

# Reflections

Volume 60

## International Catholic Family Newsletter

August 2020

### **The Battle For Souls Is Intensifying**

### **If I Were The Devil**

### **True History of the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

#### **Blessing to All:**

**By: Richard Pickard**

Have you ever thought of what would have happened if Jesus succumbed to Satan's temptations while alive on earth?

Most people would probably not consider this a possibility. His human character was just like ours, in every way, except sin. Had he lost the battle with Satan, heaven would continue to be eternally closed to us and we would live in fear and sin with no possibility of reaching heaven.

Why would I bring up a subject like this in this Newsletter? Absurd...right? Because we need to be reminded that *Jesus risk everything for us!* His love for us, took him into the very arena with Satan and Jesus stood toe to toe with evil for us!

We all stand toe to toe with evil each day and many of us don't even realize this fact. We risk eternal darkness and agony if we don't choose to accept the gift of grace that Jesus freely gave us. His death on the cross 'was real' and full of pain. He paid the price for our sins and fought the good fight for "us".

**Do not become complacent about Jesus' gift to you. We are in a battle each day with spiritual beings who want to destroy those things which makes us children of God.** They want you not to Love, Not to Forgive, Not to Pray. To accept abortion as a social justice issue. And not to get up once you have fallen into serious sin. The Devil steals your peace, causes confusion, distractions, divisions in families and anger.

Tension in life is normal. Most of us have verbal arguments with our spouse, children, friends or loved ones, from time to time. These types of disagreements are not normally about big issues of moral consequences but usually of everyday type things. *However, if you see a pattern of more frequent arguments, then Satan is behind these to steal peace and infuse division.* Satan is stirring the pot to produce anger and unforgiveness. Using discord among people to create riots in an attempt to destroy countries through anarchy. He is on the march with his cohorts throughout the world. The battle has begun.



*Satan's ultimate goal is to destroy the Church, family, and the world.* He knows his time is short and is determined to kill, steal, and destroy as much of God's creation as possible before he is thrown into the fiery pit prepared for him and his minions. In



the meantime, the father of lies is making every effort to drag as many people into hell with him as he can. ***"Fight for your family and your country with daily prayers."*** The Rosary is a powerful weapon against Satan. Pray it daily and ask Our Lady to protect your family.

Satan's master plan is in the open now, and provides answers to recent events.

***The current world chaos is too well orchestrated to be mere coincidence.*** It

speaks of an evil, sinister force working behind the scenes to counter God's desire for peace and goodwill for all men. Governments in various parts of the world rule by fear, lies and cause great distress and poverty. Evil is casting its dark shadow across the lands. Scripture



warns us... **"For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.** (Ephesians 6:12).

We cannot sit on the sidelines any longer. Our recourse is prayer and to be examples of Christian living among all we encounter. *We are in a worldwide spiritual battle.*

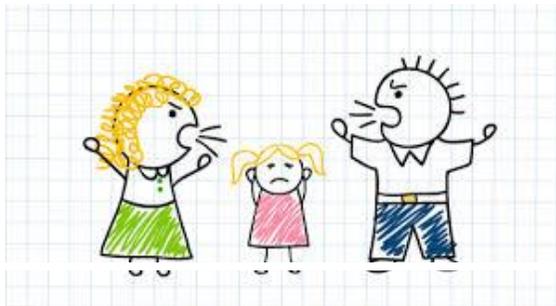
Satan plays with our emotions to bring about **the opposite of the gifts of the Spirit.** He incites anger and hatred between people, jealousy, rage, licentious thoughts, and behaviors. You know this is true. Just watch any news program today. Hate, lies, lawlessness, destruction of property and tearing down of law and order and attempting to dismantle the police, not only in America, but worldwide. We are constantly being probed by the children of darkness who follow the unholy desires of the flesh and raging emotions against the children of light, to test and see "who we really are". Are we follows of Christ full time? Or part time? Yes, its hard sometimes to do the right thing, but we have access to Grace by just asking Jesus to help us in our struggles.

## Jesus Warns Us of These Violent Times



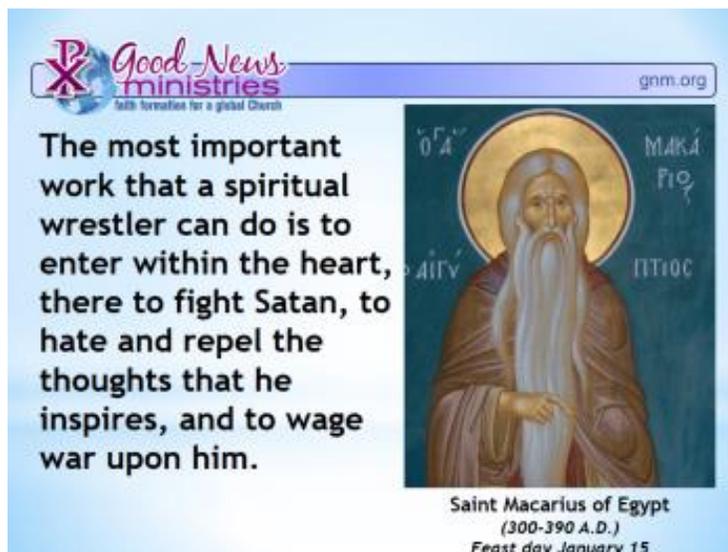
Jesus warns us in Matthew 7:16-20 about these days of riots and lawlessness. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. **By their fruits you will know them.** Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not

bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. **So, by their fruits you will know them."**



