



Reflections

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Catholic Family Newsletter

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Warning About the Rise of World Evil

Teaching Children Not To Hate

Who Were The Women At The Cross of Jesus?

Blessing to All:

By: Richard Pickard

This is a time of confusion within America and around the world. Great powers are at work, backed by those that follow the Prince of Darkness against those that follow the Prince of Peace.

Boys can think they are girls and enter into girls' bathrooms and vice versa. Gender is no longer about what sex organs you were born with... it is up to the child to decide. Parents, politicians, and the elite are abrogating the use of reason for false narratives.

Church leaders of all denominations stay silent and the flock is looking for true Christian leaders. Some televangelists tell their followers that God wants you to be rich. That is great, but the Cross of Christ should also be preached. All people will experience disappointments in life, and if you keep praying to get rich then you miss the point of the Gospel. And if it doesn't happen, then you might lose your hope in Christ and His promise to us.

Whenever you can, teach your children about real life challenges and that you don't always get what you pray for. Children will watch and learn from the parents, no matter where we live on this earth. If you shout and curse, your children will think it is okay. If you teach them to pray and to bless others, they will.

All peoples need to have hope for the future. And a future without God is a



hopeless future. We are all made by One God, yet we see in the world-wide terrorism, the killing of others in the name of God or to bring social order by eliminating innocent people. These are the followers of the Prince of Darkness. Jesus has told us in Mathew 7:15-20 about those groups who masquerade as saviors of the people. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous

wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them."

Within all countries of the world, we see the rise of organizations/groups that call for the destruction of individual liberty. They tell you that white/black people are evil; if you do not belong to a certain religion, you are to be hated; politicians steal money that belongs to the people; corruption in awarding public contracts; killing of babies in the womb and much, much more. They all have one common thread. They are all dupped by the Prince of Darkness to breed hate and division upon all people of the earth. And that human life can be snuffed out and its okay. We are all being targeted. Humans are being targeted, not only Christians. The Prince of Darkness wants to destroy the world and all humans on it. Evil is behind all of this.

We as Christians must understand that our strength is in God. Our prayers and the way we live our lives does make a difference. Continue your prayers for the salvation of your family, friends and even those who hate us. Don't give in to the lies being spread about the only hope for the world is through Social Justice. The only hope for the world is for us to follow Christ and to follow the golden rule. "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

Teach your children not to hate others because of race, wealth, religion, politics, origin of birth, gay/lesbian, age, or any other identifying mark. We are children of Almighty God. The spawns of Satan are leading the hate that encapsulates the world today. Don't be afraid and teach you kids not to be afraid... and to teach them to pray.

The good you teach your children will reward you and them in years to come. The evil and hate you teach your children will turn into bitterness, frustration, and the consequences of sin. Be a **Light** to those around you.

Going Against the Tide: Teaching Children Not To Hate

By: F. Diane Barth L.C.S.W.



F. Diane Barth, L.C.S.W., is a psychotherapist and psychoanalyst in private practice in New York City where she works with adults and adolescents, individuals, and families. She has a B.A. and an M.S.W. from Columbia University and graduated as a certified psychoanalyst from the Psychoanalytic Institute of the Postgraduate Center. She leads private study groups in New York and workshops for therapists around the country. Her articles have been published in the *Clinical Social Work Journal*, *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, and other professional journals, and as chapters in numerous books. Her most recent book is *I Know How You Feel: The Joy and Heartbreak of Friendship in Women's Lives* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt).

Here are her worthwhile comments: I have edited some for brevity without taking away the meaning.

Important lessons about hatred and prejudice

A client tells me that she does not know how to talk to her children about right and wrong anymore. "There's so much hatred. People are so sure that they are the only ones who are right, and even worse, that anyone who disagrees with them is a bad person. That's not what I want my children to grow up believing, but it's what they see and hear. ***Whatever happened to the idea of doing unto others what you would like them to do to you?***"

A young father tells me, "Who do I offer my children as role models? Our leaders are showing how selfishness and greed can get you where you want to go. That's not my belief system. But the worse they behave, it seems, the more popular they are. How do I explain that to my children?"

If we adults don't give them the tools, they will not connect with these people who don't look like them, don't sound like them, and don't think like them. This failure to connect with someone who is not like us, who is, in our minds, "other" than us, is often dealt with in fairy tales and science fiction, where the solutions can be graphic and cruel, and the lessons learned painful.

The problem is that when we hurt someone else, they want to hurt us back. And the vicious cycle of hatred is started.

In the book '*Uprooted*' author Naomi Novick beautifully and terribly colors in the passions, the love, and the fears that feed the terrible hatred of others because they look or sound different from oneself and one's community, or sometimes because they are wearing different clothing or simply live on the other side of an imaginary border.

And, I think, this is reality. Basically, good people lose sight of their own values or of the truth of others' humanity, because of bad things that go on in their lives.

Often, it is impossible to answer the question of "who started it?" The hurt caused by one leads them to hurt the other, which leads the other to hurt them.

Our rage tells us and the world around us, "I'm not weak, I'm strong!" But rage breeds revenge and revenge breeds further hurt.

When we teach our children to look at the *humanity* in another person's face, we are teaching them understanding, not hate, prejudice, and cruelty. [We are all God's children on this earth]

Let us teach our children to respect others. Not to divide or hate others because they are different from us.

