

WEEKLY MEDITATION — Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the beginning of life, when we were infants, we needed others if we were to survive. At the end of life we will again need others so that we can survive. Yet, the truth is that we need others as well in the years in between.

Human beings are social animals. Of ourselves we are incomplete. Humanity can never be acquired in solitude. We need others. This is a sign of health. Isolation is the most painful

condition of all.

In marriage God answered the human need for friendship, companionship, closeness, and warmth — all the things we long for but often find so difficult. Nothing is a greater challenge to love, or a greater opportunity for growth than marriage.

These needs can also be met by belonging to a community. And of course those who have a close rela-

tionship with God are never alone.

Relationships have to be worked on. They suffer from neglect just as surely as a garden does. Relationships that have weathered some storms are the deepest. God made us for love—to receive it and to give it. However, the ability to love is not something that is automatic. Love has to be learned. The real journey we all have to make is from selfishness to love.

October—Month of the Holy Rosary

From Pope Benedict's lips to our ears:

The Vatican recently issued a question-and-answer format book that teaches the truth about Jesus & the Catholic Church.

Question: **What is the "Canon" of Scripture?**

Answer: **The "Canon" of Scripture is the complete list of the sacred writings which the Church has come to recognize through Apostolic Tradition. The Canon consists of 46 books of the Old Testament and 27 of the New.**

Question: **What is the importance of the Old Testament for Christians?**

Answer: **Christians venerate the Old Testament as the true word of God. All of the books of the Old Testament are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value. They bear witness to the divine pedagogy (in other words, the divine "teaching technique") of God's saving love. They are written, above all, to prepare for the coming of Christ the Savior of the universe.**

REFLECTION YOUTH and AGE

Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind. Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear, and despair—these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust. You are as young as your hope, as old as your despair. So long as your heart receives messages of beauty, cheer, courage, grandeur and power from the earth, from man, from the infinite, so long are you young. When the heart is covered with the snow of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then I am grown old indeed, and may you, Lord, have mercy on my soul.

General Douglas MacArthur

WISDOM'S CORNER

The Love Letter

Kathy was a young girl in a Pennsylvania orphanage. She was painfully shy and unattractive, so she was shunned by the other children and regarded as a problem by the staff. Two other homes for children had managed to have her transferred, and now, once again, the director and her assistants were seeking some reason for getting rid of her.

One afternoon it seemed that an opportunity had arrived. A rule of the house was that any letter from a child in the Home had to be approved by the director before it could be mailed. Lately, Kathy had been sneaking down to the main gate and carefully hiding a letter in the branches of a tree that overhung the wall of the Children's Home.

One day the director and her assistant followed her. When Kathy went back into the building, the two of them headed for the brick wall. Sure enough, the note was visible through the dark branches of the big tree. The director tore open the envelope. Then, without speaking, she passed the note to her assistant. It read, "To anybody who finds this: I love you. Kathy."

THE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"We like someone *because*. We love someone *although*."

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OCTOBER IS THE MONTH WHEN WE COUNT PEOPLE AT THE MASSES. COME WITH YOUR FAMILY TO SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE MASS TIME

How to pray the rosary:

1. Make the Sign of the Cross and say the "Apostles' Creed."
2. Say the "Our Father."
3. Say three "Hail Marys."
4. Say the "Glory be to the Father."
5. Announce the First Mystery; then say the "Our Father."
6. Say ten "Hail Marys," while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Say the "Glory be to the Father."
8. Announce the Second Mystery; then say the "Our Father."

Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.

Voting with a Clear Conscience:

10 Easy Steps offered by www.priestsforlife.org

Step #1: Commit to vote this Nov. 7; and pray for wisdom and guidance. **Step #2:** Know where the candidates stand.

Step #3: Reject the Disqualified. Suppose a candidate came forward and said, "I support terrorism." Would you say, "I disagree with you on terrorism, but what's your health care plan?" Of course not. Similarly, those who would permit the destruction of innocent human life by abortion disqualify themselves from consideration. If a politician cannot respect the life of an unborn baby, how is he or she supposed to respect your life?

Step #4: Distinguish policy from principle. Most disagreements between candidates and political platforms do not have to do with "principle," but rather with "policy." For example, it is a basic "principle" that people have a right to the safety of their lives...but there is disagreement on the best policies to [protect lives]. But when a policy dispute involves questioning whether people "deserve" that protection in the first place, *the policy is the principle.* To allow abortion, which is the killing of a human child in the womb, is to break the "principle" that every human life deserves protection.

- TO BE CONTINUED -

St. Jerome parish events, fundraisers....

Help our young parishioners help people in need:

Our Youth Service Corps is kicking off our annual Thanksgiving food drive this weekend. Please drop off your dried food boxes and cans in the boxes in the church vestibule. The collection will run up to Thanksgiving.



Twin Texas Hold'em Tournaments

sponsored by St. Jerome School.

#1: Ladies only Friday evening Nov. 10.

Come at 6 pm for seat assignments, food, drinks, wine, beer, Martinis. Men will be serving the ladies. Starts at 7 pm sharp. Donation is \$100. *You don't have to know how to play ahead of time.*

#2: Everybody plays Saturday Nov. 11

Men & women, come at 3 pm for seat assignments, food, soft drinks, and stronger drinks. Game starts at 4 pm sharp. Donation is \$200 and winner gets up to \$10,000. Final table gets paid. Limited seating on both days.

For tickets, call:

Pete at 312-808-0641, John at 773-254-0010
or Barry 312-326-0383.

Spectators are welcome, and their \$50 at the door includes food and drinks.

Have a great evening supporting our School!

FOOTBALL MANIA

WINNERS FOR WEEK NUMBER 4: 1st prize - #3379; 2nd prize - #1410; 3rd prize tied - #2959 & #387; 5th prize #3252; and 6th prize #554.



The society "CROATIAN WOMAN / HRVATSKA ŽENA" invites you to its annual fashion show on Sunday, October 22 at the Croatian Cultural Center at 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from members. Proceeds from this event will go to charitable causes in Croatia.

Test your Bible I.Q.:

The Bible is a little library of sacred books. How many such "sacred books" has the Church come to recognize through its Apostolic Tradition as being "divinely inspired"?

- A) 46 Old Testament books.
- B) 27 New Testament books.
- C) 73 Holy Bible books.
- D) 66 Holy Bible books.
- E) As many as a Bible publisher decides to publish in a Bible.

See the Bulletin next week for the answer! Last week's answer was D) "All of the above."