

Reflections

International

Catholic Family Newsletter

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Volume 87

Bringing Light Into a World of Darkness

Prepare For What is Coming Padre Pio on the Blessed Mother I've Learned The New Saint From India

Thought for Today. Help people even when you know they can't help you back.

Prayer for Today: “[Jesus said to St. Faustina:] I desire that you know more profoundly the love that burns in My Heart for souls, and you will understand this when you meditate upon My Passion. Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give him the grace of conversion. This is the prayer: **“O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You.”** (Diary, 186–187)

Blessing to All:

By: Richard Pickard

There is a reckoning ahead for the people of the world. The Bible is clear on a future day of judgement. We also know from Our Blessed Mothers apparitions in Medjugorje, that chastisements from God are coming which cannot be avoided. She is preparing us for what is coming. Many lives will change on earth, since she has told the visionaries, *“the chastisements will be for all the earth. We have to reconcile with God while there is time.”*

Now is the time to get things right with God. He is given us this time of grace. Don't waste it. Get your life in order. Seek forgiveness for yourself and forgive others that have hurt you.

It's not easy for us to seek forgiveness for our sins or to forgive others. The devil will put obstacles in your path. Pray for courage and trust in Jesus to give you the grace needed. In March 2000, Pope John Paul II made a passionate plea for us to seek forgiveness and to forgive others.



“Certainly, forgiveness does not come spontaneously or naturally to people,” he wrote. “Forgiving from the Heart can sometimes be heroic. Thanks to the healing power of love, even the most wounded heart can experience the liberating encounter with forgiveness. Real peace is not just a matter of structures and mechanisms. It rests above all on the adoption of

a style of human coexistence marked by mutual acceptance and a capacity to forgive from the heart. We all need to be forgiven by others, so we must all be ready to forgive. Asking and granting forgiveness is something profoundly worthy of every one of us.”

If you have a deep hurt inside of you, that someone caused or you caused it upon yourself, please give this hurt to Jesus...today. Don't wait until you **feel like forgiving someone or forgiving yourself**. Unforgiveness causes the destruction of the body, mind and spirit. It is a weight that you need to be released from. Jesus is waiting. Ask Him. Beg Him. Cry to Him. But tell Him that you want His help in forgiving yourself or someone so that you can have peace within you. If you need to tell someone you are sorry for what happened yesterday or many years ago...Jesus will help you get the courage to do that. Don't wait any longer. You will feel the peace that you have been missing in your life.

Forgive Others & You will be Forgiven



Pray for your family members. Forgive each other while there is time.

Medjugorje: “I am preparing you for what is coming”



Those who follow these special apparitions understand this. They know because of what has already been revealed about the secrets that this time of grace will be followed by times of tribulation.

Visionary Miryana, rather ominously, has said: “Our Lady’s messages here, prepare us for what is to come. She says “Be prepared, it is necessary to shake the world a little. Events will cause the world to stop and think. Our Lady is calling us to conversion now which means complete surrender to God. If we do that, we are not afraid, not even of death.” The visionaries themselves have spoken about this time of grace and the coming time when the earth will shake.

In a Message on June 25, 2019, the Holy Mother said to visionary Marija:

“Dear children! I am thanking God for each of you for responding to my call. In a special way, I am preparing you for the new times that you may be firm in faith and persevering in prayer, so that the Holy Spirit may work through you and renew the face of the earth. I am praying with you for peace which is the most precious gift, even though Satan wants war and hatred. You, little children, be my extended hands and proudly go with God. Thank you for having responded to my call.” Then seer Ivanka stressed: **“Nothing should frighten us except disobeying God’s Will.”**

Visionary Vicka agreed saying: “People should not be afraid if they are prepared. If we are afraid of these kinds of things, we don’t have confidence in God. Fear of this kind does not come from God. It can only come from Satan who wants to disturb us, so that we close ourselves to God and are not able to pray. With God, you can only have confidence – and

