

# Reflections

Volume 37

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*St. Paul Ministry*

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## God is Merciful and Will Hear Your Prayers

### Blessings to All:

Sometimes things you see in the real world bring a spiritual realization into your mind. The other day, I was out for my morning walk. As I was walking past the nearby grade school, I heard someone yelling "Sampson, Sampson". And loud whistling could be heard. As I looked in the direction of the yelling, I could see two groups of people walking on either side of the school trailers and calling out "Sampson...Sampson". One group were adults and the other group were children about 10 years old.

It suddenly reminded me of the way God must call us when we are far away from Him. He calls out our name loudly in an attempt to get our attention to help us find our way back home to safety.

As I was watching this group, I saw a looking young dog running on my side of the cyclone fence. He could see those calling him and he was running fast along the fence. I thought to myself..." how is that dog going to get to the other side of the fence to be united to those that love him?"



Then an amazing thing happened. There was a small space on the bottom of the fence that had been partially dug out. The pup made a dash for the hole, as he knew this was the way home. He crawled under the fence and ran towards the children who shouted with joy.

I think when we get lost on the other side of the fence, we want to get back to God's good graces and look for a way back. God gives us ways to get back to Him, which at the time, may seem impossible. Like my story, I did not see a way for the dog to get back across the fence. God sees a way to help us in ways we don't even know exists. But He always leaves a space big enough for us to find out way back home.

I imagine those that are reading this story, can relate with their own experiences of God providing a way to return to Him. Whether it involves a family member, friend or loved one. God always provides us with a way back.

One of our modern saints in his many writings provides us with insights that speak of God's reaching out to us. Saint Padre Pio was a man of suffering, miracles, bilocation and a stigmatist. These gifts were strengthened by his humility and relying upon Jesus to guide him each day. St. Pio had many spiritual children and said he would look after each of

them in life and in death. If you would like to be a Spiritual Child of St Pio, then ask him with the following request.



***Dear Padre Pio, I recall your promise to the Lord, "Lord, I will stand at the gates of heaven until I see all my spiritual children have entered."***

***Encouraged by your gracious promise, I ask you to accept me as a spiritual child and to intercede for my prayer requests...(Here state your petitions)***

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.***

**The following quotes from Padre Pio tell how he looked after and loved his spiritual family:**

**"I love my Spiritual Children as much as my own soul, and even more."**

**"Once I take a soul on, I also take on their entire family as my spiritual children."**

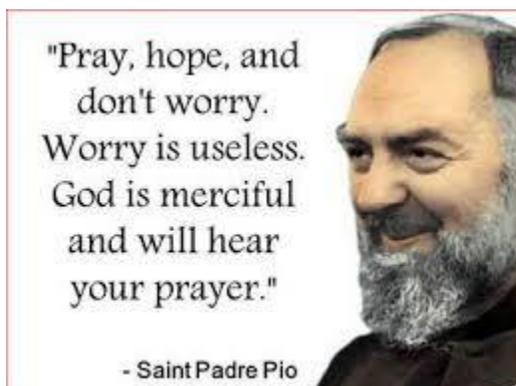
**"To my Spiritual Children, my prayers for you will never be lacking."**

**"If one of my spiritual children ever goes astray, I shall leave my flock and seek him out."**

**"I shall stand at the gates of Paradise until all my spiritual children have entered."**



## Quotes from St. Pio



"Temptations, discouragement and unrest are the wares offered by the enemy. Remember this: if the devil makes noise it is a sign that he is still outside and not yet within.

It is necessary to guard all your senses particularly your eyes: they are the means by which all the fascination and charm of beauty and voluptuousness enter the heart. When fashion, as in our time, is towards provocation and exposes

what formerly was even wrong to think about, caution and self-restraint must be exercised. Whenever necessary you must look without seeing and see without thinking about it.

Whoever does not meditate is like someone who never looks in the mirror before going out, doesn't bother to see if he's today, and may go out dirty without knowing it. The person who meditates and turns his mind to God, who is the mirror of his soul, seeks to know his fault, tries to correct them, moderates his impulses, and puts his conscience in order."

