MOTHER LOVE

A Newsletter To The Christian Mother VOL. 71 NO. 4 FALL 2013

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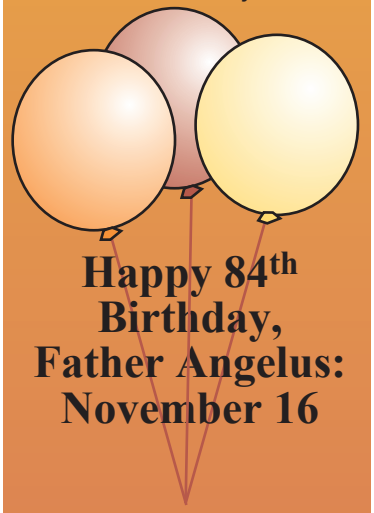
Peace be with you!



Happy 84th Birthday, Father Angelus: November 16

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Oh God, Why Did I Get Married?

Never before in the sixty-three years of our married life did an experience move us so much that we said to one another, we will buy this book and send it to our married children and married grandchildren as a Christmas present. It was our first time on a married couples retreat at a Benedictine Monastery in Greensburg, PA that we were directed to this little book by the retreat master, a very holy 80 year old Capuchin Friar. Written by Jude R. Senieur, also a Capuchin, with the committee of ten Navy couples at the Naval Station in San Diego, California, it was entitled, "Oh God, Why Did I Get Married"? The subtitle is "Marriage Course: Sixfold Intercourse to Complete Wedlock".

When we got home, we read the chapters aloud to each other, one night for each chapter. The retreat did not have any reference to the material in the book, it was centered on us and God; the book is centered more on the relationship of the spouses with each other, with the exception of the one subject of the spiritual.

Our relationship desperately needed this conversational style, well directed with excellent reasons to support the thesis of a sixfold intercourse for marriage to be what is was meant to be! We had mastered only three of the six ways, the volitional, the spiritual and the physical, the other three ways were nonverbal or assumed to be known.

This is a complete lesson in maturity, written so compellingly and completely that the only aspect that I say that was not addressed was the historical but that could be considered under the psychological union of not only two genetic codes but two different stories coming together and having a big impact on how the couples live out their history. This was a big hurdle for us, even though our backgrounds were so similar, our parents' relationships were radically different, that is, their maturity, their spirits and their relationships.

Since we have read this just once, we stopped to talk about our failures, the selfishness that refuses to share, the stubbornness that keeps it that way. Suddenly, we were in a new world, it grew to massive proportions and it included all the seen and unseen, the history and the redemption of the failures, we carry through in our own lives. Of course, we have a maturity that immediately sees but trust us, this way of sharing leads to psychological and spiritual conversions, from animal knowing to human knowing!

Let us live by Jesus' model of change that is, it creates the good and heals the bad. We find new ways to live because we suffer and die to new life. That has always been the way of love that Christ came to teach us. In that way we lose our fears; for then, the joy of the Lord becomes our strength. WE will fight with that strength to show the country what hope and change it is that we need! Let us begin with our spouse the real work of hope and change!

Afra and Connie Maffey

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin. (Blessed Mother Teresa)

Please, Mom and Dad...

My hands are small – I don't mean to spill my milk.

My legs are short - please slow down so I can keep up with you.

Don't slap my hands when I touch something bright and pretty – I don't understand.

Please look at me when I talk to you – it lets me know you are really listening.

My feelings are tender – don't nag me all day - let me make mistakes without feeling stupid.

Don't expect the bed I make or the picture I draw to be perfect – just love me for trying.

Remember I am a child not a small adult – sometimes I don't understand what you are saying.

I love you so much – please love me just for being me – not just for the things I can do.

Christian Mothers – More Relevant Than Ever!

1850 – 2013: Christian Mothers after 163 years. View the presentation of David Anders on the founding of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers. His PhD is in historical theology. Many parallels that the women of 1850 France and the women of 2013 are experiencing: secularism, relativism, governments undermining religious liberty, the family under attack. Christian Mothers are more relevant than ever! Doctor Ander's DVD will soon be available.

Mother, Pray: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

The Holy Spirit is always coming, always arriving, always present - - if we are open to receiving Him, He lives in the now of eternity. He comes with light and strength. The light is the gift of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge. His strength is piety, fear of the Lord, and fortitude (Isaias). We pray to God the Father, through God the Son, in God the Holy Spirit. This type of prayer is always answered because it is a humble prayer. Every humble prayer is answered.

This prayer is like breathing. It is not we ourselves who are praying; it is the Spirit of God within us. "Come, Holy Spirit, come!" If we live in the Holy Spirit the fruits of the Holy Spirit will eventually show in our lives: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, long-suffering, mildness, faith, modesty, self-control, and chastity according to our state in life. These fruits (Galatians 5) will show us just how much of the Holy Spirit we have within us. They make an excellent examination of conscience!

