

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

October 2014

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Rev. Anthony Francis Spilka, OFM Conv., Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. John Paul II

A contemporary saint, Karol Jozef Wojtyla was a gifted student but worked in a quarry and chemical factory when the Nazis closed the University he attended in 1939. Secretly he enrolled in an underground seminary and was ordained a priest in 1946. He continued studies after the war. In 1978, Karol became Pope John Paul II, serving for 27 years. Despite deteriorating health, he wrote 14 encyclicals, five books, canonized 482 saints, beatified 1,338 people and visited 124 countries.



Feel discouraged?

Your life can be fixed no matter how bad it seems, but you can't do it alone. Ask for God's help and he will empower you to make the needed changes. All things are possible with him.

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence." St. Teresa of Calcutta



The pursuit of happiness

Even when we have everything we need, we can still feel that our life is incomplete. If only we had more money, a better job, the right spouse, a nicer home ... then we would be truly happy. In fact, if we look outside ourselves, there will always be one more *something* that will seem necessary for happiness. Instead, look at being happy as a choice.

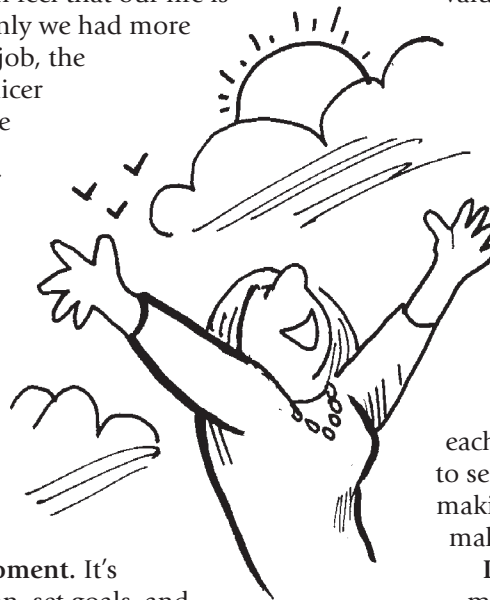
Live in the moment. It's important to plan, set goals, and prepare for the future responsibly. Yet always focusing on the future means missing precious moments that are happening now. Living each moment

as it occurs allows us to prolong its value and make it more meaningful.

Live for others. Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Jesus wants us to be his heart and hands to others and share his love with those around us. He has given each of us gifts to be used to serve others. As a plus, making others happy makes us happy, too.

Live for God. We were made by God for God.

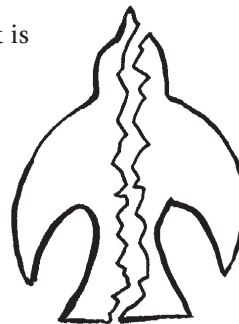
The desire for him is written on our hearts. He never ceases to draw us to himself. Only in God will we find the true happiness for which we yearn.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

What do Catholics believe about war?

The Fifth Commandment is clear that life is sacred and must be preserved. Jesus said, "if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:39). As a rule, Christians condemn violence and promote peace whenever possible.



However, evil cannot be allowed to remain unchecked. Public authorities have the right to take actions necessary for national defense. Those sworn to serve their country contribute to the common good and the maintenance of peace.

Will you know God when you meet?

Elijah hid in a cave, fleeing for his life. The Lord had promised to be with him, so he waited for God in the cave. A powerful wind, an earthquake, and a great fire all passed by the mouth of the cave but Elijah knew God was not in those great events. Then, he heard a “still, small voice” and he stepped out to meet his Lord (1 Kings 19:1-11).

A desire for God. How did Elijah know God was not in the powerful acts of nature? Elijah loved God



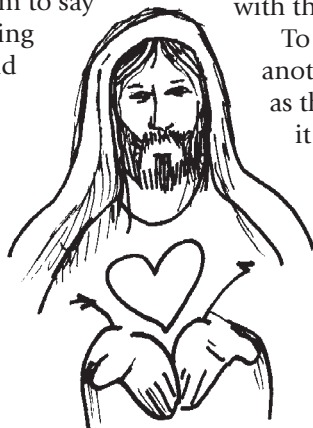
so much that he knew him well. He knew that God’s greatest power is in the truth of his Word. **A search for peace.** Elijah was in trouble because he had stood up for God’s truth. He defeated the prophets of Baal, who were turning people against God. Although a great victory, it earned him powerful enemies. So he turned to God. When our world is falling apart, we can **Uk Ug Zb X** peace in the protection of our beloved God.

from Scripture

Matthew 22:34-40. Jesus takes on Jewish tradition

In their first meeting with Jesus, the Pharisees wanted to get him to say something illegal, something against Jewish law. It would be the perfect excuse to discredit him. The lawyer they sent knew that there were 613 commands in the Jewish law and generations of Jews had debated fruitlessly about which was the most important. He was just toying with Jesus when he asked his opinion.

Jesus silenced them all by saying everything starts and ends with love – love of God and love of each other.



Even the Pharisees couldn’t argue with that.

To love God is to love one another. They are as inseparable as the beams of the cross. While it is easy to love God, loving others is more difficult.

But true love of neighbor is measured by how we treat those who are neither family nor friends. It means including people when the natural inclination is to exclude or avoid them. Jesus loved

prostitutes, thieves, lepers, even his political enemies. This is how God loves and he calls us to do no less.

Q & A

What does it mean to be like Jesus?

One reason Jesus came among us was to tell us about God and to lead us to Heaven. Jesus hoped we would do what he did.



For example, Jesus asked us to love one another as he did.

Some ways Jesus showed love were lending an attentive ear, showing patience in irritating situations, helping people make good decisions. Demonstrating love every day is imitating Christ.

Jesus had few possessions himself and sent his disciples out to preach with almost nothing. He didn’t want them to get distracted. He knew that the more goods we have, the more we’d think about them and the less we’d think about God. Consider getting rid of what you don’t need, and buy only items that replace what is worn out or broken.

Jesus often went off to be alone with God. Take time each day to keep company with God. Even as few as 15 minutes will keep you connected to your loving Father.

Doing these things are steps toward living like Jesus.

Feasts & Celebrations

In October we celebrate the Rosary with the feast of **Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7**. The Rosary helps us meditate on the mysteries of our salvation – Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection. And we also ask for Mary’s intercession – the most powerful of all the angels and saints.

Oct. 19 - Saint John de Brébeuf and Saint Isaac Jogues and their companions (1652). Six Jesuits and two laymen were unwelcome missionaries to Native North American tribes and suffered harassment and torture. St.

John de Brébeuf won the Iroquois’ respect with his courageous death. St. Isaac Jogues escaped but was murdered when he returned to his ministry.

Oct. 28 - Saint Simon and Saint Jude (1st century). St. Simon was a Zealot— Jews who believed that the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After being called by Jesus to be apostles, they eventually ended up in Persia where they evangelized until they were martyred.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)