### *Join The Phone Rosary Group - Mon-Fri 8:30am*

By: Gina Storemski & Laura Creamer



Gina and Laura are members of Prince of Peace Catholic Church. They have a new Rosary Group which pray the Rosary Mon-Fri. Gina says "that we have a conference call at 8:30 a.m. Monday-Friday to unite our prayers with other friends (mostly moms)

that can't get together each day to pray like we would like. We ask that you mute your call to avoid distracting noises and anyone can call in late or hang up early and it isn't detected. This is the number for the conference call (712) 451-0543 And then you add the code 840776# There is no charge for calling in. It is free. And yes, the 712-area code is correct. Also, if you have any urgent prayer intentions for a certain day you can text them to me at 281-793-3689 and I will announce them at the beginning of the Rosary."

## Pro-Life and Satan

**By: Kevin Burke, MSS/LSW**



Background: Kevin is a licensed social worker, Co-Founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries and a Pastoral Associate of Priests For Life. He is a graduate of The Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work. Kevin's presentations address the effects of abortion on men, couples and families and effective post abortion ministry for Clergy and Counselors.

The Rachel's Vineyard™ support group and retreat models are now offered in 49 states. The international outreach of Rachel's Vineyard is now in over 70 countries with 22 translations and more in progress. Over 1000 retreats are held annually worldwide.

### The Rage of Satan and the Womb of Women

"The incarnation of Christ reveals how God used the vehicle of a Jewish woman, and specifically the consecrated womb of Mary and her child Jesus, to save the human family from the power of sin, death and Satan.

Yet this action of God arouses murderous rage in the heart of Satan:



*Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born... But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness...The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels*

*were thrown down with him. – (Revelation 12)*

Satan wants to devour Mary's child as she gives birth. Thanks to an angelic warning of Herod's designs, and the protection of St Joseph, Satan was unable to destroy the child and abort the mission of Jesus to save humanity.

But mysteriously, Satan and his demonic accomplices continue to have power to wage war on the human family. It is the all-consuming passion of Satan is to corrupt and disfigure the image of God in the human heart, mind and soul and to separate as many souls as possible from eternal union with their heavenly Father.

Our Blessed Mother appeared to 3 children at Fatima in 1917 to warn the world of the emergence of a gathering darkness and greater war that would envelop the world.

Failing to heed Mary's warning, we witnessed the destructive rage of the great dragon of revelation unleashed in communist and Nazi attacks on Christians and Jews across Europe, and as communism spread, around the world.

But there is another battleground where the dragon has focused his powers of deception and rage.

Given that the womb of Mary was the vehicle through which God saved the human family from sin and death, we can safely assume that this only increased Satan's hatred and rage against humanity, and especially of woman and their unborn children.

### **The Hellish Power of Deception**

The womb of women is the battleground where Satan is manifesting his agenda with unprecedented powers of deception and destruction in our time. Satan has made a woman's body and womb, human sexuality and reproduction as battle grounds where he would manifest his passion to deceive and destroy.

In Revelation John says Satan is "the deceiver of the whole world."

If you want evidence of this power to deceive, consider this statement by Christian pastor Rev. David Selzer, of *Concerned Clergy for Choice* found in this "blessing" he wrote for abortion facilities:

*Bless this building and those who work here... who provide safe, legal, caring and loving reproductive services, including abortion... they are doing God's work.*

While the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Medjugorje are still under

discernment by the Vatican, the following reflections by the visionaries on their exposure to the reality of Hell help us to see the eternal nature of our struggle:

**Vicka:** *We saw many people in hell...The Blessed Mother says that those people who are in hell are there because they chose to go there...It is their choice. In this way they choose to enter the fire of hell where they burn away all connection to God.*

**Marija:** *At the moment of death, God gives everyone the grace to see his whole life... And each person, when he sees himself in the divine light of reality...chooses for himself what he personally deserves for all eternity. Anyone who goes to hell chooses hell. God condemns no one.*

**Jakov:** *The self-chosen suffering there is beyond your ability to comprehend.*

When asked if this vision was a painful experience for him **Jakov** replied: *More than you can understand...Because no one needs to go to hell. It is the ultimate waste.*

### **A God of Justice...and Mercy**

Our Creator is a God of Mercy, reconciliation and healing. He desires that no woman or man is abandoned to their grief and despair after abortion. Most of us, if we are honest, have aborted God's will in our lives in times of weakness and fear. We are continually in need of the repentance and healing of Christ.

