

Rejoice...in Suffering

march 2016

THEME / TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

Rejoice...in Suffering

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES OF THE MONTH:

ROMANS 5:3-5

We even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

HOUSEHOLD TEACHINGS OF THE MONTH:

BATTERED by Suffering can make us BETTER not BITTER by Fr. Ed Broom OMV

DISCUSSION QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

In what ways am I presently experiencing suffering (physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, etc.) and how can I, through God's grace make it redemptive suffering?

SONG OF THE MONTH:

BLESSINGS by Laura Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQan9L3yXjc&list=RDX-Qan9L3yXjc>

"PROUD TO BE CATHOLIC" SECTION OF THE MONTH:

Catholic Church Statistics

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

St. Peregrine

PRAYER OF THE MONTH:

Prayer to St. Peregrine

MEDIA (BOOK) OF THE MONTH:

Bishop Robert Barron on God, Tsunamis and the Problem of Evil

JOKE OF THE MONTH:

Pain and Suffering

"FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD"

APPLICATIONS OF THE MONTH:

Visit, give comfort and be Christ to someone you know who is presently going through significant suffering (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual).

MARCH 2016

Subject: 2015 CFCUSA Pastoral Formation Materials – Rejoice...in Suffering (ROH#29)

Dear CFC USA Family:

In line with the CFC theme of 2016 of Rejoice, Pray and Give Thanks, we focus this month on REJOICE!

But, Rejoice....in Suffering??? Suffering??? Is that a typo? When we hear the word Rejoice, we associate this with blessings, happy occasions, celebrations or good fortune....but sufferings? Well, we are deep into the Lenten season. Suffering is inevitable in our Christian journey. It is something we cannot avoid or hide from. We are blessed as Catholics to be given and to avail of the grace from God to enable us to be at peace even when we are battered by the storms in our lives. During these times, we ask not “Why me? Why now?” Rather, we turn to the Lord and ask- “Lord, you allowed this to happen, how can I glorify you in this storm?”

Remember that “it is better to be in a storm with God, than to be in calm waters without Him.”

Of course, human and weak as we are, we do not always respond well to trials and suffering. My prayer is that we will learn from this month’s materials, especially the teaching, song and YouTube video how suffering can make us better and not bitter individuals, how the trials and oppressions in life may actually be or turn to God’s mercies in disguise, and how redemptive suffering not only unites us to the sufferings of Christ but also enables us to collaborate with the Lord in saving immortal souls for all eternity.

Ponder on these profound thoughts on Suffering from Blessed Teresa of Calcutta:

Suffering has to come because if you look at the cross, he has got his head bending down—he wants to kiss you—and he has both hands open wide—he

wants to embrace you. He has his heart opened wide to receive you. Then when you feel miserable inside, look at the cross and you will know what is happening. Suffering, pain, sorrow, humiliation, feelings of loneliness, are nothing but the kiss of Jesus, a sign that you have come so close that he can kiss you. Do you understand, brothers, sisters, or whoever you may be? Suffering, pain, humiliation—this is the kiss of Jesus. At times you come so close to Jesus on the cross that he can kiss you. I once told this to a lady who was suffering very much. She answered, “Tell Jesus not to kiss me—to stop kissing me.” That suffering has to come that came in the life of Our Lady, that came in the life of Jesus—it has to come in our life also. Only never put on a long face. Suffering is gift from God. It is between you and Jesus alone inside...

I pray that that rest of the Lenten season be a most fruitful and blessed one for you and your family as you continue to contemplate on His passion, thus be transformed to become more and more like Him, and be able to have peace and rejoice in....Suffering!

In Christ through Mary,
Bro. Toffee Jeturian

Scripture Passage of the Month: **Romans 5:3-5**

We even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Household Teaching of the Month: **BATTERED BY SUFFERING CAN MAKES US BETTER NOT BITTER**

A crib-death of a two-month baby girl, a family of four slaughtered by a speeding drunk-driver, a newly-married couple tragically snuffed out by a freak plane crash--- why? Why? Why?

Why is it that the innocent must suffer? Does it all make sense? Where is God present in all these inexplicable tragedies? Where is He?

One of the most common objections posed against the existence of God is the following: "If God is so good then why do innocent people have to suffer?"

Sooner or later tragedy will inevitably knock at the door of all of us whether we like it or not. This is the human condition! No easy and simplistic response can unravel the mystery of human suffering. The nature of "Mystery" is that it is hidden and not fully given to clear explanation. Our God is a mysterious God.