Satan is hard at work in America and around the world. And especially in our families. If Satan can destroy our family unity and love for

each other, then he is assured a victory. He is trying to break the **bounds of society with defund the police movements and destroy the love that holds the family unit together. You are at war with spiritual forces and prayer is your first weapon of choice against these forces.**



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The most important work that a spiritual wrestler can do is to enter within the heart, there to fight Satan, to hate and repel the thoughts that he inspires, and to wage war upon him.

**Saint Macarius of Egypt**  
(300-390 A.D.)  
Feast day January 15

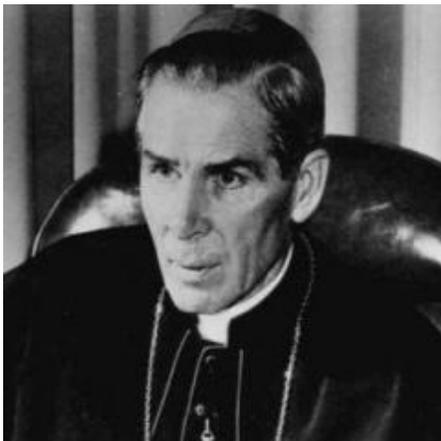
Satan looks for our Achilles heel and uses our weaknesses to build upon. When Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life," he was giving us the path to defeat Satan and the temptations the evil one thrusts upon us. Follow the teachings of Jesus. Read about the mission of Jesus in the various Bible passages and reap the benefit of hearing Jesus speak to us. Read the Bible a little each day. Or each week but do so on a regular basis. God will speak to you through the words of the Gospel.

If reading the Bible is not your thing, then find something that is your thing. Pray the Rosary or visit Jesus in the Tabernacle. Each day find time to talk to God. Tell Him you need Him in your life. He will listen. Defeat evil with good. **Be a warrior for Jesus, as Jesus is a warrior for you.** Show love for others and avoid those who have bad morals. For bad company destroys good morals. When others try to convince you to do something you know in your heart is wrong then stop and pray.



Many enemies against God, have been unleashed in the world. The Battle for Souls is Intensifying. Pray, Pray, Pray.

**Take the time to see this 50-Yr-Old YouTube speech of Bishop Sheen about what is happening in our world today. (Hover over link and follow instructions: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-l4\\_x6yGgk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-l4_x6yGgk))**



Bishop Fulton J Sheen was an outspoken man and believed that Satan and his evil cohorts rage against all mankind. They particularly hate us because Jesus died to save us and to give us eternal life as God's children. Although Bishop Sheen died in December 1979, his powerful defense of living a grace filled life is noteworthy. Here are a few of his famous remarks.

"The refusal to take sides on great moral issues is itself a decision. It is a silent acquiescence to evil. The tragedy of our time is that those who still believe in honesty lack fire and conviction, while those who believe in dishonesty are full of passionate conviction."

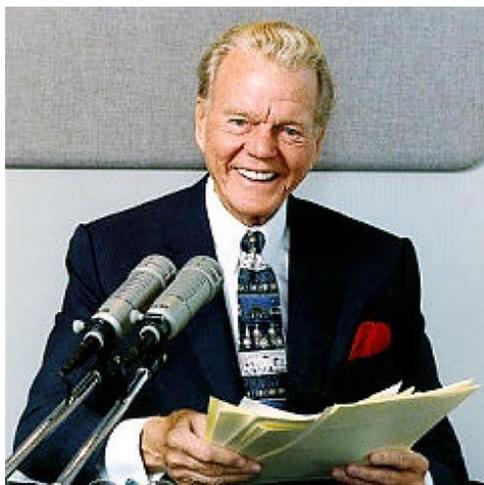
***"America, it is said, is suffering from intolerance - it is not. It is suffering from tolerance. Tolerance of right and wrong, truth and error, virtue and evil, Christ and chaos. Our country is not nearly so overrun with the bigoted as it is overrun with the broadminded."***



"The pacifist thinks that the alternative to war is peace; it is not. Sometimes the alternative is oppression. **Sometimes certain God-given rights and liberties can be preserved only by resistance to that which would destroy them. And to defend certain basic God-given rights and liberties is not immoral but righteous.**"

## PAUL HARVEY'S 'IF I WERE THE DEVIL' TRANSCRIPT

In 1965, Paul Harvey broadcasted "If I Were the Devil." It is really amazing to realize over 47 years ago how accurately he "prophesied" the future spiritual condition of the United States. Many of his statements were considered ridiculously outlandish at that time in history. Yet, we find ourselves today...



If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee.

