

JULY 25, 2010

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we began printing excerpts from the spiritual classic, *The Living God* by Msgr. Romano Guardini. This book as well as other spiritual classics can be obtained from Sophia Institute Press through their website.

With my prayers,
Fr. Conley

“The Will of God”
excerpted from *The Living God*
by Msgr. Romano Guardini

One day Jesus' disciples came to their Master and said: “Lord, teach us how to pray, as John did for his disciples.” A significant moment. Jesus was asked to tell them how to do the most intimate and the greatest thing possible, how to come to God, how to receive the things that come from God and to take to Him the things of man. He was to show them what they were to pray for and the state of mind in which they should pray. So He taught them the “Our Father.” It is not simply one prayer among many but the basic pattern of all Christian prayer, the embodiment of all the objects of prayer, and the expression of the attitude of mind which should condition all prayer. This prayer contains a strange clause: “Thy will be done.”

What is this will of God?

We have become far too accustomed to thinking of it in purely moral terms, as the sum total of our obligations, as a kind of personification of the “moral law.” It is in fact much more than that. The will of God is simply what ought to happen in the world He has created, what ought to emerge from the interplay of natural forces, what ought to emerge from man's work, from the freedom of *the human spirit*, so that the world may come to be what He intended it to be. The will of God is the consummation of the divine creation of which man, with his freedom, is part.

This is in itself inconceivably great. But there is more to it than that: the will of God is what God demands of man, in other words, what He requires of man. It is His will for me, for this one individual me, as a member of the total human race, His will for the world through me.

But there is still more to be said: This will of God does not stand “over” me, “in front of” me, and say “You must do this and that. You must become this sort of person.” God does not give me marching orders. He is a living power ruling within me. The will of God is not merely a claim on me, it is also an active force. It is the special way in which He admonishes, urges, helps, sustains, acts and molds, struggles, overcomes and perfects, inside me. The

will of God is the power with which He helps me to fulfill His demands. Seen in this light, it has another name; it is the power we call Grace. When the will of God is done, it is the gift and achievement of this will itself ... it is my work but mine only through His, His will acting in me: the whole process being a mysterious unity.

This will of God is the love of the Father.

It is not an impersonal law but the living, creative power of the Creator of man and the world. It is not a command issued by a sovereign to his subjects but the personal claim of a Father on His sons and daughters. It is His loving will for the individual child of God, a living force which encourages and sustains. It is the gracious act of Love which enables the claim to be heard and affords the power to fulfill it. It is the power of the love that gives all; it is Being, Power, and Deed. The things that arise from this Power become part of me. This is the understanding which the Almighty has with freedom, the secret of which is that the stronger the power of Grace, the more freely freedom belongs to itself. He makes no rigid demands. His love is eternally renewed, guided by a Father's constant care for His children. God accompanies everything that happens, co-operating with human freedom. This is the ineffable mystery of His patience, which is possible only because He is the truly Living God and the almighty Living God.

And now we may have come to see why we are taught to pray that “God's will be done.” The fact is that the more profoundly a man has become a Christian the more alive will be his concern to do the will of God and the more aware he will be that this will is the most precious, and the most gentle and most powerful thing in the world and the more he realizes his own wretchedness and untrustworthiness, the more he will turn to the Lord of the world and pray that He may cherish and fulfill that high purpose on which the meaning of everything depends. At the same time he will grow the more confident that His will *will be* done and *will* triumph over all the powers of evil.

Catholic Quotes

“I will attempt day by day to break my will into little pieces. I want to do God's Holy Will, not my own”

St. Gabriel Possenti

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This week St. Mary's recognizes ***Brinsfield-Echols Funeral Homes***. Please support our bulletin advertising sponsors who support St. Mary's bulletin.

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~ PARISH AND SCHOOL NEWS *~*

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REST IN PEACE ~ Louis A. Edelen, Jr.

~ Absent from the body ~

~ Present with the Lord ~

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Offertory Collection from Last Weekend: \$7,119.45. Of the 867 registered households in the parish we received donations from 273 identifiable contributors (32% of the parish) using envelopes or checks. Their average donation was \$26.08. The unidentified donations totaled \$361.40. We also received \$45.00 for school support. We thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:

Dottie Anderson, Janice Balenger, Bonnie S. Bartlett, Hannah Burroughs, Hilda Butler, William "Dump" Butler, Geno Cantor, Tiffany Cantor, Mary Lou Gough, Bernard Hemming, Nick Hurrysh, Warren Jameson, Regina Kijesky, Bill Moffat, Robby Pirhalla, William Leon Savoy, Sr., Lavenia Sweetney, Melanie Upright, Davisha Wade, and pray for all the sick of the parish. Please pray also for those serving in religious vocations.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8 am Steven B. Datcher, 10am Matilda J. Fennessey, 12 noon Parishioners **MON:** Susan E. Wathen **TUES:** Anthony William **WEDS:** Susan E. Wathen **THURS:** Arthur Strissel, Sr. **FRI:** Susan E. Wathen **SAT:** 9 am Arthur Strissel, Sr., 4 pm William Boxwell

SHOPPING CARDS PROFIT THE PARISH – Last week parishioners earned \$141.88, simply by buying Shopping Cards through St. Mary's. Thank you for your continued support.

THE RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE WILL BE OPEN on the *first* and *third* weekend in the month of *July & August*, returning to a regular schedule in September.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR –

St. Mary's School is looking for an individual who can handle a variety of tasks that support the school program. This job position includes tracking and managing tuition contracts, payments and working with the tuition management company, seeking, writing and securing grants, designing and writing ads and public relation articles to promote the school; assisting with office reports and deadlines and other duties as assigned. Interested individuals must be able to work with a variety of individuals and maintain confidentiality. Experience with accounting is preferred. Interested individuals should submit: a letter of interest, resume', and Archdiocese of Washington application to the school's main office. For further information, contact Sharon Caniglia, Principal at (301) 843-3387.

STRUGGLING WITH YOUR MARRIAGE? If you're considering separation or divorce, a Retrouvaille weekend experience can help you. The weekend offers help for couples who are struggling in their relationships. The weekend will help you discover how listening, forgiveness, communication, and the dialogue process are powerful aids for building a loving & lasting relationship. Additional info, go to www.retrouvaille.org or call 703-351-7211.

RESTORE THE FAMILY TO CHRIST

through the Immaculate Heart of Mary by praying the Rosary daily. Join the Universal Living Rosary Association at PO Box 1301, Dickinson, TX 77539 or visit their website at www.philomena.org Join Our Lady's Worldwide Army today.

THE CATHERINE FOUNDATION pregnancy care center is now accepting applications for the position of Executive Assistant. The Executive Assistant is responsible for assisting the Executive Director with day-to-day operations of the center including, but not limited to mailings, fundraisers, and CFCPCC programs. This is a part-time position averaging 24 hours a week. Anyone interested please contact Kelley Jennings at (301) 870-4912 ext 16 for an application.

ANGEL'S WATCH SHELTER for Women and Children in Hughesville is in need of a little help with their lawn care. If you need community service hours for school, this might be the job for you. We have a few areas that would need to be weeded around the playground and building. Also, if you are a licensed daycare provider and can donate a few hours a month, please call Kathy Clark (301) 274-0880 or you can email Kathy at: Kathy.Clark@catholiccharitiesdc.org