

# Reflections

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Catholic Family Newsletter*

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## **I Am Looking For Souls We All Fail Because We Are Human Christians in Bangladesh**

### **Blessing to All:**

**By: Richard Pickard**

There is one soul in the world that Jesus is looking for. Are you that soul? Why is this one soul so important to Jesus? Is this soul to be a leader to millions or the next Pope or the next?????



The answer is simple. **You** are the soul that Jesus is looking for. Each soul is an eternal gift by the Holy Spirit of God. **YOU ARE LOVED AND WANTED.**

A great price has been paid by Jesus on the Cross for **YOU!** Jesus would die for just one soul again, because His love is so great. **What is Jesus wanting of YOU?**

Each of us is needed in the salvation of **others.**

**Yes, you are needed by Jesus to help save OTHER souls!** You may not think you can do anything, but you are wrong.

Pius XII in his Encyclical "Mystici Corporis" (The Mystical Body of Christ) given in June 1943 had these words; "The salvation of many souls depends upon the prayers and voluntary mortifications offered for that intention by the members of the Mystical body of Christ." In accord with the consistent practice of the Church, Pius XII exhorts the faithful to mutual intercessory prayer. **Let our**

**common pleading rise daily to Heaven for all the members of the Mystical body of Jesus Christ."**

St. Paul also tells us that our suffering for others is important in Colossians 1:24, "Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. But I most gladly will spend and be spent myself for your souls."



**Parents take note of these words by Pius XII and St. Paul. Your prayers and sufferings for your children can bring salvation to them and for others. Never doubt that you are a part of the Body of Christ. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "the comparison of the Church with the body casts light on the intimate bond between Christ and his Church. ... The Council's decree on Ecumenism stated that "all who have been justified by faith in Baptism are members of Christ's body."**

**Many saints have also told us that our prayers and sufferings save souls. St. Bernadette Soubirous tells us; "O Jesus and Mary, let my entire consolation in this world be to love you and to suffer for sinners."**



**Bernadette realized that we are all connected to the suffering of Jesus on the Cross for the salvation of souls.** Each of us will encounter suffering in this life. But we can take this suffering and offer it for the salvation of souls like Bernadette did. You don't have to be a saint to offer your suffering for souls...*Jesus asks you to bring Him your sufferings and He will do the rest.*

Even after her death, Bernadette's **incorrupt body** still shows her in prayer with a rosary in her hands.

Bernadette was a girl from a poor family and can be a model for all of us. She became a member of Christ Mystical Body when she was baptized at St. Pierre's,

the local parish church, on January 9. As a toddler, Bernadette contracted cholera and suffered extreme asthma. Unfortunately, she lived the rest of her life in poor health. **Here is a brief account of how Bernadette and Our Lady changed the world for the salvation of millions of sinners.**

## Our Lady of Lourdes

On Thursday, February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood, when a very beautiful lady appeared to her above a rose bush in a grotto called Massabielle.



The woman wore blue and white and smiled at Bernadette before making the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell to her knees, took out her own rosary and began to pray. Bernadette later described the woman as "uo petito damizelo," meaning "a small young lady. Though her sister and friend claimed they were unable to see her, Bernadette knew what she saw was real.

Three days later, Bernadette, her sister Marie, and other girls returned to the grotto, where Bernadette immediately knelt. She fell into a trance and one girl threw holy water at the niche and another threw a rock that shattered on the ground. It was then that the

apparition disappeared.

On February 18, Bernadette said "the vision" asked her to return to the grotto each day for a fortnight. With each visit, Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary and the period of daily visions became known as the "holy fortnight."

On July 29, 1866, Bernadette took the religious habit of a postulant and joined the Sisters of Charity at their motherhouse at Nevers. Bernadette spent the rest of her life there working as an infirmarium assistant, and later a sacristan. People admired her humility and spirit of sacrifice. Once a nun asked her if she had temptations of pride because she was favored by the Blessed Mother. "How can I?" she answered quickly. "The Blessed Virgin chose me only because I was the most ignorant."

Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the bone in her right knee and was unable to take part in convent life. She died in the Sainte Croix (Holy Cross) Infirmary of the Convent of Saint-Gildard at the age of 35 on April 16, 1879, **while praying the holy rosary.**



This simple girl became the inspiration to millions around the world. Each of us may not be recognized by others in the salvation of souls... **But Jesus asks you to help him to save souls by living a holy life & offering your prayer and sufferings for their salvation.** When others see you doing this, they can be inspired to pray for others.

**Don't believe the evil one when you hear a whisper in your ear, that your prayers are worthless. That is a sure sign to you that your prayers for others, is immensely powerful.**

Bernadette Soubirous



If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces... never be afraid to pick one of those pieces up and begin again. That's the beauty of being alive... We can always start all over again. Enjoy God's amazing opportunities bestowed on us. Have faith in Him always.

AZ QUOTES

## We All Fail Because We Are Human

**By:** Ekaterina Walter

It seems that failure tends to be more public than success. Or at least that's what we perceive it to be. We fret it, we try to avoid it, and we question ourselves every time we have unconventional ideas. But the simple truth is – no great success was ever achieved without failure. It may be one epic failure. Or a series of failures – such as Edison's 10,000 attempts to create a light bulb or Dyson's 5,126 attempts

to invent a bagless vacuum cleaner. But whether we like it or not, failure is a necessary stepping-stone to achieving our dreams.

1. "Failure isn't fatal, but failure to change might be" - John Wooden
2. "Everything you want is on the other side of fear." - Jack Canfield
3. "Success is most often achieved by those who don't know that failure is inevitable." - Coco Chanel
4. "Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly." - Robert F. Kennedy
5. "The phoenix must burn to emerge." - Janet Fitch
6. "If you're not prepared to be wrong, you'll never come up with anything original." - Ken Robinson
7. "Giving up is the only sure way to fail." - Gena Showalter
8. "If you don't try at anything, you can't fail... it takes back bone to lead the life you want" - Richard Yates
9. "Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing." - Denis Waitley
10. "When you take risks you learn that there will be times when you succeed and there will be times when you fail, and both are equally important." - Ellen DeGeneres
11. "It's failure that gives you the proper perspective on success." - Ellen DeGeneres
12. "There is no failure except in no longer trying." - Chris Bradford
13. **"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." - Thomas A. Edison**



14. "Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill

15. "There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure." - Paulo Coelho

16. "Pain is temporary. Quitting lasts forever." - Lance Armstrong
17. "Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm." - Winston Churchill
18. "I'd rather be partly great than entirely useless." - Neal Shusterman
19. "We are all failures - at least the best of us are." - J.M. Barrie
20. "The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing." - Henry Ford
21. "Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement." - C.S. Lewis

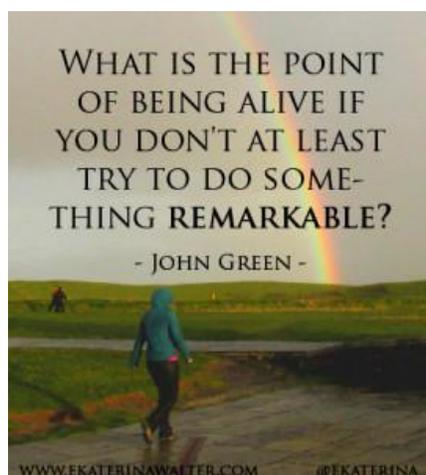


22. "Winners are not afraid of losing. But losers are. Failure is part of the process of success. People who avoid failure also avoid success." - Robert T. Kiyosaki

23. "Every adversity, every failure, every heartache carries with it the seed of an equal or greater benefit." - Napoleon Hill

24. "You build on failure. You use it as a stepping-stone. Close the door on the past. You don't try to forget the mistakes, but you don't dwell on it. You don't let it have any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space." - Johnny Cash