We have as much of the Holy Spirit as we love the Church because the Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church. The Holy Spirit keeps the Church alive. It was the Holy Spirit that inspired the Sacred Scriptures, that protects the teaching authority of the Church from falling into error, that motivates the faithful to become perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. He is the Spirit of Truth and Love. This is how He wants us to participate in His mission: to share the truth in love.

The Holy Spirit is the mutual love of God the Father for God the Son, and the love of God the Son for God the Father. He is the Spirit of Love. He it is who schools us to love God and keep His commandments, and to teach us to love each other as God loves us. He provides that light to our minds and that thrust to our wills to embrace the Lord's wishes at every moment of our lives. He is ever-ready to help us if we are humble enough to call on Him.

We were sealed with the Holy Spirit at our Baptism, and again at our Confirmation. He is sent for the forgiveness of our sins in the sacrament of Penance and our on-going strength in the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. He is the finger of God that effects the Ordination of the priest and confects the Holy Eucharist at the invitation of the priest. If your marriage is holding together well, thank the Holy Spirit.

But, most of all, thank the Holy Spirit for the enfleshment of our God – Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit. This is the greatest news the world has ever heard. Invite the Lord and Giver of Life, the Holy Spirit, to do for you what He did for the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday. With the guidance of Mary we never pray: "Our Holy Spirit" because the Holy Spirit possesses us.

©Father Angelus M. Shaughnessy, O.F.M. Capuchin

"The renewal of the Church in America and throughout the world depends upon the renewal of the Sacrament of Penance."

Pope Benedict XVI:

Heart Prints

Whatever our hands touch – we leave fingerprints!

On walls, on furniture
On doorknobs, dishes, books.
There's no escape.
As we touch we leave our identity.

Oh God, wherever I go today
Help me leave heart prints!
Heart prints of compassion
Of understanding and love.
Heart prints of kindness
And genuine concern.

May my heart touch a lonely neighbor
Or a runaway daughter
Or an anxious mother
Or perhaps an aged grandfather.

Lord, send me out today
To leave heartprints.
And if someone should say
"I felt your touch,"
May that one sense YOUR LOVE
Touching through me.

And....Lord, please treat me tomorrow
the way I treated people today.

Today is the oldest you have been, yet the youngest you will ever be. So enjoy this day while it lasts.

Dear Father Angelus, "Saint Rita's Prayer Book for Girls"

I have started a little prayer group called "The Little Society of Saint Rita." The prayer group is for young women and girls. We meet each first Saturday of the month between September and May. We attend Mass together at the Dominican Monastery near our house then go to sisters' visiting room and pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the Litany of Saint Rita, and the Novena of Saint Rita. This prayer book is now available from:

Janice Rossoniello, 226 Murry Hill Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601. Janice is the mother of nine children.

Great Advice!

A Word From the Wise!

Opportunity may knock once
but temptation bangs on your door
forever.

Quit griping about your Church;
if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

If the Church wants a better pastor
it only needs to pray for the one it
has.

God Himself is not supposed to judge
man until he is dead.
So, why should you?

Some minds are like concrete
thoroughly mixed up and
permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

A lot of church members who are
singing 'Standing on the Promises'
are just sitting on the premises.

We are called to be witnesses,
not lawyers or judges.

Be ye fishers of men.
You catch them – He'll clean them.

Coincidence is when God chooses
to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark
where God puts a period.

Don't wait for 6 strong men
to take you to church.

Forbidden fruits
create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified,
He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross,
not the curve.

God loves everyone,
but probably prefers
'fruits of the spirit'
over 'religious nuts!'

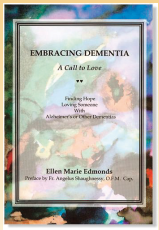
(Continued on page 4)

Highly Recommended Books

MotherLove Prayer Book
$15.00 Plus S&H

Every Christian Mother in the world should have and be using the **"Mother Love" prayer book**. Therein is the relationship with God and others that we expect our Mother to live by day-by-day.

"Embracing Dementia" A Call to Love. This is a book to find hope loving someone with Alzheimer's and other Dementias written by Ellen Marie Edmonds with preface by Father Angelus Shaughnessy, O.F.M. Capuchin. "Could it be that God has allowed the dark plague of dementia to help us see the light of His love?" Father Angelus Shaughnessy



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Regular print $16.00*
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Great Advice!

A Word From the Wise!

(Continued from page 3)

God promises a safe landing,
not a calm passage.

He who angers you,
controls you!

If God is your Co-pilot-
swap seats!

Prayer: Don't give God instructions
just report for duty.

The task ahead of us is never as great
as the Power behind us.

The will of God never takes you to
where the grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message,
the message changes us.

You can tell how big a person is
by what it takes to discourage him.