

PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

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| TUESDAY AUG 6 | Feast of the Transfiguration |
| WEDNESDAY AUG 14 | St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest & Martyr |
| SATURDAY AUG 24 | St. Bartholomew, Apostle |

Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™

→ MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

August 2024 –In August the Church remembers and celebrates the great mystery of the Assumption of Mary into heaven. She was sinless from the first moment of her conception and after her death was taken by Christ – body and soul – to reign with Him in paradise. Let us live this month in prayer and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Queen.

THE ANIMA CHRISTI

Among the many prayers that priests have composed throughout the centuries, one of these prayers stand out. The Spanish priest, **St. Ignatius Loyola** (1491-1556), was founder of the Jesuit order and a man who spent his life teaching people the value of their souls. His *Spiritual Exercises* is a retreat manual and privileged spiritual direction resource even to this day.

St. Ignatius' most famous prayer, the *Anima Christi*, is a marvelous spiritual reflection on the Passion of Christ. The title is Latin (translated "Soul of Christ") and is the first line of the prayer.

ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from Christ's side, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me.

Within Thy wounds hide me.

Suffer me not to be separated from Thee.

From the malicious enemy defend me.

In the hour of my death call me.

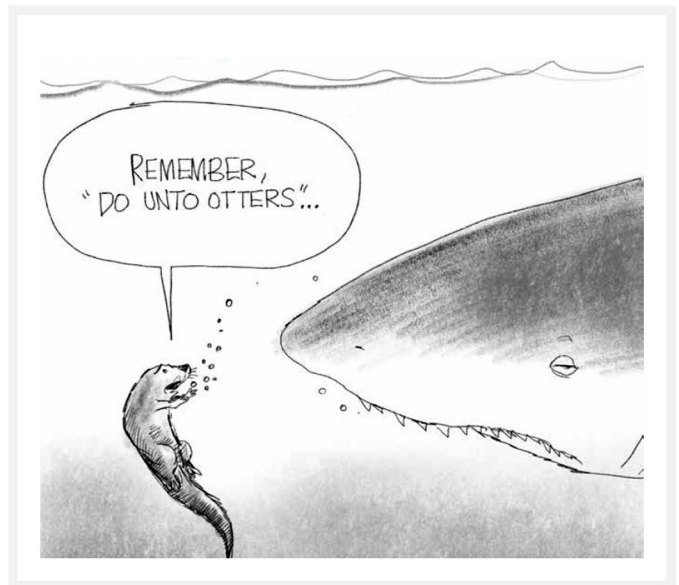
And bid me come unto Thee.

*That I may praise Thee with Thy saints
and with Thine angels.*

Forever and ever. Amen.

Notice that the prayer touches on the entire sacred humanity of Jesus: His Body and Soul, as well as the Blood and water that flowed from His Heart. These elements are images of the Eucharist and symbolize the whole sacramental life of the Church.

The *Anima Christi* is also a very personal prayer to Jesus that anyone can pray with heartfelt devotion. It is also short enough for the average person to memorize! Together with St. Ignatius, we must ask Christ to save us from the power the evil one and to lead us through the problems of life to the Kingdom of God, where we hope to share eternity with Him.



SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

This month, let us challenge ourselves to arrive at Mass early and spend some time recollecting our souls in preparation for the liturgy. Secondly, instead of rushing out of the church after Mass, make sure to spend five extra minutes giving thanks to the Lord so that we may reap the interior fruits of the divine Gift we have just received.

CALENDAR OF FAITH | August

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| AUG 1 Thu | St. Alphonsus Liguori, Priest |
| AUG 4 Sun | St. John Marie Vianney, Priest |
| AUG 5 Mon | Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome |
| AUG 6 Tue | Feast of the Transfiguration |
| AUG 8 Thu | St. Dominic, Priest |
| AUG 10 Sat | St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr |
| AUG 11 Sun | St. Clare, Virgin |
| AUG 12 Mon | St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious |
| AUG 13 Tue | Bl. Michael J. McGivney, Priest and Founder, Knights of Columbus |
| AUG 13 Tue | Sts. Pontian, Pope and Martyr, and Hippolytus, Priest and Martyr |
| AUG 14 Wed | St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr |
| AUG 15 Thu | The Assumption of Mary |
| AUG 19 Mon | St. John Eudes, Priest |
| AUG 20 Tue | St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot |
| AUG 21 Wed | St. Pius X, Pope |
| AUG 22 Thu | The Queenship of Mary |
| AUG 24 Sat | St. Bartholomew, Apostle |
| AUG 25 Sun | King St. Louis IX, Confessor |
| AUG 27 Tue | St. Monica, Widow |
| AUG 28 Wed | St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor |
| AUG 29 Thu | Beheading of St. John the Baptist |

FAITH FUNDAMENTALS



The Golden Rule

We're accustomed to thinking about "rules" as limitations on what we want to do. But when we talk about the *Golden Rule* we must think of a "ruler" instead of a rule. It is like a yardstick that measures our own behavior.

In the Old Testament, behavior towards a neighbor was stated in the negative way: "Do not do to others what you yourself dislike" (Tobit 4:15). The teaching outlined a minimum requirement of justice: that is, don't hurt others.

The Lord's words in the New Testament, however, raise the standard much higher. We are to evaluate and do what is positively good for our neighbor, the way we would want them to do good to us.

"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets." ~ Matthew 7:12

In other words, we are to measure "good" and "bad" in our relationships by our own basic human need to be treated fairly. If it's good for me...it's probably also good for thee

BIBLE BASICS



Matthew 7:12 "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets."

Galatians 5:14 "For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

~ *St. Augustine of Hippo*

CATECHISM CONNECTION



1776 Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment.

Praying with the National Eucharistic Revival

Becoming Missionaries of the Eucharist

Last month, the Bishops of the United States held the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, and it was attended by more than 50,000 people! The Eucharistic Renewal now demands that we become missionaries of faith, particularly in our belief that Jesus Christ is present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist. There is no more tangible experience of God on this earth.

To encourage the Eucharistic fervor of all Catholics, we will continue to conclude our monthly newsletter focusing on our Eucharistic Lord. Here is a devotional phrase that we can say each time we are in His Presence:

"O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!"

[Prayers concerning the Eucharist can be found on the Official Prayers in the Pew Eucharistic Revival Edition Prayer Card.]

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