Christianity does not remove human suffering, but offers the best explanation for suffering. All suffering, moral, spiritual, psychological, physical, emotional, social, economic stem from the reality of Original Sin. Because of the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, suffering entered into the world. However, God can always bring good out of evil. This indeed He did by sending His Son Jesus to save us and to teach us the true meaning of suffering in all forms, sizes and shapes!

The response to these pertinent questions is not easy; however, it deals intrinsically with a supreme and inviolable gift that God has given to each and every person that comes into this world: **THE GIFT OF FREE WILL!**

As in the beginning with Lucifer and 1/3 of the angels, they decided to turn their backs on God, abuse their gift of freedom, and through the intervention of St. Michael the Archangel and the faithful and obedient angels, they were expelled from heaven and cast into the fiery pit of hell where they will suffer the eternal loss of God and His glory for all eternity.

Likewise in the case of our first parents, Adam and Eve. We all know the story all too well taken from the 3rd Chapter of the first book of the Bible, Genesis. The first couple was given freedom to choose; they could either obey God or disobey God. Indeed freedom is very risky, but it is because God indeed wants to be loved freely. If we were created as robots then there would be neither freedom nor the possibility to love.

Tempted by the devil, disguised in the form of a serpent, Eve listened to the words of the seducer, the ancient serpent he who is a murderer and a liar from the beginning. She listened to the devil, entered into dialogue with the devil, looked at the forbidden fruit, liked what she saw, gave consent in her will, bit into the forbidden fruit and then shared it with her husband, Adam. There we have it! ORIGINAL SIN! We were all born with and freed from the stain of it in our Baptism, but still experience the effects in the tendency we experience towards evil; St. Thomas Aquinas calls this concupiscence.

Therefore, any form of moral evil in the world (which we call sin) has nothing to do with the action of God. However, it does relate directly to God's allowing us to use our freedom--- better said, God allows us to "abuse" our freedom!

Our hearts should always go out to all of these who suffer and to express great compassion, mercy, and weep with those who weep, remembering the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes: "Blessed are those who mourn they will be consoled. " (Mt. 5:4)

At the same time, God should always be seen, depicted, and embraced as a loving father. God is slow to anger and quick to forgive. Jesus presented God as a loving Father patiently waiting His wayward son to return. Upon returning, the Father showered the son with kisses, hugs, a new ring, sandals a new cloak, a party, a feast and joyful music. (Lk. 15:11-32). The Psalmist reminds us of God with these words: "Taste and see the goodness of God."

St. Augustine, one of the most profound thinkers in the world, reminds us of "Happy Fault". God, in His infinite Goodness and Providence, brought much greater good out of the tragedy of Original Sin. In time, God the Father sent His only Son Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus then taught us how to live by His life which is model and pattern for us to imitate. The culminating moment was the Paschal mystery. Jesus willingly suffered what appeared to be the tragedy of Calvary, wherein He allowed Himself

to be brutally nailed to the cross for the salvation of the entire human race and of each and every one of us individually. Then three days later, the Paschal mystery was brought to its consummation when Jesus gloriously rose from the dead. “The Lord is truly risen from the dead and dies no longer, Alleluia!”

Therefore, the tragedy of the first sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, was far surpassed in Goodness by our loving Heavenly Father by sending us His only-begotten Son, Jesus to open up the gates of heaven and to give us access to heaven for all eternity.

Tragedies that occur can truly rock our boat to the point of capsizing and sinking. We are all visited with mysteries, sufferings, and if not major tragedies at least minor tragedies.

The Key so that suffering does not make us a “bitter” but “better” person can be summarized in the episode when Jesus was walking on the water in the dark hours of the night and Peter, hearing His voice and obeying the Master’s invitation began to walk on the water. But the fragile Apostle started to sink. Why? The reason is very simple! Peter’s problem was that he focused more on the problem than on the person who could resolve his problem. The cold water, the piercing winds, the enormous waves—all of these captivated the attention of Peter more than the person of Jesus. As soon as Peter lifted his gaze from that of the Master, he sunk in the water.

All of us can identify with the following. Problems we have had, problems we now have, and many problems await us tomorrow and all of the days of our lives. The key and the solution is not in focusing on the problem but on the problem-solver, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that Jesus went about doing good. Read through the Gospels. He healed the sick, cured the lepers, restored sight to the blind, gave hearing to the deaf and speech to the mute, and strengthened the limbs of the paralytics. Even more, in three separate times, He brought the dead back to life.

