



VOCATION SPIRIT NEWS

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YEAR FOR PRIESTS

“Creed of Hope” Reminds Us of Our Life In Christ

I believe in God.

The God of all creeds, with all their truths.

But, above all, *in the God that rises from the dead words to become part of life.* I believe in God that accompanies me along every step of my path on this earth, many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes, other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me, and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.

I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ, the God who lived in my skin and tried on my shoes, the God who walked in my ways, and knows of lights and shadows. The God who ate and starved, who had a home and suffered loneliness, who was praised and condemned, kissed and

spat on, loved and hated.

The God who went to parties and funerals, the God who laughed and cried.

I believe in the God who is attentive today, who looks at the world and sees the hatred that segregates, divides, sets people aside, hurts and kills, who sees the bullets piercing the flesh, and the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth, who sees the hand that dips into another’s pocket, stealing what somebody needs to eat, who sees the judge that favors the highest bidder, the truth and justice of hypocrites, who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish, the toxic substances destroying the earth and piercing the sky who sees the future mortgaged and man’s debt growing.

I believe in God who sees all this ... and keeps on crying.



But I also believe in God who sees a mother giving birth - a life born from pain, who sees two children playing - a seed growing, who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning, who sees three crazy women clamoring for justice - an illusion that doesn’t die who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities.

I believe in God who sees all this ... and laughs, because, in spite of it all, there is hope.

Creed put together by Pax Christi UK, and borrowed from Comboni Missionaries website.

The Goal of Prayer ... Praying is the means, not the end

The following comments about prayer come from a publication from the Diocese of Arlington called “Fili Patrist Nostri,” or “Sons of Our Father.”

Prayer is the *means* not the *end*. The *end* is what is most important because it is the goal; the means is what gets us to the end. Think of this example. A person lifts weights in order to become stronger. No one lifts weights for the sake of lifting something heavy. The end is getting stronger and the

means is lifting weights. Just like lifting weights makes no sense unless we understand the end, prayer makes no sense unless we understand the goal of prayer. The goal or end of prayer is union with God or what is called divine intimacy.



Picture from the University of Texas

The end is *divine intimacy*; the means is prayers. What is **divine intimacy**? Do you realize that God desire to be close to you? God hungers and thirsts for this. Not because God is incomplete without us, but because God is pure love. So that we would seek God in a real relationship, God created us with a similar ache and hunger for God. The happiness we hunger is only found in union with God. This union is known as divine intimacy.

The *end* is *divine intimacy*; the *means* is prayer.

Upcoming Events...

A Day in the Life of A Priest
St. Monica Parish.
Saturday, November 14th

Annual Catholic Men's Retreat
St. Francis Seminary.
January 8-10th, 2010

Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally ~ 2010
March 27, 2010. For more information, visit the WYRE Ministries Web Site: wyreministries.org

VOCATIONAL AND YOUNG ADULT QUICK LINKS:

thinkpriest.org
HOW DO I KNOW?

[Catholic Youth Expeditions \(CYE\)](#)

[UW-Milwaukee Newman Center](#)

[Jesuit Volunteer Corps](#)

[School Sisters of Notre Dame \(SSND\)](#)

New Heart New Spirit Radio Show Podcasts

Father Don Hying shares the latest news from St. Francis De Sales Seminary. Podcasts of Radio Broadcasts are available

www.sfs.edu



St. Marguerite d'Youville—a Canadian Saint of Universal Charity

On October 16th, the church celebrated the feast of Marguerite d'Youville. We learn compassion from allowing our lives to be influenced by compassionate people, by seeing life from their perspective and reconsidering our own values. Born in Varennes, Canada, Marie Marguerite Dufrost de Lajemmerais had to interrupt her schooling at the age of 12 to help her widowed mother. Eight years later she married Francois d'Youville; they had six children, four of whom died young. Despite the fact that her husband gambled, sold liquor illegally to Native Americans and treated her indifferently, she

cared for him compassionately in before his death in 1730. Even though she was caring for two small children and running a store to help pay off her husband's debts, Marguerite still helped the poor. Once her children were grown, she and several companions rescued a Quebec hospital that was in danger of failing. She called her community the Institute of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal; the people called them the "Grey Nuns" because of the color of their habit. In time, a proverb arose among the poor people of Montreal, "Go to the Grey Nuns; they never refuse to serve." In time, five other religious communities traced

their roots to the Grey Nuns. The General Hospital in Montreal became known as the Hotel Dieu (House of God) and set a standard for medical care and Christian compassion. When the hospital was destroyed by fire in 1766, she knelt in the ashes, led the Te Deum (a hymn to God's providence in all circumstances) and began the rebuilding process. She fought the attempts of government officials to restrain her charity and established the first foundling home in North America.