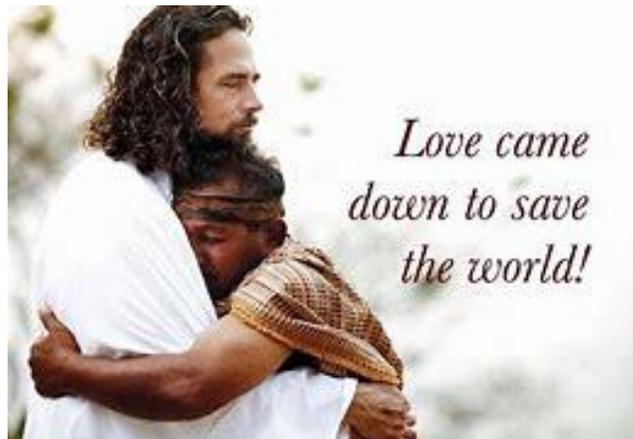
strength to go through any troubles. The best preparation is to pray every day, go to Mass, and to read the Bible. With prayer and penance the chastisements can be lessened. I can only say: prepare. For all eternity, you will thank God if you do.”

All of this was confirmed by top Vatican Mariologist Rene Laurentin. Citing testimonies of the visionaries, he wrote to Pope John Paul II saying:

“According to the visionaries, The ninth and tenth secrets are grave matters. They are a chastisement for the sins of the world. The punishment is inevitable because we cannot expect the conversion of the entire world. The chastisement can be mitigated by prayers and penance. It cannot be suppressed. After the first warning, the others will follow within a rather brief period of time. So it is that people will have time for conversion. This time is a period of grace and conversion. After the visible sign, those who are still alive will have little time for conversion. For that reason, the Blessed Virgin calls for urgent conversion and reconciliation. The invitation to prayer and penance is destined to ward off evil and war and above all to save souls. We are close to the events predicted by the Blessed Virgin. Convert yourselves as quickly as possible. Open your hearts to God. This is a message to all mankind.”

All the visionaries emphasize with great passion to not worry about the secrets. They implore us to listen to Our Lady’s messages and to concern ourselves with our conversion.

Visionary Marija, has these important words to say about what Our Lady truly wants from us. “This is a time of great grace and mercy. Now is the time to listen to these messages and to change our lives. Those who do will never be able to thank God enough.”



10 Quotes from Padre Pio on The Blessed Mother



Like many of the saints before him, Padre Pio had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother, particularly through the Holy Rosary. Padre Pio knew the importance Our Lady plays in the life of every Christian and knew the importance the Rosary plays in the hands of us Christians. For him, the Rosary is the weapon against Satan.

For us who face many trials these days in our world, St. Pio of Pietrelcina is one of the saints we must turn to for prayers and guidance. He faced his trials and sufferings head on through prayer, the Holy Eucharist, and the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Always remember these words from him – “Pray, Hope, and Don’t Worry.”

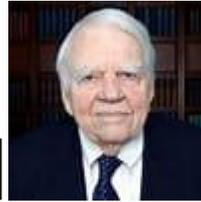
1. “Let us bind ourselves tightly to the Sorrowful Heart of our Heavenly Mother and reflect on its boundless grief and how precious is our soul.”
2. “May the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, always smile on your spirit, obtaining for it, from her Most Holy Son, every heavenly blessing.”
3. “Go and keep company with Jesus in His Passion, and with His Sorrowful Mother.”
4. “...It is enough for you to know that Mary is the Mother of Jesus...She loves us so much she offered to God the Father His only natural Son to save His adopted sons...She is a great and inestimable treasure who encloses in herself an infinite treasure, the Son of God.”
5. “...If we do what we have always done, what our fathers did before us, we cannot go wrong. Satan wants to destroy this prayer, but in this he will never succeed. The Rosary is the prayer of those who triumph over everything and everyone. It was Our Lady who taught us this prayer, just as it was Jesus who taught us the Our Father.”
6. “Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life^{SEP} without the help of the Blessed Mother.”

7. [When asked if the Blessed Virgin is present during the Holy Mass], "Yes, she places herself at a side, but I can see her, what a joy. She is always present. How can it be that the Mother of Jesus, present in Calvary at the foot of the Cross, who offered her Son as a victim for the salvation of our souls, not be present in the mystical Calvary of the altar?"

8. "Let us endeavor, like so many elect souls, to follow this blessed Mother, to walk always close to Her, not following any other path that leads to life, except the one trod by our Mother."