His heart tenderly moved for all forms of suffering. He took children in His arms and blessed them. Jesus was the essence and sum-total of goodness Incarnate! His whole life was a pouring out of Himself—even to the very last drops of His Precious Blood--- in doing good to others.

How did His life end? When life seems to have no meaning, when suffering knocks at your door, when tragedy catches you by surprise, truly the only real answer is in Jesus, the Son of the living God.

Suffering shared is suffering sanctified! In and of itself suffering has no positive value! It all depends upon one thing: uniting our suffering with the suffering of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Once this "Divine-connection" has been established, then and only then, does human suffering have positive value.

Suffering can be of many forms and of different degrees of intensity as well as duration. Physical suffering, emotional suffering, psychological suffering, economic suffering, family suffering, spiritual suffering, and moral suffering--- all are forms of suffering but different in expression.

Suffering can make us either better or bitter! Suffering without any vertical-or divine connection inevitably transforms the individual who suffers into a bitter, angry, and spiteful person. A "Masochist" suffers only for the sake of suffering and nothing more. A "Sadist" rejoices in the suffering of others! A Stoic strives with all of the energy in his will to eliminate all ways and manners of suffering.

Jesus never promised His followers that they would be freed from the reality of suffering. On the contrary, as a primary condition to be His follower, He stated: "If anyone wishes to be my follower, he must renounce himself, take up his cross and follow me." Taking up the cross is another way of saying to accept the reality of suffering in one's life.

Jesus did not simply preach the reality of suffering and its value, but He also put into practice what He preached in the clearest way imaginable--- the Cross, Calvary, and Crucifixion! Jesus did not flee from the cross; nor did He avoid the Dolorous Way of Calvary, much less did He renounce the nails, the cross and the spear all present in the Crucifixion.

THE REASON! The reason for the many and painful aspects of Jesus' suffering was to obey the will of the Heavenly Father, but also to show to all of humanity and to each and every one of us individually indeed how much He loves us.

Jesus suffered His Passion to save all of humanity and each and every one of us individually. It staggers the imagination the reality of Jesus suffering it all for you and for me as if we were the only individuals in the whole created world. How great the love of God and His willingness to suffer to the point of shedding His Precious Blood for my eternal salvation.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY SUFFERING. How then can I take advantage of my own suffering so that when suffering does visit me--- and it will sooner or later—it will not transform me into a bitter person but rather into a much better person!

1. CONTEMPLATE THE PASSION OF CHRIST. Make it a habit to contemplate some element of the Passion, suffering and death of Jesus frequently. Why not choose “Friday” every week (especially this Lent) to take at least one aspect of the Passion of Christ and spend some time in silence and prayer meditating and contemplating Jesus’ supreme love for you in His suffering. It might be the Blood that poured out of His Body in the Garden; or it might be the scourge wounds leaving His Sacred Body an open gaping wound; it might be one of the many thorns that pierced His Sacred brow; moreover, it might be the nail that pierced one of his feet; finally, it might be His Precious Blood oozing forth from His wounds as He hung valiantly on the Cross. Choose and contemplate any detail that moves you to love the Lord Jesus more intensely.

2. RESIGNATION TO GOD’S WILL. When God deigns to send you suffering in whatever form it might be, strive immediately to accept the suffering with trust and confidence, with the full-awareness that Jesus wants you to share at least to a limited degree in His suffering. Whatever God sends us is always for our benefit and well-being. Remember the Augustinian concept: God can allow what appears to be evil--- various forms of suffering—to bring a greater good out of it!

3. BEG FOR THE GRACE. It is not wrong to beg to be freed from suffering. In His Agony in the Garden, Jesus begged the Father three times to free Him from the chalice of suffering, but always with the concluding words, “Not my will but yours be done.” However, if God deems it best not to take that cross from you, then He indeed will bring greater future blessings from it. We live in the present moment, but God sees all at once. He sees from A to Z and has the jig-saw puzzle already assembled. In the light of the salvation of your soul and eternity, God could allow that cross for your purifi-

cation, sanctification and eternal salvation. God sees the over-all picture. We are like an ant at the foot of an enormous mountain; God is like an eagle hovering over the mountain. Obviously, God's vantage point and His perspective far transcends the vision of the little ant—that is us!