The heart of Christ burns with a passionate love for sinners and desires their reconciliation and healing. No sin is greater than God's love and mercy. He only asks that we have a humble and repentant heart, and he will bless us abundantly with his forgiveness and healing.



But sadly, some will persist in their promotion of abortion as a social and moral good and basic human right. Those who have been wounded by abortion can be tempted to avoid the very natural spiritual and emotional pain and grief that follow abortion. They instead may justify and fiercely defend their *choice*.

Some even become aggressive advocates for abortion rights and lead many others astray contributing to the death of countless unborn children and the sin and suffering that flow into the lives of their parents.

This places those who advocate for abortion rights as accomplices in the death of countless unborn children. They are in grave risk of ongoing deception and eternal estrangement from God. This includes those who serve in positions of public office, medical and counseling professionals and others who act in ways that facilitate the death of unborn children.

### **Silence is Deadly**

This is seldom something we hear from the pulpit. There is an understandable desire to be sensitive to those who have experienced this loss and to invite the wounded to healing. God's mercy and forgiveness must always be our first response and proclaimed on a regular basis from our Churches.

But are we neglecting to preach about the justice of God, and the risk of eternal estrangement from our Heavenly Father for those who are persistent in their pro-abortion advocacy? Is it merciful to be silent?

This is the greatest tragedy and the endgame of Satan. He not only wants to destroy and desecrate unborn life in the womb. Satan wants to separate as many souls as possible from eternal union with their heavenly father.

As the visionaries of Medjugorje suggest, God condemns no person to hell. Tragically, a human heart and soul can become so twisted by lies that they recoil from the light of truth, and when the time comes to encounter their Lord, they may experience the holiness of God as a repulsive darkness.

This is the ultimate horror and tragic fruit of abortion and similar types of sin that lead the soul into such deep blindness and darkness.

### **Prepare for Battle**

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)*

In this [coming] Advent season we have a time of preparation to once again welcome the Savior into our hearts, homes and communities. In this time of peace and preparation – let us also prepare for battle.

We are not led by a political leader or party in this battle. God can use current events and even weak and sinful men and women to accomplish his will. We must read the signs of the times and fight the good fight to advance the cause of life and reduce and end the destruction of unborn children.

Yet the larger battle is for the heart and soul of the human family. While we fight against abortion and other attacks upon marriage and the family, we do so not in anger, derision or with hatred toward those we oppose. We do so with love and concern for the unborn and all who are being deceived by Satan.

We know that without God's grace, we can do nothing. We rely on continual repentance and the deepest humility, immersion in the Word of God, prayer, rosary (and for sacramental Christians, Reconciliation and Eucharist.)

It is also important to take time to grieve our losses in this ministry. This will strengthen us in our pro-life vocations.

Perhaps this prayer can be a particular focus for us in this advent season as we prepare for the coming of our Savior and the battles that lie ahead to advance the cause of life.

*St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God."*

### *Our Blessed Mother Tells Us How to Help Win Souls*



#### *<sup>1</sup>Our Lady of Medjugorje Message of Sept 2, 2014*

"Dear children, I, your Mother, am coming anew among you out of love which has no end, from endless love of the endless Heavenly Father. And as I am looking into

<sup>1</sup> The Catholic Church has made no ruling on the authenticity to-date. However, Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Henryk Hoser, the retired archbishop of Warsaw-Praga, Poland, to be apostolic visitor to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, for an indefinite period, the Vatican announced on May 31, 2018.

your hearts I see that many of you accept me as a Mother and, with sincere and pure hearts, you desire to be my apostles.

But, I am also the Mother of those of you who do not accept me and who, in the hardness of your hearts, do not desire to come to know the love of my Son. And you do not know how much my heart suffers and how much I pray to my Son for you. I pray to him to heal your souls because he can do so. I pray to him to illuminate you with the miracle of the Holy Spirit so that you may stop, always anew, betraying, cursing and wounding him.

With all my heart I pray for you to understand that only my Son is the salvation and the light of the world. And you, my children, my dear apostles, always carry my Son in your hearts and thoughts.

In this way you are carrying love. All those who do not know him will recognize him in your love. I am always beside you. In a special way I am beside your shepherds because my Son has called them to lead you on the way to eternity. Thank you, my apostles, for your sacrifice and love.”

## Words to Live By



Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.

~ Anthony of Padua

# Send Petitions to Medjugorje

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By using the email address below, you can send your petition of intentions, via email, directly to the Information Center in Medjugorje. The Information Center collects them and will make sure they are given to either Vicka or Ivan to be presented to Our Lady during one of their daily apparitions.

Although hundreds, and sometimes thousands of petitions are offered to Our Lady at one time, Our Lady knows the content of each petition. Our Lady tells us that she will pray with us and intercede for us before her

Son Jesus for our intentions. After every apparition the petitions are burned.

*Petitions to Our Blessed Mother of Medjugorje, can be sent to*

[molitvene.nakane@medjugorje.hr](mailto:molitvene.nakane@medjugorje.hr)

## *When You Fall Into Serious Sin*



The photo on the left is of a young child learning to walk and surrounded by the parents.

The child will fall many times, but through the encouragement of his parents, the child will get up each time and try again.

Many habitual sins prevent us from walking in the grace God gives us. The lesson we can learn from the child trying to walk and falling many times, is also a lesson for all who suffer from falling into the same serious sins.

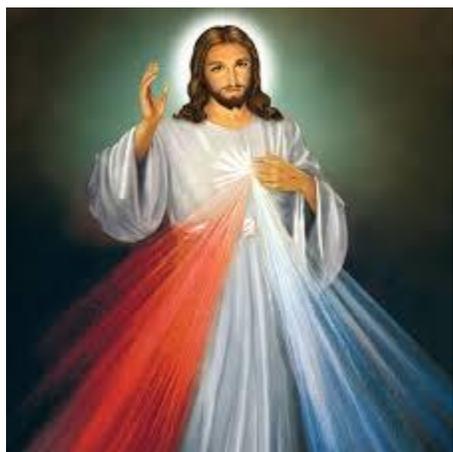
The shame one feels from the constant falling into the same serious sins can bring on depression. The devil will use these failings to try to convince us, it is no use to confess these sins. But confession is the best way to overcome the habitual serious sins. God's grace is always available to us and before one falls again, there are steps to be taken in the process of overcoming these types of sins.

**1. NAME THE THING...**Honesty is the precursor to victory.

Before God, and in your own conscience, call your sin exactly what it is. Cease all explanations and excuses. Just get on your knees and go to confession. Verbalizing the truth of the matter is vitally necessary. Doing so awakens a deeper sensitivity and places your heart in an honest position before God and before yourself.

**2. DECIDE AND ACT AGAINST THE TEMPTATION...**There lies within you a God-given power to choose. It's a power no force in the universe can prevail against. Satan himself, and all his unholy angels, cannot make a man or woman sin when the will has decided not too with God's helping grace. Constantly ask God for help and trust that He hears your prayers.

### **3. IF YOU FALL AGAIN, GO TO CONFESSION AS SOON AS YOU CAN**



The process of keeping away from these types of sin, is one that will show victory over time. People that continue to fall into habitual serious sins have a weak spiritual life in most cases. **But Jesus has provided a way to rid yourself of these sins by giving you access to His Divine Mercy.**

### **OUR LORD'S PROMISES ATTACHED TO THE PRAYING OF THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY AS REVEALED TO ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA**

"I promise that the soul that will venerate this image (of Divine Mercy) will not perish. I also promise victory over (its) enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory." (*Diary, 48*)

"The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death." (*Diary, 754*)

"When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one." (*Diary, 1541*)

"When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as a just Judge but as a merciful Savior." (*Diary, 1541*)

"Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death." (*Diary, 687*)

## *Bible Passage of the Month*

### *Eph 6:12*

For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.



Pray for Your Shepherds

**Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.**

**St. Paul Ministry, Cypress, TX**

