

# Reflections

Volume 43

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*Catholic Family Newsletter*

March 2019

**We Are In A Spiritual War**

**You Can Be the Voice of the Living God  
By Forgiving Others**

**St Helen and the True Cross**

**What is Life Worth**

## *Blessings to All:*

There comes a time in our lives, that we must stand up against the evil that is present in the world by using the power of prayer and our voices. Some people believe they cannot do anything about what is happening to America or in the world. They feel helpless and just shrug their shoulders. They have lost faith in the power of prayer and their own voices! How sad. My newsletter this month is very different in that it exposes the hate that is boiling in the world and our need more than ever of prayer. And brings into focus areas, people, groups, that are forcing ideas upon us which are harmful.

Do you believe in the power of prayer? It's a hard question, but you need to answer it. Do you think it works, or just something that people say? I have written past articles of the evil in the world but at present *I see an intense dark ominous cloud of evil over the world. Our Church has not escaped.* The evil has penetrated into the very fabric of the Church. And in every area of societies around the world. The evil is seen by the killing of infants; killing of Christians; Drug addiction; Human traffic for forced prostitution; Child abuse and child sexual abuse and the rush to judgement coming from our elected officials, condemning others without due process. All of these things are just the tip of the iceberg of the evil that is upon us.

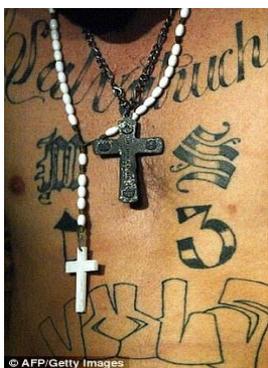
Then there is the agenda of the News Media driving false narratives telling us what they want us to believe, when in reality, it is the opposite of truth. Or the many voices coming from Hollywood personalities, proclaiming that they know what's good for Americans.



Or the hateful rhetoric from various leaders like Louis Farrakhan, who state that “Jews are my enemy and white folk are going down”. To our elected officials in Washington that divided our country with hateful words.

It is not only in America, but the entire world is under attack by the forces aligned with Satan. *These are symptoms of the times we live in.*

Who could have imagined that our American laws would allow babies in the womb to be murdered? Or those born alive after a botched abortion attempt would be untreated and left to die? Or that Jews and Christians should be killed because another religion says so?



The evil one is forming gangs of thugs all over the world to kill and rape the children of God. Here in America, the MS-13 gang members proudly show off their gang tattoos alongside of the rosary. This is an example of the devil’s pride that resides in the souls of these gang members. The contract with the devil is for all eternity unless they repent.

MS-13 is believed to have a presence in 46 states according to an independent study done by the University of Pennsylvania. The gang is thought to be behind a string of annual murders and violent crimes although the exact figures are not known. MS-13’s motto is ‘kill, steal, rape, control.’ This is just one gang...and there are many more killing, raping and terrorizing our people all over the world.

The fight against gangs in America falls upon the shoulders of President Donald Trump and the Border Patrol Agents, Homeland Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies. Please pray for them. Elsewhere in the world the fight against gangs who terrorize citizens goes on day after day.



In North America, the El Salvadorian criminal enterprise MS-13 is a gang of pure evil. Recently we saw two of its members sport sickening smiles in court for the 'satanic' kidnap and murder of two female teens in Houston, Texas. The size of the gang is estimated to have between 10,000 and 20,000 members nationwide.

Thirteen alleged members, ten of whom are illegal immigrants, were arrested in connection with seven slayings in Long Island, New York, over the last year. The latest murders and rapes of young females have begun to push into the public eye the decades of evil perpetuated by this gang. Then the terror of those living among it which sees female members inducted by being gang raped. What a horrible thing to do to a young woman, to be repeatedly gang raped to become a part of the gang.