4. UNITE IT TO THE MASS AND CALVARY. Of greatest importance, in sanctifying our suffering, is its relation to Mass and Calvary. At every celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus offers Himself as the spotless Victim for the salvation of the world. To maximize to the fullest extent possible the value of our suffering, we must place it on the altar in the Sacrifice of the Mass. At the moment of Consecration, when the Body of Jesus is being elevated on high to God the Father, we should place our sufferings on the paten beside Jesus. Then when we receive Holy Communion, offering our sufferings to Jesus and with Jesus, countless graces and blessings will flow upon you, your family, the Church as well as the whole world. God the Father will see you on the cross with His Beloved Son in whom He is well-pleased!

5. OUR LADY OF SORROWS (STABAT MATER). After Jesus, nobody ever suffered to the extent of Mary, the Mother of God, known also with the title "Our Lady of Sorrows". Saint Juan Diego ran to Our Lady of Guadalupe in his bitter sufferings--- the possible death of his uncle Juan Bernardino. Immediately Our Lady responded to Juan Diego healing instantaneously the elderly man. In our sufferings—physical, emotional, family, economic, moral, or even spiritual--- why not turn to Our Lady of Sorrows and place all in her Immaculate Heart. Through her powerful prayers, she will turn your thorn into a rose, storm into rainbow, death into life, and Good Friday into the Glory of the Risen Lord Jesus!

What are some positive fruits that blossom in our souls by suffering in union with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

1. PRAYER GROWTH! Suffering often forces us to our knees for the simple reason that we become keenly aware of how fragile and weak we are and how very little we can do of our own accord! How true the saying: "No atheists in foxholes!"

2. HUMILITY. Once again, in suffering, our forces are depleted-- often physically, emotionally, and intellectually. Therefore, we must rely on God's strength. "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

3. COMPASSION. If you have suffered intensely with excruciating pains, and someone approaches you with similar pain, then you can commiserate and have compassion on him/her, having gone through a similar dolorous plight. For example, a woman who has suffered through and survived "Breast-cancer" can certainly shed tears with a friend who reveals to her the detection of the "spot on the breast". Compassion! What a beautiful virtue that means, a willingness to suffer with others. Fr Bruno Lanteri affirmed that the suffering sinners should come to the priest who should be willing to shed and share and unite tears together! Archbishop Fulton Sheen defines the priest as "The victim who offers the Victim!"

4. PATIENCE. Suffering is hard, draining, depleting, but if accepted willingly and united to Jesus, then the beautiful-- all so necessary virtue -- that of patience is acquired. How important! Jesus said that by your patience you will save your souls!

5. SAVE SOULS. Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Lourdes exhorted the world to pray and to offer up sacrifices. Suffering and sacrifice are synonymous! By suffering with supernatural motives for love of God and for the salvation of souls, we can actually collaborate with the Lord in saving immortal souls for all eternity.

6. LOVE. Jesus once said to St. Faustina Kowalska that the best way to measure love is the measure that one is willing to suffer for the loved one. Best example! Good Friday and all that Jesus suffered for you and for me! St Francis de Sales chimes in with, "The measure to love God is to love God without measure."

7. DETACHMENT. We all have the tendency to cling to persons, places, things, and even our own opinions (often quite superficial!). Confronted with our mortality, a near death experience, or a dangerous medical operation looming in the near future, our disordered attachments, our clinging to our little "toys" can manifest itself as ridiculous. "Vanity of vanities", all is vanity if not related to our final end: the Honor and Glory of God and our eternal salvation! Why cling to dust and ashes? The more we empty our hearts of self, the more room for the Lord, His values and His Kingdom!

8. PURIFICATION. As gold is purified by fire, so is the soul of the follower of the Crucified Lord by the crucible of suffering. Debtors indeed we all are! We all have our

quota of sins! Better to pay now than to pay later. Suffering willingly accepted, can be utilized to shorten our Purgatory after we die; who knows, maybe eliminate it totally, if the suffering results in perfect love!

9. VICTIM SOUL AND SUFFERING! Among the most admirable individuals who have ever walked the face of the earth are the very few, but highly noble and deeply charitable, "Victim Souls". Padre Pio, St Therese of Lisieux, Blessed Jacinta Marto--- just to mention a few, burned with a consuming love for God, a desire to repair for sins, and a hunger for the salvation of souls. For that reason, little Jacinta would deprive herself of food, water, comfort, honor, luscious grapes (her favorite) and even dance! Why? This suffering would console the Heart of Jesus, and result in the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls! Don't forget! Jacinta was only a small child! Sanctity is for all; it transcends time, culture, one's past life and circumstances!

