	E	O	P	P	T
W	J	R	K	E	E	I	N	P	Y	I	V	W	S	H
N	P	V	K	W	Y	C	O	V	E	J	C	E	D	E
S	U	O	A	Q	P	T	R	H	M	D	S	K	R	R
J	W	I	V	V	R	I	Y	E	U	A	N	K	I	E
A	B	S	B	D	E	M	Q	D	E	M	O	N	S	D
B	G	Q	R	J	A	S	O	S	V	I	Z	Z	U	V
P	E	W	A	T	C	H	I	P	E	I	E	D	E	W
E	E	D	F	X	H	D	E	C	E	Z	V	K	P	W
H	D	O	S	N	W	A	H	E	A	L	E	D	B	R
V	A	M	P	I	H	W	P	Z	M	K	B	T	W	I
F	V	K	R	L	D	P	U	L	F	I	P	Z	Q	A
X	K	S	W	E	E	E	F	V	I	O	A	U	Q	Q

watch  
healed  
diseases  
demons  
victims  
awoke  
pray  
towns  
preach