9. "Always stay close to this Heavenly Mother, because she is the sea to be crossed to reach the shores of Eternal Splendor."

10. "Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother."



I've Learned

By: Andy Rooney, 60 Minutes TV Program

I've learned -
that you cannot make someone love you.
All you can do is
be someone who can be loved.
The rest is up to them.

I've learned -
that no matter how much I care,
some people just don't care back.

I've learned -
that it takes years to build up trust,
and only seconds to destroy it.

I've learned -
that it's not what you have in your life

I've learned -
that you can get by on charm
for about fifteen minutes.
After that, you'd better know something.

I've learned -
that you shouldn't compare
yourself to the best others can do
but to the best you can do.

I've learned -
that it's not what happens to people
that's important. It's what they do about it.

I've learned -
that no matter how thin you slice it,
there are always two sides.

I've learned -
that it's taking me a long time
to become the person I want to be

I've learned -
that it's a lot easier
to react than it is to think.

I've learned -
that you should always leave
loved ones with loving words.
It may be the last time you see them.

I've learned -
that you can keep going
long after you think you can't.

I've learned -
that we are responsible for what we do,
no matter how we feel.

I've learned -
that either you control your attitude
or it controls you.

I've learned -
that heroes are the people
who do what has to be done
when it needs to be done,
regardless of the consequences.

I've learned -
that learning to forgive takes practice.

I've learned -
that there are people who love you dearly,
but just don't know how to show it.

I've learned -
that money is a lousy way of keeping score.

I've learned -
that my best friend and I can do anything
or nothing and have the best time.

I've learned -
that sometimes the people you expect
to kick you when you're down
will be the ones to help you get back up.

I've learned -
that true friendship continues to grow,
even over the longest distance.
Same goes for true love.

I've learned -
that just because someone doesn't love you
the way you want them to doesn't mean
they don't love you with all they have.

I've learned -
that maturity has more to do with
what types of experiences you've had
and what you've learned from them
and less to do with how many
birthdays you've celebrated.

I've learned -
that you should never tell a child
their dreams are unlikely or outlandish.
Few things are more humiliating, and
what a tragedy it would be
if they believed it.

I've learned -
that your family won't always
be there for you. It may seem funny,
but people you aren't related to
can take care of you and love you
and teach you to trust people again.
Families aren't only biological.

I've learned -
that no matter how good a friend is,
they're going to hurt you
every once in a while
and you must forgive them for that.

I've learned -
that it isn't always enough
to be forgiven by others.
Sometimes you have to learn
to forgive yourself.

I've learned -
that no matter how bad
your heart is broken
the world doesn't stop for your grief.

I've learned -
that our background and circumstances

may have influenced who we are,
but we are responsible for who we become.

I've learned -
that just because two people argue,
it doesn't mean they don't love each other
And just because they don't argue,
it doesn't mean they do.

I've learned -
that sometimes you have to put
the individual ahead of their actions.

I've learned -
that we don't have to change friends
if we understand that friends change.

I've learned -
that two people can look
at the exact same thing
and see something totally different.

I've learned -
that there are many ways of falling
and staying in love.

I've learned -
that no matter the consequences,
those who are honest with themselves
get farther in life.

I've learned -
that your life can be changed
in a matter of hours
by people who don't even know you.

I've learned -
that even when you think
you have no more to give,
when a friend cries out to you,
you will find the strength to help.

I've learned -
that writing, as well as talking,
can ease emotional pains.

I've learned -
that the paradigm we live in
is not all that is offered to us.

I've learned -
that credentials on the wall
do not make you a decent human being.

I've learned -
that the people you care most about in life
are taken from you too soon.

I've learned -
that although the word "love"
can have many different meanings,
it loses value when overly used.

I've learned -
that it's hard to determine
where to draw the line
between being nice and
not hurting people's feelings
and standing up for what you believe.

I've learned -
Children are our future
And we should cherish them
From conception to old age



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Bringing Light Into A World In Darkness



Tell others about this monthly Newsletter. Let the Light shine in the darkness to guide people to Jesus. Our Blessed Mother needs your prayers to help save souls.

Our Newsletter has many articles to choose from. Help others find a reason to believe and hope. Our Newsletter has Safe downloads and inspiring articles.

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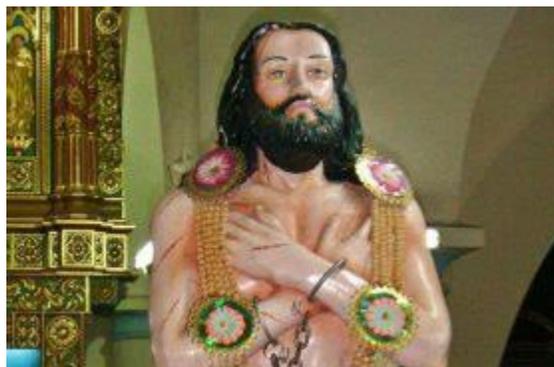
Thank you & blessings. Pass it On!

“Prayer for Protection”

The Light of God surrounds me.
The Love of God enfolds me.
The Power of God protects me.
The Presence of God watches over me.
The Mind of God guides me.
The Life of God flows through me.
The Laws of God direct me.
The Power of God abides within me.
The Joy of God uplifts me.
The Strength of God renews me.
The Beauty of God inspires me.
Wherever I am, God is!

*This prayer was written by James Freeman
for all soldiers during World War II.
It is as powerful today as it was then.

What you should know about this new Catholic saint from India



By [Hannah Brockhaus](#)

Rome Newsroom, May 12, 2022

When Neelakanta Pillai was baptized a Catholic in 1745, he knowingly left behind the comfort of his wealthy, high-caste Hindu family for almost certain persecution and death.

“Despite the threats to his life, despite the persecution, despite dangers for his own existence, he was ready to proclaim to everyone that he truly loved Christ, that he was ready to witness and to give his life for Christ,” Father Harris Pakkam told CNA.

Pakkam, the director of the Salesian news agency (**ANS**), explained that it was only four years later that Pillai, who took the Christian name Devasahayam at his baptism, did experience arrest, imprisonment, humiliation, torture, and eventually death.

On May 15, just over 270 years after his martyrdom, **Devasahayam Pillai** will be **canonized** together with nine other men and women in St. Peter’s Square.

“With this moment ... of freshness that is being instilled through this canonization of Devasahayam Pillai, I believe there will be a great revival, great growth, and a moment of great strength for the Church in India,” the priest from India said.

“He is the first Indian martyr, the first Tamil saint, the first Indian layman [to be canonized] ... It’s a great moment of joy for the Indian Church, because of the context that we are living in today, a Hindu man who was punished for becoming a Christian is now elevated to the altars.”

Pakkam, who first discovered Devasahayam in 2012, shortly after the layman’s beatification, said that, while there had been pushback on the canonization from some Hindu hardliners, “the whole of India is rejoicing at this great news.”

“You should know that India is a country with a number of religions, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, and so on. So the Christians are a very small minority,” he explained. “Christianity came right from the time of St. Thomas the Apostle, though it has not grown much.”

He explained that the Catholic Church in India was in constant dialogue with the other faiths and that it ran schools and charitable activities.

“Most of the Hindus who have been educated in our institutions are very appreciative of this, of what Christianity has done for them, and definitely even the Hindus who are looking at this event are joining hands with the Christians,” he noted.

“So I think it is a very positive moment and definitely it can also sow a lot of positive seeds among the hearts of the people, especially the Hindus, the Muslims and so on.”

Devasahayam, whose Christian name means Lazarus in Tamil, grew up in an affluent family in what is now India’s Tamil Nadu state. By his early 30s, he had been a soldier, an officer in the court of the Kingdom of Travancore, and in charge of the king’s treasury.

Through this work, he met a Dutch naval officer who became his friend. When Devasahayam began struggling with sadness over difficulties in his family, the officer first introduced him to the Old Testament story of Job and, over time, to Christianity as a whole.

Though conversion was illegal, Devasahayam soon knew he wanted to give himself to Christ. The naval officer introduced him to a Jesuit priest, who prepared him for baptism.

“And once Father Bouttari [Italus] was convinced that this man was not afraid of death, that he was ready even to give up his life for Christ, he says: ‘Let’s go ahead and let us baptize him,’” Pakkam noted.

The priest said that from his baptism at the age of 32, Devasahayam attended church, frequented the sacraments, evangelized others, and spoke against injustices.

Devasahayam’s wife and other family members converted to Christianity following his witness.

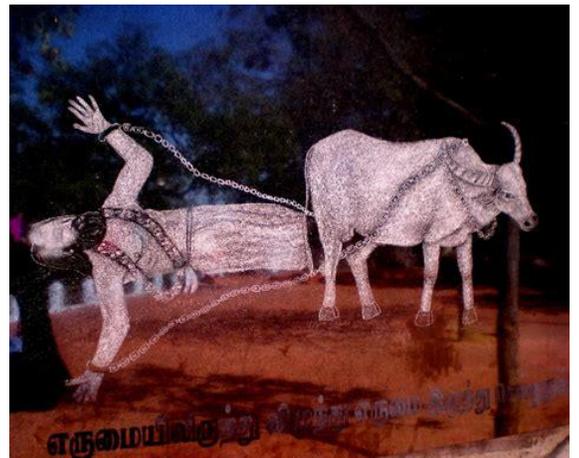
“How to live this holiness even in your ordinary family life — this man shows it,” Pakkam said. “He has first evangelized his family, then his friends... his colleagues. And this is what this saint is asking us: How much are you sharing Christ with the people around you?”

Devasahayam was not a mediocre Catholic but gave 100% to living the faith and proclaiming Christ, the priest underlined.

Just four years after Devasahayam’s conversion, his faith was put to the test when he was arrested on false charges.

Instead of being killed right away, Devasahayam was tied up and dragged through the streets, where people spat on him and struck him with thorny sticks, as a warning to other Hindus to not become Catholic.

He was periodically tortured for years for refusing to submit to the Hindu rites and rituals.



“In fact, the Christians suffering in so many countries in the world, even today experiencing persecution, they should look up to him, draw strength and hope and courage from him,” Pakkam said.

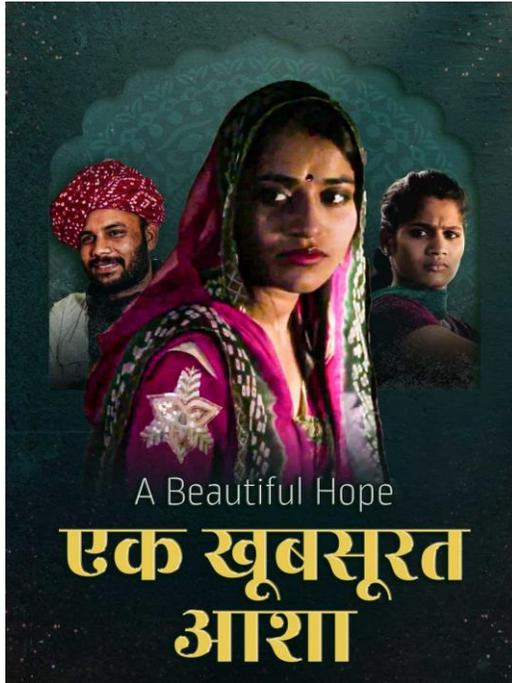
“The story of his martyrdom is really very touching. So much pain, agony, that he suffered for almost three years. And his joy was there in full when he knew that he was going to offer himself for Christ.”The soldiers guarding Devasahayam were so amazed by him and his faith, and the small miracles they witnessed, that they offered to let him escape. But he declined because he knew they would be punished.

On the night of Jan. 14, 1752, Devasahayam was taken from prison to a rocky hill, where he was shot three times. When he did not die, he was shot twice more, and then another three times.



His killers left his body in the jungle, hoping he would be consumed by animals. But after five days of searching, people who knew Devasahayam recovered his remains and buried him in the local church. His tomb is still in the **Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier** in Nagercoil, southern India.

“I believe that all the agony that he had gone through, over the course of those three years, [gave] a powerful testimony,” Father Pakkam said. “The number of Christians ... increased at a very great level.” “And so definitely I feel that the suffering that he has undergone and the great patience, the great zeal that he manifested, is a great lesson for us today.” “For the rest of the world also, this saint can be a powerful intercessor. His commitment, his zeal for Christ can be also a great invitation for everyone to live their faith well.”



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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**

PRAY THE ROSARY TO SAVE SOULS