If you are teaching your children how to 'hate', you need to take a close look at what you are doing to your children. You may not think you are doing this BUT.... If you use foul language to describe others; curse in front of your children about: your bosses; other family members; ex-spouses; current spouse; partner you are living with now; you are teaching them hate and revenge.

Who Were The Women Under The Cross of Jesus?

EWTN Author: Christopher Y Wong



"And there were standing by the cross of Jesus His mother and His mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene." John 19: 25

How should we understand "His mother's sister," literally, as in having the same parents, or in the same sense that Jesus's "brothers" are to be understood as close relatives?

The short answer is that Mary of Cleophas is probably the Blessed Virgin's sister-in-law. Mary of Cleophas may have had a previous husband named Alpheus, or this Alpheus may have been Cleophas. The Blessed Virgin Mary, of course, only had one husband (Joseph) and remained a virgin. ***The long answer follows.***

Jesus' Relatives

Reading the Bible, we find that Jesus had brethren named James, Joseph, Simon (Simeon) and Jude (Mt 13:55). We also know that His mother Mary had a "sister" called Mary. This other Mary in turn had a husband named Cleophas (Jn 19:25). I hope here to summarize and untangle this maze of relatives. I do not seek to prove the Blessed Virgin Mary's perpetual virginity here; there are many other sources for that purpose that I will list below.

First, let us see what the Gospels tell us. At the death of Jesus, we are told that Mary wife of Cleophas/Clophas (Jn 19:25) was present. She was described as the mother of James and Joseph (Mt 27:56) in one account, and mother of James the Less and Joses in another (Mk 15:40). On the other hand, James is described as the son of Alphaeus in the synoptic Gospels' listing of the Apostles (Mt 10:3, Mk 3:18, Lk 6:15). ***We can infer that Mary wife of Cleophas is unlikely to be a true sister of the Virgin Mary, since they bear the same name. However, they are related in some way.*** This parallels the semitic use of "brother" in relating James to Jesus.

An ancient historian named Hegesippus can shed further light. A native of Palestine, Hegesippus finished his Memoirs in the reign of Pope Eleutherius (AD 175-189) when he was an old man. He draws his information from personal sources, as he was able to question some surviving members of Jesus' family. Hegesippus can tell us that: "After the martyrdom of James, it was unanimously decided that Simeon, son of Clopas, was worthy to occupy the see of Jerusalem. **He was, it is said, a cousin of the Saviour;**" **Hegesippus recounts in fact that Clopas was a brother of Joseph (Eusebius, Hist. eccl., III, 11).**

St. Epiphanius (Haer., LXXVII, 7) says the same and adds (ibid., 14) "**that this Simeon, the son of Clopas, was a cousin of James the Just,**" as Hegesippus says in another passage. (Prat, Jesus Christ, p. 505).

Cleophas is the brother of Joseph (Jesus' adopted father). It follows that Cleophas' wife Mary is the Virgin Mary's sister-in-law, which explains why they can have the same name and are called sisters. **It also follows that James is Jesus' cousin.**

Ferdinand Prat reasons: "We know, then that the mother of two of the brothers of the Lord was Mary of Cleophas, the sister of the Blessed Virgin. We also know that Cleophas, St Joseph's brother, was the father of a third, called Simon or Simeon. Since the remaining one, Jude, is always connected with Simon and is, like him, part of the family of David, it is natural to suppose that he was also a son of Cleophas.

All the points that remain obscure would be cleared up, in our opinion, if two hypotheses are risked. Mary, the sister of the Blessed Virgin, having two sons, James and Joseph, by a first marriage, was married a second time to Cleophas, brother of St. Joseph, who also had two sons, Simon and Jude, by a former marriage. In light of the customs of the country and the age, there was nothing extraordinary in the marriage of a widow and a widower, each with children. The second hypothesis is that the sister of the Blessed Virgin had as her first husband a man of the tribe of Levi, called Alpheus.

In this fashion nine or ten problems would be solved. Thus one could explain why James, Joseph, Simon and Jude are always named in that order, as brethren of the Lord; why James and Joseph are a pair distinct from Simon and Jude; why Mary, sister of the Blessed Virgin, is called the mother of James and Joseph and not the mother of Simon and Jude; why, according to Hegesippus, Simon and not James is

the son of Cleophas; why, again according to Hegesippus, Simon and Jude are of the family of David; why, according to tradition, James was of sacerdotal ancestry; why the common opinion of Catholics identifies James, son of Mary, sister of the Blessed Virgin, with James the Apostle, the son of Alpheus; why Mary of Cleophas is called in the Gospel sister of the Blessed Virgin, when she was really her sister-in-law, being the wife of St. Joseph's brother; finally, why, after the deaths of Joseph and Cleophas, the two sisters brought their families together, so that thereafter the two families seemed to be but one." (Prat, Jesus Christ, p. 136-137).

We do not hear of Cleophas or Joseph (Jesus' adopted father) in the Gospels during Jesus' adult life. We can imagine that after their deaths, the two families—deprived of their protectors and heads—came together under one roof. This would further strengthen their ties: the two Marys as "sisters" and Jesus and His cousins as "brothers". Gospel and tradition kept these names without denying Mary's perpetual virginity. Amen.



**The International Catholic Family Newsletter
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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.

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



"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23