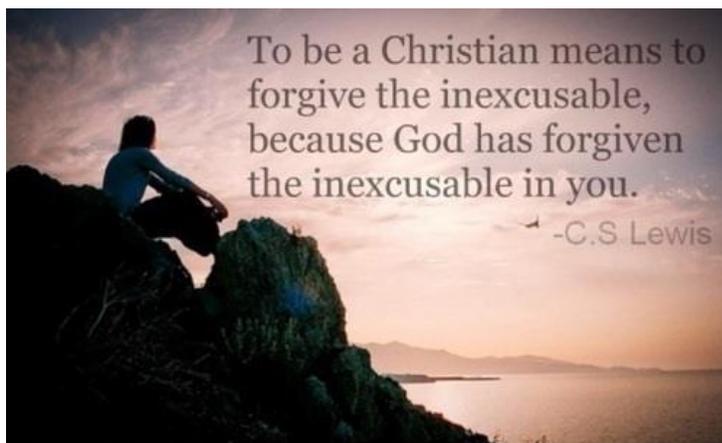
The world is in a war against the forces of evil that proudly comes out of hiding to show the arrogance and pride originating in the evil deeds of those under the devils' command. The devil is proud and now is out of hiding. **Do you recognize "The Signs of the Times"?** We need to pray my brothers and sisters. The evil can only be fought by our prayers and the Grace of God. Call down God's mighty Archangel Michael and pray the St. Michaels prayer each day. We are in a war...a spiritual war. Please say this pray each day.



**Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen**

## Be A Light In This World Living In Darkness Do Not Harbor the Poison of Unforgiveness

By: Joyce Meyer



Many people ruin their health and their lives by taking the poison of bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness. Matthew 18:23-35 tells us that if we do not forgive people, we get turned over to the torturers. If you have a problem in this area or have ever had one, I'm sure you bear witness with what I'm saying. It's torture to have hateful thoughts toward another person

rolling around inside your head.

## Helping Yourself and Others

Who are you helping most when you forgive the person who hurt you? Actually, you're helping yourself more than the other person. I always saw forgiving people who hurt me as being really hard. It seemed so unfair for them to receive forgiveness when I had gotten hurt. I got pain, and they got freedom without having to pay for the pain they caused.

Now I realize that I'm helping myself when I choose to forgive. I'm happier and feel better physically when I'm not filled with the poison of unforgiveness.

I'm also helping the other person by releasing them so God can do what only He can do. If I'm in the way—trying to take revenge or take control of the situation myself—God has no obligation to deal with that person. However, if we trust God and choose to forgive, He will take care of the rest. See, the act of forgiving is our seed of obedience to His Word. Once we've sown our seed, He is faithful to bring a harvest of blessing to us one way or another.



**Mark 11:22-26** clearly teaches us that unforgiveness hinders our faith from working. The Father can't forgive our sins if we don't forgive other people. We reap what we sow. Sow mercy, and you'll reap mercy; sow judgment, and you'll reap judgment. So, do yourself a favor—and forgive.

## Forgiveness and Fellowship with God

There are still more benefits of forgiveness. Your fellowship with God flows freely when you're willing to forgive, but it gets blocked by unforgiveness. Forgiveness also keeps Satan from getting an advantage over us. **Ephesians 4:26-27** tells us not to let the sun go down on our anger or give the devil any such foothold or opportunity. Remember that the devil must have a foothold before he can get a stronghold. Do not help Satan torture you. Be quick to forgive.

## How to Forgive

Would you like to become more successful at forgiving others? There are practical steps that must be taken. One time I asked the Lord why so many people want to forgive but aren't successful doing it. And He said, "Because they aren't obeying what I tell them to do in My Word." As I searched the Word, I found the following instructions:



**1. Decide** – You will never forgive if you wait until you feel like it. Choose to obey God and steadfastly

resist the devil in his attempts to poison you with bitter thoughts. Make a quality decision to forgive, and God will heal your wounded emotions in due time (see Matthew 6:12-14).

**2. Depend** – You cannot forgive without the power of the Holy Spirit. It's too hard to do on your own. If you are truly willing, God will enable you, but you must humble yourself and cry out to Him for help. In John 20:22-23 Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." His next instruction was about forgiving people. Ask God to breathe the Holy Spirit on you so you can forgive those who've hurt you.