Pope John XXIII, who beatified her in 1959, called her the "Mother of Universal Charity." She was canonized in 1990.

From americancatholic.org

From the Editor...

Greetings friends, Seminarian Bob Spoerl here. I am introducing a "from the editor box" this week. I thought it would be a way to reach readers at a bit more of a personal level (as opposed to me being just the anonymous "Vocation Spirit News.") On page two this week, I feature two stories of women who, in their own way and time and place, brought Christ's love to our world. St. Marguerite is a figure who brought health care to the poor, caring for sick regardless of their economic situation. St. Teresa of Avila (doctor of the church) was a progressive, praying figure in a church that needed her contemplative voice. Her spiritual lessons off our generation valuable lessons.

Peace and blessings! bob:)

Doctor of the Church: Teresa of Avila

On October 15, the church celebrated the feast of Teresa of Avila. Teresa lived in an age of exploration as well as political, social and religious upheaval. It was the 16th century, a time of turmoil and reform. She was born before the Protestant Reformation and died almost 20 years after the closing of the Council of Trent.

The gift of God to Teresa in and through which she became holy and left her mark on the Church and the world is threefold: She was a woman; she was a contemplative; she was an active reformer.



As a woman, Teresa stood on her own two feet, even in the man's world of her time. She was "her own woman," entering the Carmelites despite strong opposition from her father. She is a person wrapped not so much in silence as in mystery. Beautiful, talented, outgoing, adaptable, affectionate, courageous, enthusiastic, she was totally human. Like Jesus, she was a mystery of paradoxes: wise, yet practical; intelligent, yet much in tune with her experience; a mystic, yet an energetic reformer. A holy woman, a womanly woman.

Teresa was a woman "for God," a woman of prayer, discipline and compassion. Her heart belonged to God. Her ongoing conversion was an arduous lifelong struggle, involving ongoing purification and suffering. She was misunderstood, misjudged, opposed in her efforts at reform. Yet she struggled on, courageous and faithful; she struggled with her own mediocrity, her illness, her opposition. And in the midst of all this she clung

to God in life and in prayer. Her writings on prayer and contemplation are drawn from her experience: powerful, practical and graceful. A woman of prayer; a woman for God. Teresa was a woman "for others." Though a contemplative, she spent much of her time and energy seeking to reform herself and the Carmelites, to lead them back to the full observance of the primitive Rule. She founded over a half-dozen new monasteries. She traveled, wrote, fought—always to renew, to reform. In her self, in her prayer, in her life, in her efforts to reform, in all the people she touched, she was a woman for others, a woman who inspired and gave life. Her writings, especially the Way of Perfection and The Interior Castle, have helped generations of believers.

Text from americancatholic.org.

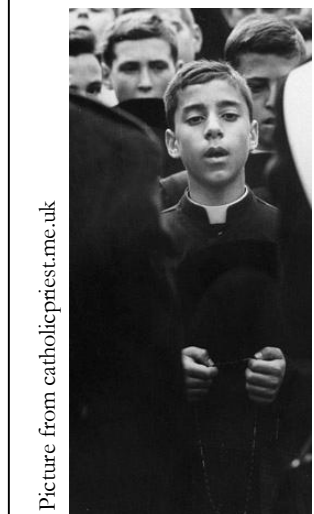
Picture from catholichomeandgarden.com

Check this out... catholicpriest.me.uk

This link is a website dedicated to giving young teenagers the information they need when considering priesthood! Here is the website's mission statement: This is a website "designed and run by teens who are seriously considering becoming Catholic priests. What can we do to help you discern your vocation?" Think of it as a tour guide on a person's exploration of what priesthood is, written by novices who want to learn more!



On Saturday, October 17, Fr. Phil Bogacki (left) hosted these young men for "Time with Father" at St. John Vianney Parish. Fr. Jim Lobacz (right) helped to facilitate the day that included a chance to ask lots of questions about priesthood, a pizza lunch, and a period of Eucharistic adoration.



Picture from catholicpriest.me.uk

Related to the link...St. Francis de Sales Summer Camp participant, John Bender is Prayer Editor of the site. John Bender also has a blog on a teen discerning the priesthood.