So, I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

"To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

"And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

"If I were the devil, I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media

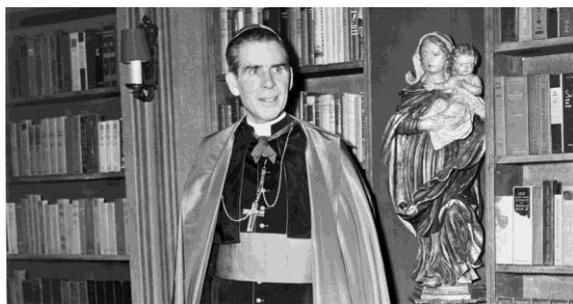
fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door. "Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil, I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

"If I were the devil, I'd take from those who have, and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil, I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing. Paul Harvey, good day."



Any country that accepts abortion, is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what it wants."

St. Mother Teresa



"Who is going to save our Church? Not our bishops, not our priests and religious. It is up to you, the people. You have the minds, the eyes, and the ears to save the Church. Your mission is to see that your priests act like priests, your bishops act like bishops, and your religious act like religious" – **Fulton J. Sheen**

# History of the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel



<sup>1</sup>Exactly thirty-three years prior to the great Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, i.e., on October 13, 1884, Pope Leo XIII had a remarkable vision. When the aged Pontiff had finished celebrating Mass in his private Vatican Chapel, attended by a few Cardinals and members of the Vatican staff, he suddenly stopped at the foot of the altar. He stood there as if in a trance, his face pale white, for about 10 minutes before retiring to his office. Shortly thereafter he composed the prayer to St. Michael, with instructions for it to be said after all Low Masses everywhere. When asked what had happened, he explained that, as he was about to leave the foot of the altar, he suddenly heard two voices – one kind and gentle, the other guttural and harsh. They seemed to come from near the tabernacle.

As he listened, he heard the guttural voice of Satan tell God that he could destroy the Church if he had 75 – 100 years and greater power and influence “over those who would give themselves over to my service.” God granted this to him, just as He did many millennia ago, granting Satan power over Job.

The original, complete Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel:

“O Glorious Archangel St. Michael, Prince of the heavenly host, be our defense in the terrible warfare which we carry on against principalities and Powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, spirits of evil. Come to the aid of man, whom God created immortal, made in his own image and likeness, and redeemed at a great price from the tyranny of the devil. Fight this day the battle of the Lord, together with the holy angels, as already thou hast fought the leader of the proud angels, Lucifer, and his apostate host, who were powerless to resist thee, nor was there place for them any longer in Heaven.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://stpaulcc.org/history-of-the-prayer-to-st-michael-the-archangel/>

That cruel, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil or Satan, who seduces the whole world, was cast into the abyss with his angels. Behold, this primeval enemy and slayer of men has taken courage. Transformed into an angel of light, he wanders about with all the multitude of wicked spirits, invading the earth in order to blot out the name of God and of his Christ, to seize upon, slay and cast into eternal perdition souls destined for the crown of eternal glory. This wicked dragon pours out, as a most impure flood, the venom of his malice on men of depraved mind and corrupt heart, the spirit of lying, of impiety, of blasphemy, and the pestilent breath of impurity, and of every vice and iniquity.

***(The following section in brackets was removed in 1934)***

[These most crafty enemies have filled and inebriated with gall and bitterness the Church, the spouse of the immaculate Lamb, and have laid impious hands on her most sacred possessions. In the Holy Place itself, where has been set up the See of the most holy Peter and the Chair of Truth for the light of the world, they have raised the throne of their abominable impiety, with the iniquitous design that when the Pastor has been struck, the sheep may be scattered.]

Arise then, O invincible Prince, bring help against the attacks of the lost spirits to the people of God, and give them the victory. They venerate thee as their protector and Patron; in thee holy Church glories as her defense against the malicious power of hell; to thee has God entrusted the souls of men to be established in heavenly beatitude. Oh, pray to the God of peace that He may put Satan under our feet, so far conquered that he may no longer be able to hold men in captivity and harm the Church. Offer our prayers in the sight of the Most High, so that they may quickly conciliate the mercies of the Lord; and beating down the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, do thou again make him captive in the abyss, that he may no longer seduce the nations. Amen. (Ps. 67)

Behold the Cross of the Lord; be scattered ye hostile powers. / The Lion of the tribe of Judah has conquered, the root of David.

Let thy mercies be upon us, O Lord. / As we have hoped in thee.

O Lord, hear my prayer. / And let my cry come unto thee.

Let us pray. O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we call upon thy holy name, and as suppliants we implore thy clemency, that by the intercession of Mary, ever Virgin immaculate and our Mother, and of the glorious Archangel St. Michael, thou wouldst deign to help us against Satan and all other unclean spirits, who wander about the world for the injury of the human race and the ruin of souls. Amen." ~ Pope Leo XIII



## The International Catholic Family Newsletter Is Published Monthly

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.

<https://www.catholicfamilynewsletter.com>

**I am watching over you. Pray my children,  
Pray, Pray, Pray My Rosary For The Salvation of Sinners**