25. "It's not how far you fall, but how high you bounce that counts." - Zig Ziglar
26. "Failure is so important. We speak about success all the time. It is the ability to resist failure or use failure that often leads to greater success. I've met people who don't want to try for fear of failing." - J.K. Rowling



The more you fail and recover and improve, the better you are as a person. Ever meet someone who's always had everything work out for them with zero struggle? They usually have the depth of a puddle. Or they don't exist." - Chris Hardwick

28. "When we give ourselves permission to fail, we, at the same time, give ourselves permission to excel." - Eloise Ristad

29. "With a hint of good judgment, to fear nothing, not failure or suffering or even death, indicates that you value life the most. You live to the extreme; you push limits; you spend your time building legacies. Those do not die." - Criss Jami

30. "What is the point of being alive if you don't at least try to do something remarkable?" - John Green

## Christians in Bangladesh



Bangladesh is one of the poorest and densely populated countries in the world. It is located in South Asia and is bordered by India from three sides, Burma from the southeast corner and the Bay of Bengal from the south.



The suffering and poverty of this country is like no other on Earth. The population is approximately 163 million people. **Christians in Bangladesh** account for 0.3% (roughly 740,000 believers) of the nation's population. Together with Judaism and Buddhism (plus other minority religions such as Atheism, Sikhism, Baha'ism and

others), they account for 0.7% of the population. The average per capital income is \$1,500 or \$125 per month.

Christians in Bangladesh face the greatest pressure in their general community and private life. Bangladeshi society is growing increasingly Islamic, with the government doing more to appease concerns from Muslim extremists. Islamic extremists in the country pressure all groups of Christians. Evangelistic churches—many of them Pentecostal—that work among the Muslim majority

face the most persecution, but even historical churches like the Roman Catholic Church are increasingly faced with attacks and death threats.

Converts from a Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or an ethnic/tribal background suffer the most severe restrictions, discrimination and attacks in Bangladesh. They often gather in small house churches or secret groups due to fear of attack.



Tribal Christians, like those from the Santal people group, face an increasing double vulnerability (belonging to both an ethnic and religious minority) and struggle with land-grabbing issues and violence directed against them. Christians among the Muslim-majority Rohingya people, who fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar, face harassment and strong pressure

from their community, as well. In the reporting period, they were the target of a violent attack by extremist Muslim groups in the camps.



A Christian man names Badol said of his faith... "In my family, my father was the first believer, then my brothers became believers, and after that I accepted Jesus Christ. I was a little bit scared that the Muslim villagers would not want to do anything with me. And now, no one wants to talk, communicate and associate with us."

In many aspects of daily life, pressure has tightened for Bangladeshi Christians, and they experience discrimination and persecution. There have been violent attacks against Christians as recent as 2020. In the spring, there was a violent incident against the tiny Christian community among the Rohingya refugee community that fled Myanmar for Bangladesh. There has also been better reporting, particularly in rural areas, which show how much pressure in church life has increased. Finally, in many

anecdotal situations, Christians were left out of COVID-19 government relief, often facing starvation or severe health issues.

In Bangladesh, *Open Doors*, a Christian Outreach, works by equipping and training Christians and Christian leaders. There's a particular focus on training new leaders and Christians who have converted from Islam—***the latter are also particularly trained in how to prepare for persecution, since converts from Islam are often targeted.*** *Open Doors* also provides Bibles and other Christian literature, especially in rural areas where Bibles might be difficult to afford or access. *Open Doors* also helps train Christians in literacy and through socio-economic development, to better equip the church in Bangladesh to carry out the Great Commission. Finally, *Open Doors* responds to emergency needs—in 2020, this meant helping believers who were denied aid during the COVID-19 pandemic or who desperately needed urgent help after Cyclone Amphan.

**During the Month of February, please offer daily PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH. They are overlooked by the world. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ.**



## 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



*"God speaks in the depths of the person, without the noise of words."*

*St Bernadette*