**3. Obey** – The Word tells us several things we're to do concerning forgiving our enemies:

a. Pray for your enemies and those who abuse and misuse you. Pray for their happiness and welfare (see Luke 6:27-28). As you pray, God can give them revelation that will bring them out of deception. They may not even be aware they hurt you, or maybe they're aware but are so self-centered that they don't care. Either way, they need revelation.

b. ...**Bless and do not curse them** (Romans 12:14). In the Greek to bless means "to speak well of" and to curse means "to speak evil of." You can't walk in forgiveness and be a gossip. You must stop repeating the offense. You can't get over it if you continue to talk about it. Proverbs 17:9 **says that he who covers an offense seeks love.**

### Who Should You Forgive?

Forgive the person who badly hurt you long ago and also the stranger who stepped on your toe in the grocery store. Take those two extremes and forgive them in addition to everyone in between. Forgive quickly. The quicker you do it, the easier it is. Forgive freely. Matthew 10:8 says, ...**Freely you have received, freely give. To Forgive means "to excuse a fault, absolve from payment, pardon, send away, cancel, and bestow favor unconditionally."**



Forgive God if you are angry with Him because your life didn't turn out the way you thought it should. God is always just. There may be things you don't understand, but God loves you, and people make a serious mistake when they don't receive help from the only One who can truly help them.

You may even need to forgive a situation or an object—the post office, bank, a certain store that may have cheated you,

a car that always gave you trouble, etc. Get rid of all poison that comes from bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness. And remember Proverbs 4:23: **Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance...for out of it flow the springs of life.**

Unforgiveness is spiritual filthiness, so get washed in the water of God's Word to forgive and stay clean. Jesus is the Word of God.



## *St. Helena and the True Cross*

By: FR. WILLIAM SAUNDERS

St. Helena is often depicted holding a cross because tradition maintains she found the true cross in Jerusalem. Before delving into this matter further, some background information is necessary.

Because of Jewish insurrections, the Roman Emperor Hadrian (reign A.D. 117-38) abolished the name of Judea and renamed the area "Syria Palaestina."

He also made Jerusalem a new capital, named "Aelia Capitolina," and forbade Jews from entering the immediate area. While Jerusalem remained mostly in ruins because of the revolt in A.D. 70 (when the Temple itself was razed), Hadrian demolished the rest. While regarding Judaism as insurrectionary, Hadrian regarded Christianity the same way. To eradicate the influence of Christianity, Hadrian **leveled the top of Mount Calvary and erected a temple to the pagan goddess Venus. He also cut away and leveled the hillside where Jesus**

**tomb stood and built a temple to the pagan god Jupiter Capitolinus. Ironically, this destruction actually preserved the sacred sites.**

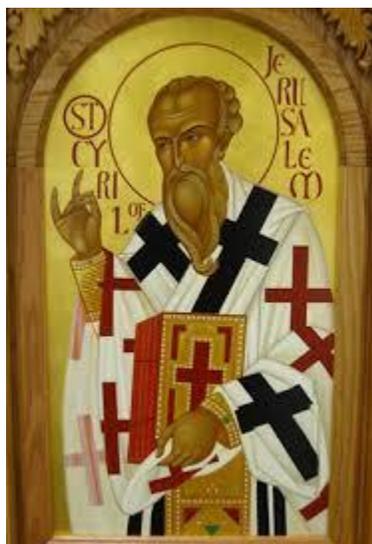
The Emperor Constantine seized power in the year 312, and in the following year, legalized Christianity with the Edict of Milan. About this time, Constantine's mother, St. Helena, converted to Christianity. (She died in the year 330 at about the age of 80.) According to the early great Church historian Eusebius, she was about 63 at the time of her conversion. With the authority of her son, St. Helena went to Palestine in search of the sacred sites about the year 324. In the following years, St. Helena would build churches marking the place of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and the site of the Ascension.

True Christian zeal motivated St. Helena. <sup>1</sup>Eusebius described her as follows: "Especially abundant were the gifts she bestowed on the naked and unprotected poor. To some she gave money, to others an ample supply of clothing; she liberated some from imprisonment, or from the bitter servitude of the mines; others she delivered from unjust oppression, and others again, she restored from exile. While, however, her character derived luster from such deeds ... , she was far from neglecting personal piety toward God. She might be seen continually frequenting His Church, while at the same time she adorned the houses of prayer with splendid offerings, not overlooking the churches of the smallest cities. In short, this admirable woman was to be seen, in simple and modest attire, mingling with the crowd of worshipers, and testifying her devotion to God by a uniform course of pious conduct" (*The Life of Constantine*, XLIV, XLV).



About the year 326, the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus was demolished, and the workers began to excavate the area. They discovered the remains of the tomb that was reported to be that of our Lord Jesus. They built a new shrine over the tomb, which has been modified over the centuries,

<sup>1</sup> Eusebius of Caesarea, also known as Eusebius Pamphili from the, was a historian of Christianity, exegete, and Christian polemicist. He became the bishop of Caesarea Maritima about 314 AD. Together with Pamphilus, he was a scholar of the Biblical canon and is regarded as an extremely learned Christian of his time



but today stands in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

The temple of Venus was also demolished, thereby exposing the site where Christ was crucified. The Emperor Constantine himself wrote to St. Macarius, Bishop of Jerusalem, ordering him to make a search for the cross on Mount Calvary. A learned Jew named Judas seemed to have some knowledge of the whereabouts of the site... three crosses were found in a rock-cistern as well as the *titulus* (the wood plaque inscribed with *Jesus Nazaranus Rex Iudaeorum*). (Within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher

is the Chapel, of the Finding of the True Cross, marking the cistern.) The question then arose, "Which was the cross of Christ?"

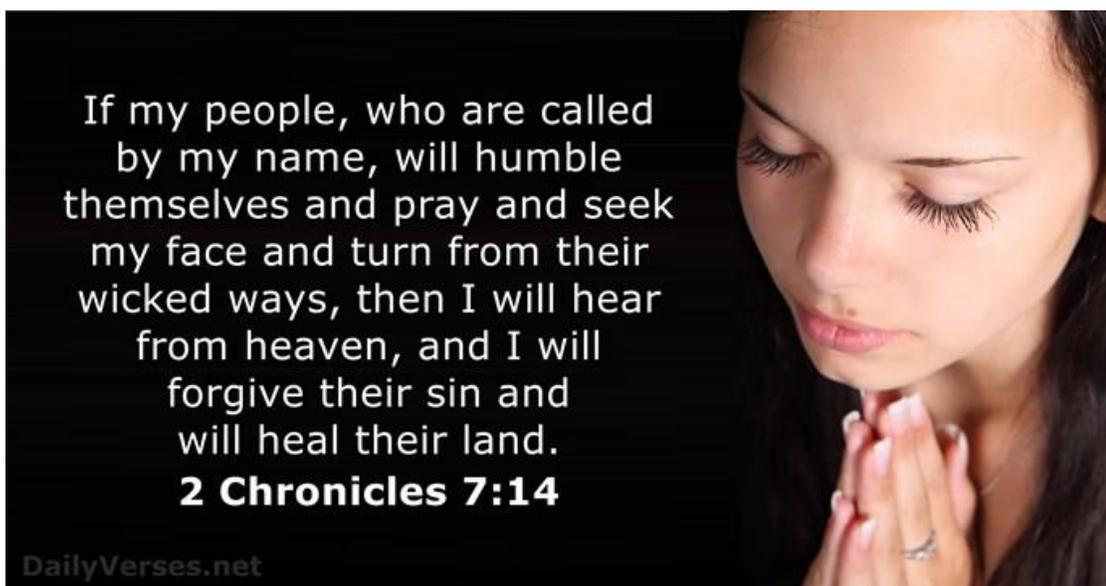
While the details provided by St. John Chrysostom, St. Ambrose, Rufinus, and Socrates (not the philosopher) are lacking and sometimes contradictory, the essence of the story follows: The three crosses and the *titulus* were removed from the cistern. A woman, dying from a terminal disease, was brought to the spot. She touched the crosses, one by one. After she touched the third cross, she was cured, thereby identifying the true cross. Other sources also relate the later finding of other instruments of the Passion. Most importantly, St. Ambrose preached that when St. Helena found the true cross, "she worshiped not the wood, but the King, Him who hung on the wood. She burned with an earnest desire of touching the guarantee of immortality."

St. Cyril of Jerusalem provides some corroboration. In his letter to the Emperor Constantius (Constantine's son and successor), St. Cyril stated, "The saving wood of the cross was found at Jerusalem in the time of Constantine." In his fourth *Catechetical Lecture*, he wrote, "He was truly crucified for our sins. For if you would deny it, the place refutes you visibly, this blessed Golgotha, in which we are now assembled for the sake of Him who was here crucified; and the whole world has since been filled with pieces of the wood of the Cross."

Another point: A reader in Canada asked, "Why is there a skull and two crossed bones placed at the foot of the cross in paintings of the crucifixion?" Many of the older depictions of the crucifixion do show a skull with two crossed bones at the foot of the cross.

The tradition is that Adam was buried at Calvary. When our Lord died, His Precious Blood dripped down onto His skull. Again, in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, one finds the Chapel of Adam underneath the Chapel of Golgotha.

The Feast of the Triumph of the Cross was Sept. 14. Let us remember the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world."



## What is Life Worth

### In America 2,465 babies a day are killed in abortion<sup>2</sup>

What do you tell your children if your one of the 44 Democratic who effectively killed the Ben Sasse-sponsored "Born Alive" bill by keeping it from a floor vote. This bill in essence said " The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would have required that 'any health care practitioner present' at the time of a birth 'exercise the same degree of professional skill, care, and diligence to preserve the life and health of the child as a reasonably diligent and conscientious health care practitioner would render to any other child born alive at the same gestational age.' "

Think about this for a minute. Are they telling their children that a baby born alive should not be treated to save them? Are they saying these children which are citizens of the United States, born alive, are worthless?

If foreigners come to the US and have a baby on the soil of America, these children are protected as citizens and will be given all the health care needed to save the life of the baby, whether the parents can afford the care or not. **But for a child who is alive after a botched abortion attempt is not to be given such medical help!**

Normally I avoid discussions about political parties in my newsletters. However, when we see the work of the devil, which is adverse to the children of God, and US Senators refuse to have a vote on babies born alive, should not be treated to help them... then we as Christians must stand up for what is right.

Only three Democrats supported the measure including Joe Manchin (WV), Bob Casey (PA) and Doug Jones (AL). Here is a listing of the senators who voted on this Bill.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lifenews.com/2018/11/30/approximately-900000-babies-killed-in-abortions-every-year-2465-babies-die-every-day/>

Tammy Baldwin	D-WI)	Maria Cantwell	D-WA)
Michael Bennet	D-CO)	Ben Cardin	D-MD)
Richard Blumenthal	D-CT)	Tom Carper	D-DE)
<b>Cory Booker</b>	D-NJ)	Chris Coons	D-DE)
Sherrod Brown	D-OH)	Catherine Cortez-Masto	D-NV)
Tammy Duckworth	D-IL)	Gary Peters	D-MI)
Dick Durbin	D-IL)	Jack Reed	D-RI)
Dianne Feinstein	D-CA)	Jacky Rosen	D-NV)
Kirsten Gillibrand	D-NY)	<b>Bernie Sanders</b>	I-VT)
<b>Kamala Harris</b>	D-CA)	Brian Schatz	D-HI)
Maggie Hassan	D-NH)	Chuck Schumer	D-NY)
Martin Heinrich	D-NM)	Jeanne Shaheen	D-NH)
Mazie Hirono	D-HI)	Kyrsten Sinema	D-AZ)
Tim Kaine	D-VA)	Tina Smith	D-MN)
Angus King	I-ME)	Debbie Stabenow	D-MI)
Amy Klobuchar	D-MN)	Jon Tester	D-MT)
Patrick Leahy	D-VT)	Tom Udall	D-NM)
Ed Markey	D-MA)	Chris Van Hollen	D-MD)
Bob Menendez	D-NJ)	Mark Warner	D-VA)
Jeff Merkley	D-OR)	<b>Elizabeth Warren</b>	D-MA)
Chris Murphy	D-CT)	Sheldon Whitehouse	D-RI)
Patty Murray	D-WA)	Ron Wyden	D-OR)

**All Democratic 2020 presidential candidates in the Senate opposed the measure, including Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Kamala Harris of California, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.**

<sup>3</sup>Democratic senators denounced the bill, calling it a “political stunt” by the Republicans. New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D) said, “**This bill is just another line of attack in the ongoing war on women’s health.**”

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.redstate.com/elizabeth-vaughn/2019/02/26/born-alive-abortion-survivors-protection-act-fails-senate/>



**Is this a photo of a baby left to die or is it a photo of 'protecting women's health'?**

A child that is born alive in the US is a citizen protected by the US Laws and Constitution. So why would the Washington Democrats say this "is about a woman's right to chose life or not....and it is about her health?"

The child is born alive after a botched abortion attempt is a living being. The devil has made a child born alive a thing to be killed. Very sad.



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

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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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