10. CONSOLES THE HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY. In Fatima, a later vision was that of the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Heart of Mary was surrounded, encircled and penetrated by sharp thorns. We have all been pricked by a thorn in our garden: ouch!!! Can you imagine your heart pierced by a thorn? Let us unite our sufferings to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, and by holy lives extricate those piercing thorns and crown Jesus and Mary as King and Queen of our hearts!

In conclusion, my CFC USA Brethren, let us all come to terms with the inevitable and unavoidable reality of human suffering. Let us not waste it but rather unite it to the suffering, passion and death of Jesus with the firm conviction and limitless hope that suffering united with Jesus purifies, elevates, ennobles, and sanctifies. If done in this way, suffering will not make us bitter but better individuals!

“We adore you O Christ and we bless you because by your cross you have redeemed the world.”

SPECIAL THANKS TO FR. ED BROOM OMV

Activity of the Month:

Listen to the Song of the Month (Blessings) as a reflection song and the YouTube Video of the Month by Bishop Robert Barron.

Discussion Question of the Month:

In what ways am I presently experiencing suffering (physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, etc.) and how can I, through God's grace make it redemptive suffering?

Song of the Month

Blessings by Laura Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQan9L3yXjc&list=RDXQan9L3yXjc>

We pray for blessings
 We pray for peace
 Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
 We pray for healing, for prosperity
 We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
 All the while, You hear each spoken need
 Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

(Chorus)

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops
 What if Your healing comes through tears
 What if the thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
 What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise
 We pray for wisdom
 Your voice to hear
 We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
 We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love
 As if every promise from Your Word is not enough
 And all the while, You hear each desperate plea
 And long that we'd have faith to believe

Chorus

When friends betray us
 When darkness seems to win
 We know the pain reminds this heart
 That this is not, this is not our home

Chorus

What if my greatest disappointments

Or the aching of this life

Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy

What if trials of this life

The rain, the storms, the hardest nights

Are your mercies in disguise

Proud to be Catholic

Catholic Church Statistics

The following Church statistics are from Georgetown University. As you will soon tell, some of these stats are very hopeful, while others paint a very gloomy picture of the state of the Catholic Church. As you can imagine, gathering accurate statistics on the state of Catholics worldwide can be as hard as herding cats in a pasture, so the absolute accuracy of them is not a guarantee, but rather, an approximate snapshot of current reality. So what to do with these statistics once you know them? It's so easy to say, "Well, it's the fault of the Bishops and the priests for not having better liturgies and sermons"... BUT - That is a copout. It's is also our job especially as CFC to bring back the lost sheep to the flock. SO - Talk these stats up at your next gathering, and encourage others you know to get back to the Sacraments! Be proud to be Catholic!

WORLDWIDE CATHOLIC POPULATION

2010: 1.2 Billion Souls (17% of World Population)

1970: 654 Million Souls (18% of World Population)

TOTAL PRIESTS

2010: 412, 236 Souls

1970: 419, 728 Souls

TOTAL NUNS

2010: 721,935 Souls

1970: 1, 004, 304 Souls

TOTAL PARISHES

2010: 221, 055

1970: 191, 398

% OF ALL ADULT CATHOLICS WHO ATTEND MASS

32% attend once a week or more

21% attend once a month, but less than weekly

24% attend a few times a year

23% never attend Mass

REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT ATTENDING HOLY MASS FOR THOSE ATTENDING A FEW TIMES A YEAR (Percentages add up to more than 100% due to multiple responses).

64% - "I don't believe that missing Holy Mass is a sin."

50% - "I'm not very religious."

41% - "My schedule is too busy."

31% - "I have family responsibilities."

21% - "I have health and disability problems."

16% - "I have a work conflict."

FREQUENCY OF RECEPTION OF THE EUCHARIST (WEEKLY MASS ATTENDEES)

79% always receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ

16% frequently receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ

3% seldom receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ

2% never receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ

CONFESSION

For weekly Mass-goers, only 61% go to confession at least ONCE A YEAR or more

For monthly Mass-goers, only 37% go to confession at least ONCE A YEAR or more

AVAILABILITY OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

47% of Catholics say that there is Eucharistic Adoration at their parish

6% of Catholics say that there is no Eucharistic Adoration at their parish

43% of Catholics say that they do not know

PARTICIPATION IN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR PARISHES WHICH DO HAVE IT

29% of Catholics worship Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration

71% of Catholics do not worship Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration

BELIEF IN THE REAL PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

91% of weekly Mass attendees believe that the Eucharist is Jesus Christ

65% of monthly Mass attendees believe that the Eucharist is Jesus Christ

40% of yearly Mass attendees believe that the Eucharist is Jesus Christ

UNITED STATES CATHOLICS

31% of US Citizens were raised Catholic

10% of US citizens who were raised Catholic renounce their faith later on in life

2.6% of US Citizens are Catholic converts 25% of all US Citizens are Catholic (immigrant Catholics to the US add 1.4 % to the total number

See Answers IN ALL CAPS to last month's "How Catholic are you?" quiz:

1. Pope John Paul II instituted a new set of mysteries to the Rosary called the LUMINOUS Mysteries. It is suggested by the Church to say these mysteries on THURSDAYS
2. The 3rd Glorious Mystery of the Rosary is the DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
3. Saul saw Jesus as a bright light on his way to DAMASCUS.
4. The first Christian in the New Testament, as well as the first evangelist, was MARY.
5. Paul describes Jesus as the new ADAM.
6. The Ark of the Covenant contained three items, according to Paul, including the WORD OF GOD, MANNA AND ROD OF AARON.
7. There are at least 3 righteous people mentioned in the Book of Luke – ELIZABETH, ZECHARARIAH AND SIMEON.
8. According to the Bible, SATAN is the prince of the air.
9. The first murderer in human history was CAIN
10. Adam and Eve's third son was named SETH.

Saint of the Month:



St. Peregrine

Feast day: May 1

Birth: 1260

Death: 1345

Canonized: 1726

Peregrine Laziosi was born in Forli, Italy, around 1260. At that time, Forli was governed by the Pope as part of the Papal States, and Peregrine grew up in a family that was actively involved in the opposition, or anti-papal party. Because of anti-papal activity, the city was under the church penalty of interdict, meaning that Mass and the Sacraments could not be celebrated there. St. Philip Benizi, Prior General of the Servants of Mary, went to Forli to preach rec-

onciliation. Young Peregrine, very intense in his political fervor, not only heckled Philip during his preaching, but, in fact, struck him. Philip, instead of responding with anger and violence to the attack, turned and forgave Peregrine.

This encounter with Philip is said to have dramatically changed Peregrine. He began channeling his energy into good works and eventually joined the Servants of Mary in Siena, Italy. He returned to Forli, where he spent the rest of his life, dedicating himself to the sick, the poor, and those on the fringes of society. He also imposed on himself the penance of standing whenever it was not necessary to sit. This led to varicose veins, which later deteriorated into an open sore on his leg, and was eventually diagnosed as cancer.

Peregrine's leg wound became so serious that the local surgeon decided to amputate the leg. The night before the surgery, Peregrine prayed before the image of the crucified Christ, and when he awoke, the wound was healed and his leg saved. He lived another 20 years, dying on May 1, 1345, and the age of about 80. Peregrine was canonized on December 27, 1726, and has been named the Patron Saint of those suffering from cancer.

Prayer of the Month:

Prayer to St Peregrine

O great St. Peregrine, you have been called "The Mighty," "The Wonder-Worker," because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you.

For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more. You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction. Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you.

(Pause here and silently recall the names of the sick for whom you are praying)
Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen.

Media (YouTube video) of the Month:

Bishop Robert Barron on God, Tsunamis and the Problem of Evil

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=robert+barron+on+god%2c+tsunamis&view=detail&mid=9ADE87D1CCB21CB824259ADE87D1CCB21CB82425&FORM=VIRE>

Joke of the Month:

Pain and Suffering

Mark was known to all his friends as a hypochondriac. One day he awoke with a pain on his left side and was convinced that his pain was appendicitis. But his wife Sadie told him that appendices were on the right side of the body. "Aha," said Mark, "so that's why it's hurting me so much. My appendix is obviously on the wrong side.

“Faith without Action is Dead” Application of the Month:

Visit, give comfort and be Christ to someone you know who is presently going through significant suffering (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual)