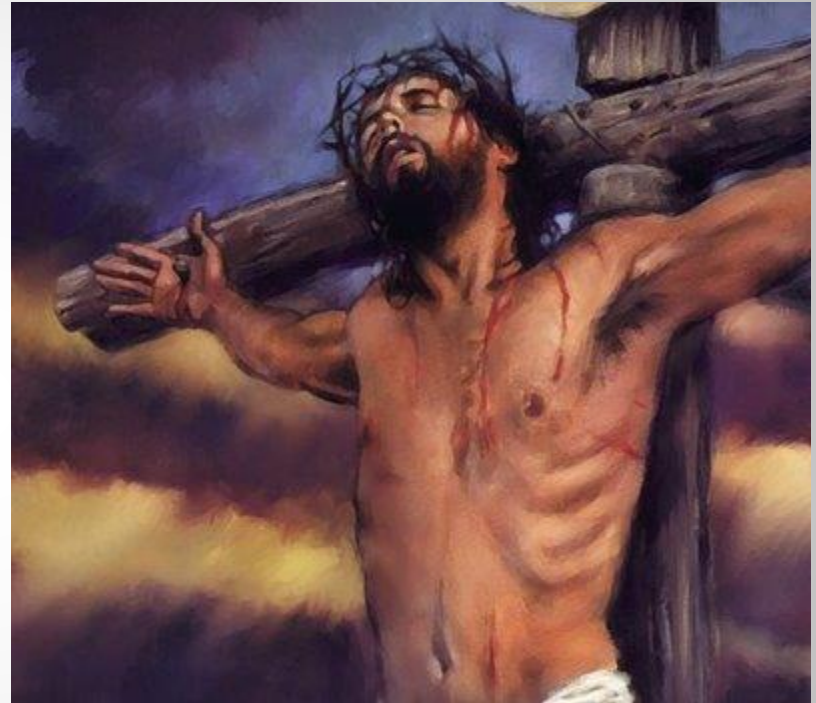


# FOLLOWING JESUS

By Deacon Evan Wittig

# Following Jesus

- ▣ Pope Francis:  
“Christianity is not a philosophical doctrine or a program of life... Christianity is a person, lifted up on the cross.”
- ▣ Emptied himself
- ▣ Profound humiliation
- ▣ Christianity without the cross
- ▣ Look into his wounds
- ▣ P 131-2 Mag April 2015



# Outline

- 1- Become like Jesus
- 2- Intentional disciple
- 3- Faith comes from
- 4- Supernatural reason
- 5- See the unseen
- 6- Balance
- 7- Imitation of Christ
- 8 - Love
- ▣ 9- Thy will be done
- ▣ 10-The Commandments
- ▣ 11-Strength
- ▣ 12- Listen
- ▣ 13-Transformation
- ▣ 14- 7 Pillars

# Following Jesus

- ▣ Discipleship - How can I become more like Jesus?

## The 12 Apostles

1. Andrew - crucified
  2. Bartholomew - beaten then crucified
  3. James, son of Alphaeus - stoned to death
  4. James, son of Zebedee - beheaded
  5. John exiled for his faith; (after a failed attempt to fry him in cooking oil) died of old age
  6. Judas (not Iscariot) - stoned to death
  7. Matthew - speared to death
  8. Peter - crucified upside down
  9. Philip - crucified
  10. Simon - crucified
  11. Thomas - speared to death
  12. Matthias - stoned to death
- (Source Fox's book of Martyr's)

# Intentional Disciple Thresholds

- Excerpt from: Sherry Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples: the Path to Knowing and Following Jesus* (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2012), page 128 - 130



“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.  
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.  
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.  
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.  
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.  
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”  
— Mother Teresa

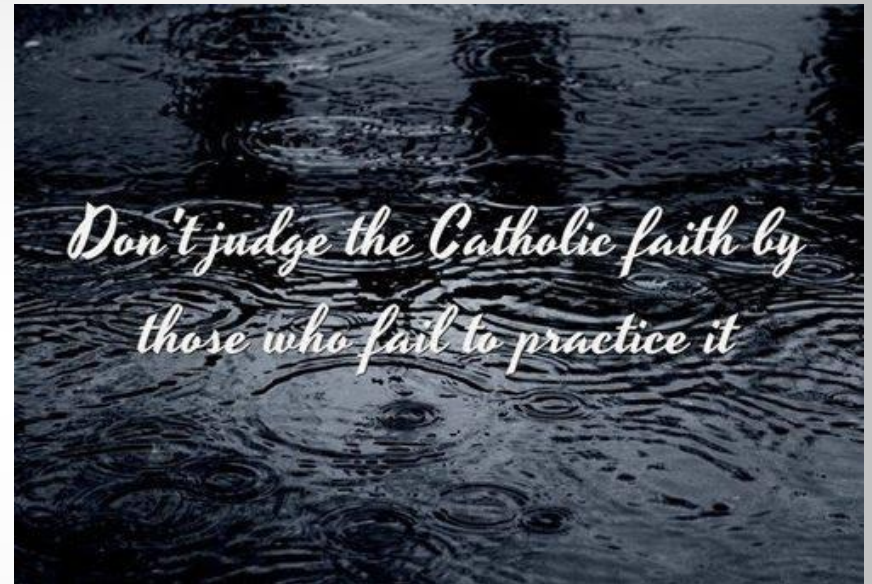
# Trust

- ▣ Initial trust: A person is able to *trust* Jesus Christ, the Church, a Christian believer.
- ▣ *not* the same as active personal faith.
- ▣ TRUST = a bridge to God



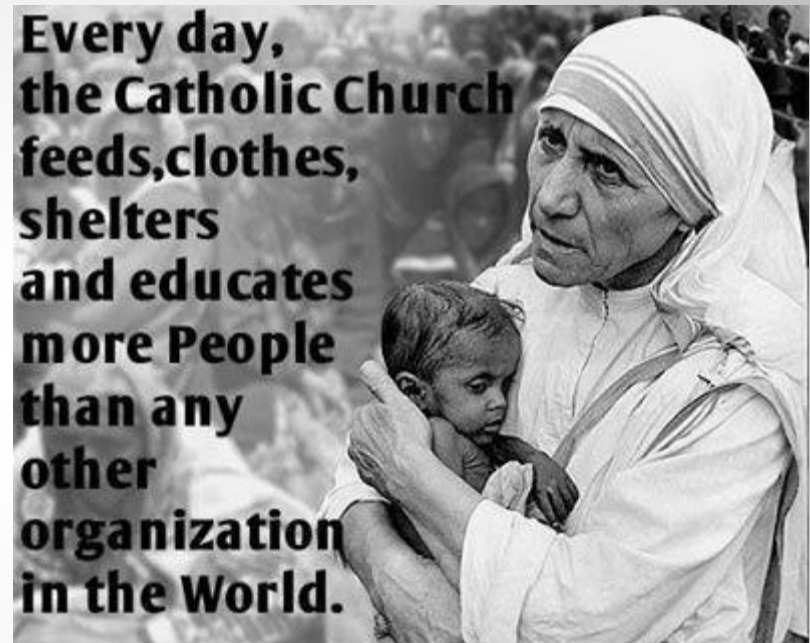
# Curiosity

- ▣ Spiritual curiosity: *intrigued* about Jesus, from awareness to something
- ▣ Not yet open to personal change essentially passive, but it is more than mere trust.



# Spiritual Openness

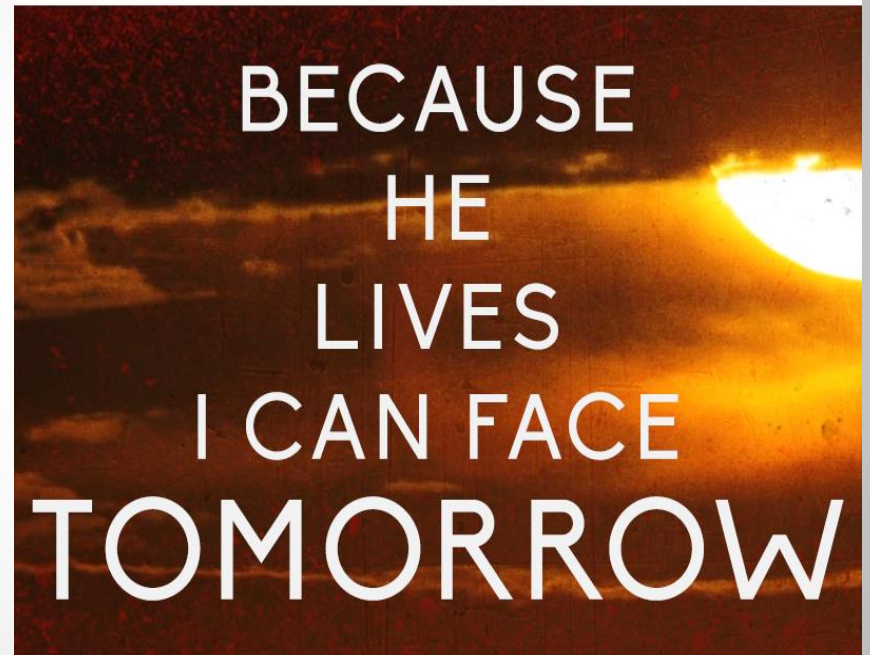
- ▣ Open to the *possibility* of personal spiritual change.
- ▣ Not a commitment to change.





# Spiritual Seeking

- ▣ Spiritual seeking: The person moves to actively seeking to know God
- ▣ “dating with a purpose” engaged in an urgent spiritual quest
- ▣ Yes or no to Christianity
- ▣



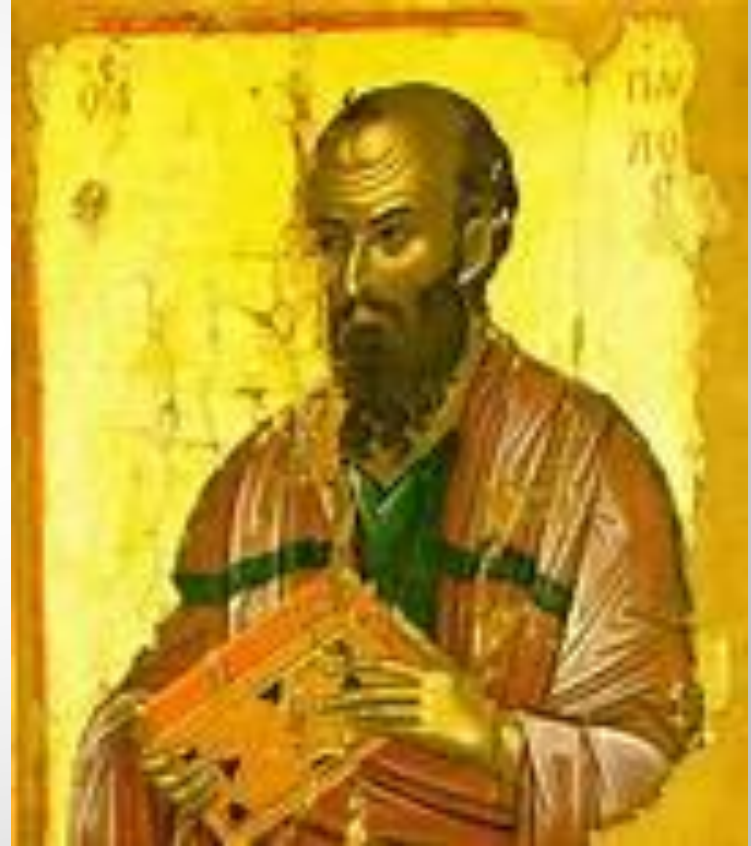
# Are you intentional?

- ▣ Intentional discipleship: to “drop one’s nets,” a conscious commitment to follow Jesus
- ▣ An obedient disciple



# Faith

- ▣ “Faith comes from what is heard and what is heard is the Word of Christ.”  
(Rm 10.17)



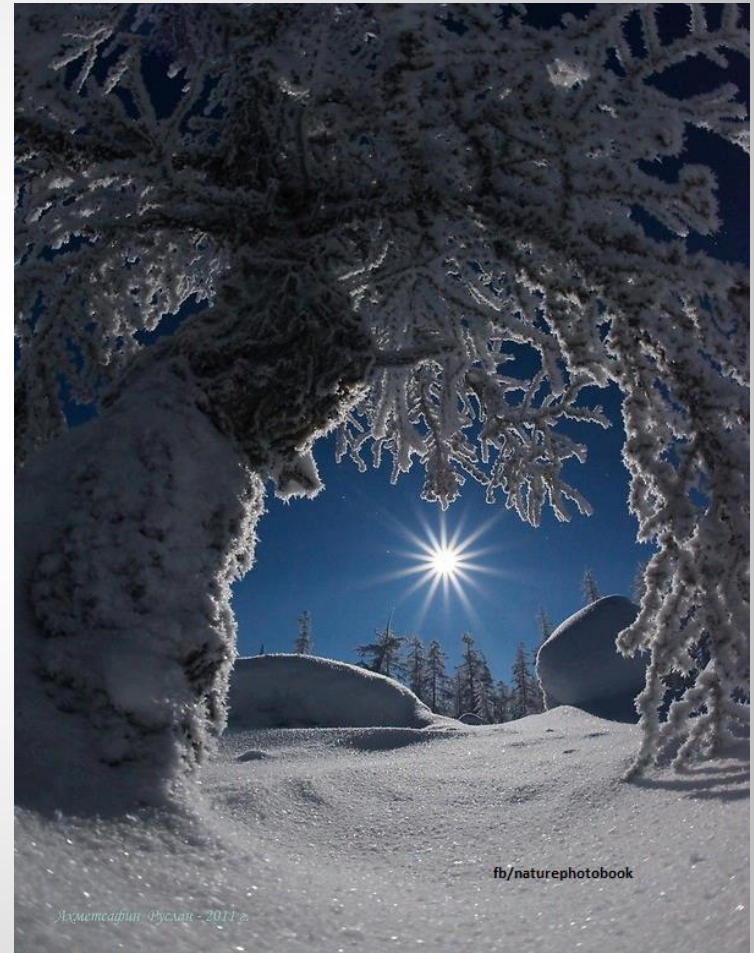
# What do you hope for?

- ▣ Heb 11.1 “Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things unseen.”



# The word brings Faith

- ▣ Is 55.10-11 “Rain and snow is like my word, it shall not return to me void.”



fb/naturephotobook

Ахметсафин Руслан - 2011 г.

# Supernatural

- ▣ “Faith is God’s thinking... supernatural reason
- ▣ Knowing by faith is not a difference of degree, but of essence.” Mag p 155 April 2015 Fr. Tadeuse Dajczer



Faith is something more than a word, an idea: it involves entering into communion with Christ and through him with the Father.

**BENEDICT XVI**

From his book *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*


# God's thoughts

- ▣ Isa 55.8-9 “My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so are my ways above your ways.”



# See the unseen

- ▣ 2 Cor 4.18 “We do not look at what is seen, but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.”



FAITH SEES  
THE INVISIBLE  
BELIEVES THE  
UNBELIEVABLE  
AND RECEIVES  
THE IMPOSSIBLE

FROM THE CREATORS OF **GOD'S<sup>NOT</sup> DEAD** | **PURE FLIX** PRESENTS

**DO YOU BELIEVE?**

IN THEATERS MARCH 20



# Surrender

- ▣ John Henry Newman:  
“To have faith in God  
is to surrender one’s  
self to God, “it is a  
habit, a state of mind  
lasting and  
consistent.” Jan Mag  
Vol 16 #12

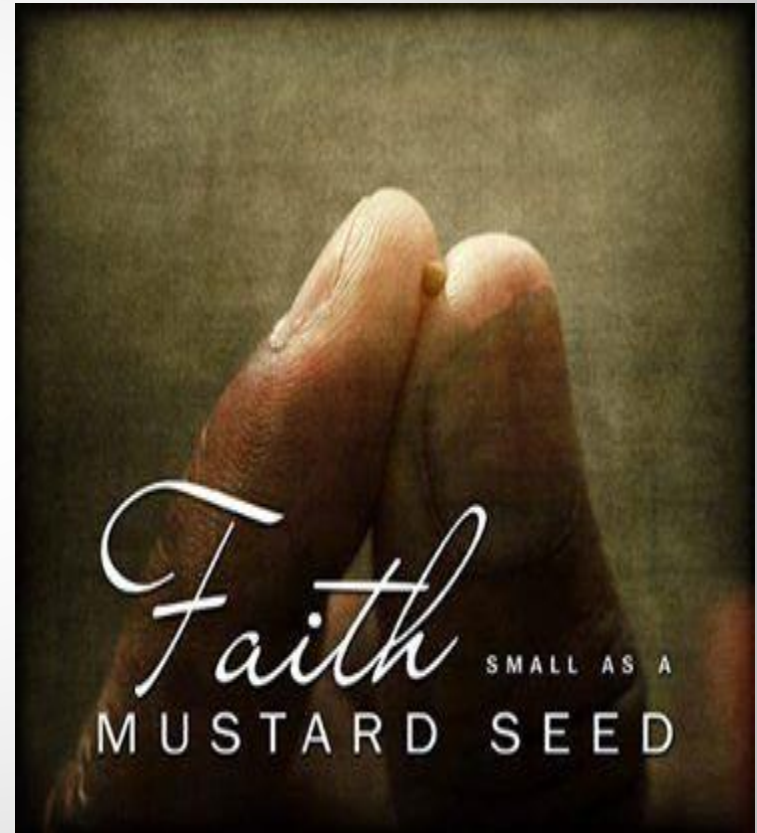
faith

it does not  
make things easy  
it makes them  
possible

⊕ luke 1:37

# Say yes to God

- ▣ Think about the unseen, the uncreated things
- ▣ Intentionally know God
- ▣ Say yes to God and no to created things
- ▣ Whatever God's will is
- ▣ Love God and neighbor



# Balance grace & obedience

- ▣ There must be a balance between letting go and letting God's grace take effect and obedience. Quiet prayer and listening plus active obedience.
- ▣ God inspires us
- ▣ Focus on God, not self



# Imitation

- ▣ – It begins with imitation- accepting the identity, the purpose, the mission of Christ. It becomes not my acting, but Christ acting in me. The work of Christ Jesus is eternal and the fulfillment of the Scriptures is the eternal reality for each and every generation.



# Thy will be done

- ▣ Keep your eyes on Jesus! Keep your eyes on the cross, on your duties, imitate Jesus. Know God's will and do it.
- ▣ God will be with you



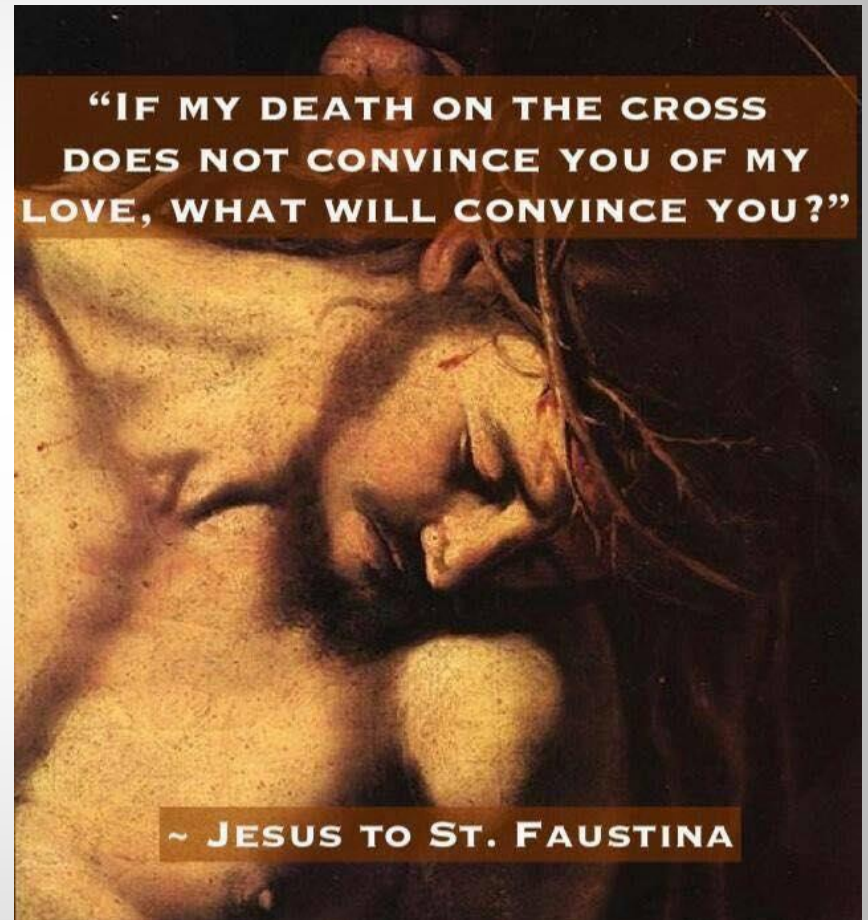
# Do what Jesus does

- ▣ Jesus obeys the Father  
We do what Jesus does.
- ▣ Glorify my Father,  
bear much fruit and  
become my disciples.  
Jn 15



# Love

- ▣ Children, let us love not in word and speech, but in deed and truth. 1 Jn 3.18
- ▣ “When you encounter love, you encounter God.”



# Your neighbor

- ▣ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and with all your mind.”
- ▣ “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”  
(Mt 22.36-40)





# Ways to love

- “I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.” Jn 13.34
  - ▣ Love is charity, self-sacrifice, eternal, undefeated, enduring, real, holy, wise.

## 10 WAYS TO LOVE

1. **Listen without interrupting.** (Proverbs 18)
2. **Speak without accusing.** (James 1:19)
3. **Give without sparing.** (Proverbs 21:26)
4. **Pray without ceasing.** (Colossians 1:9)
5. **Answer without arguing.** (Proverbs 17:1)
6. **Share without pretending.** (Ephesians 4:15)
7. **Enjoy without complaint.** (Philippians 2:14)
8. **Trust without wavering.** (1 Corinthians 13:7)
9. **Forgive without punishing.** (Colossians 3:13)
10. **Promise without forgetting.** (Proverbs 13:12)

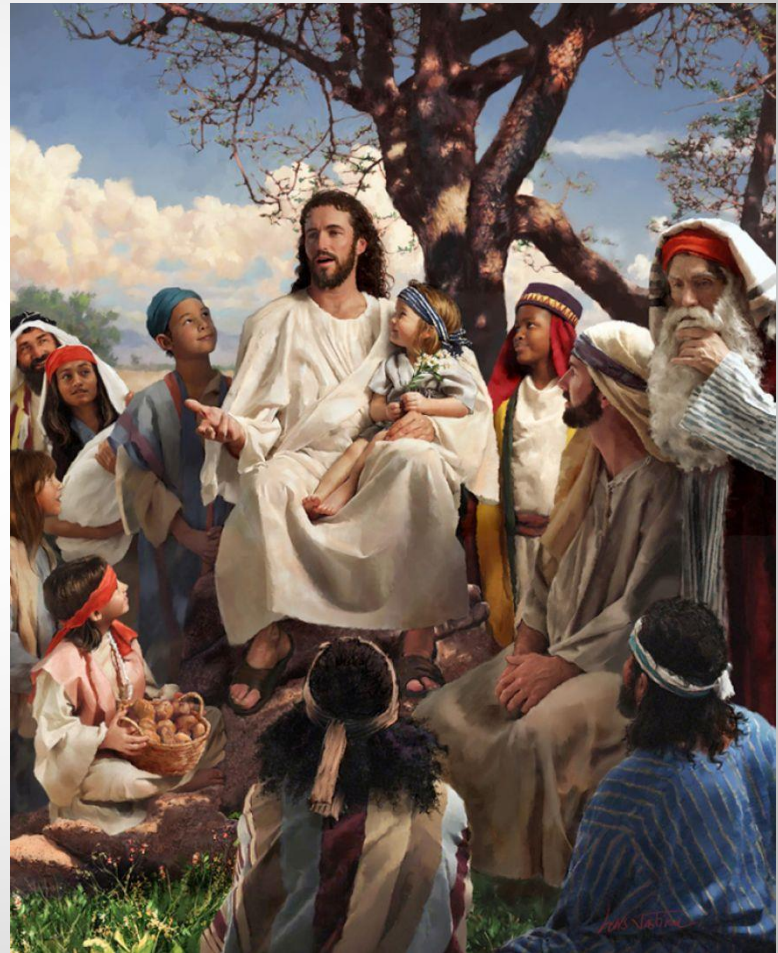
# Jesus prays

- ▣ Thy will be done.”  
That’s JESUS in me  
praying!
- ▣ The rosary is all about  
God’s will being  
done.
- ▣ Rom 12.12 Rejoice in  
hope, endure in  
affliction, persevere in  
prayer.



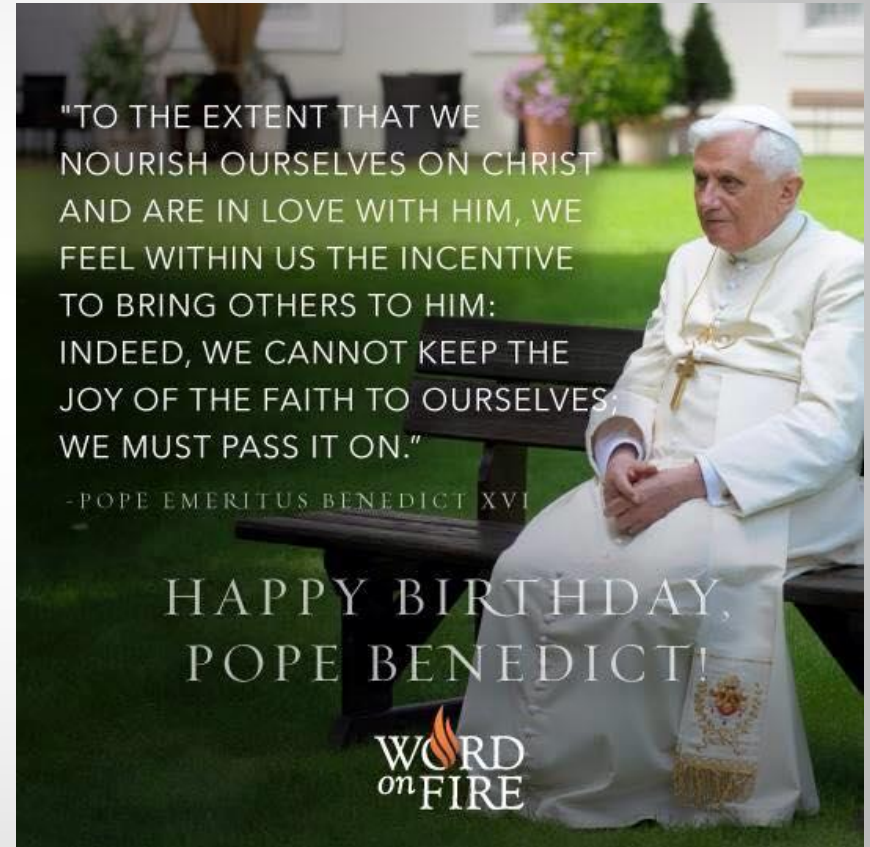
# Community prayer

- ▣ Mt 6.7-15 – Jesus teaches us the “Our Father.” This prayer is the good news, a community prayer.



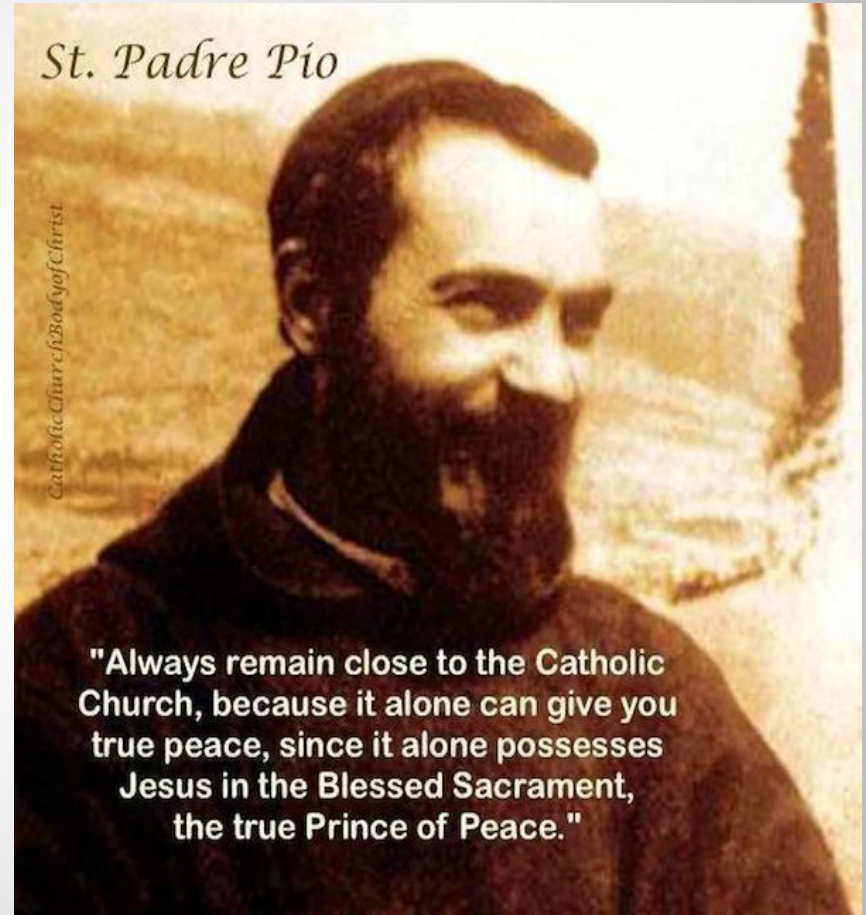
# Keep the Commandments

- ▣ Keep my commandments and remain in my love (Jn 15)



# Strength from God

- ▣ I have strength for everything through him who empowers me. Phil 4.13
- ▣ Draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Eph 6.10



# Discipline

- ▣ Discipline brings the fruit of righteousness and peace



# Fasting

- ▣ Discipleship means fasting, there is no happiness without discipline.
- ▣ Give up something for God

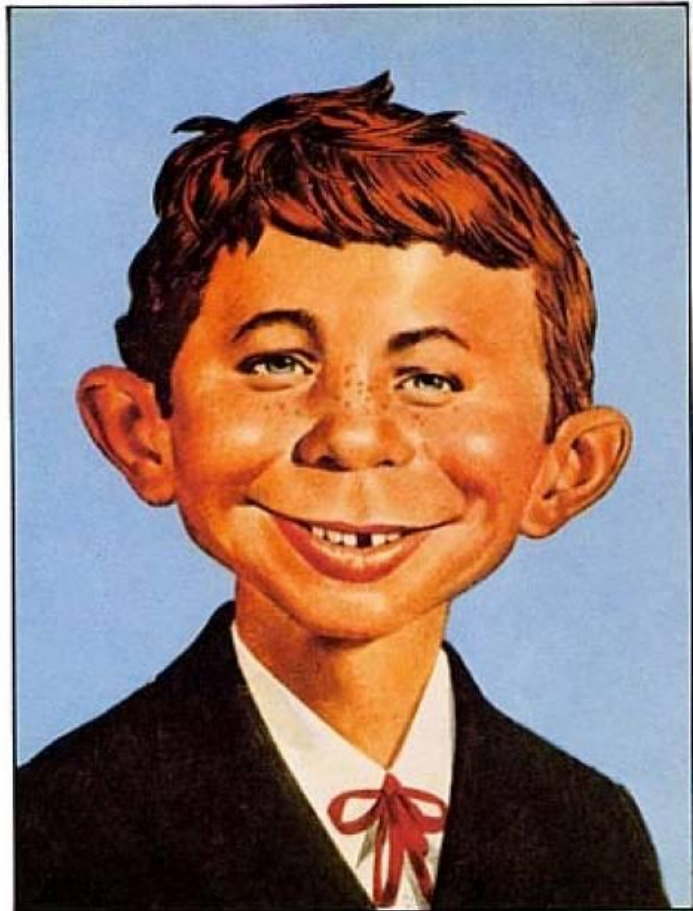
**If God answers ur prayer,  
He is increasing ur faith.**

**If He delays,  
He is increasing ur  
patience**

**If he doesn't answer,  
He knows u can handle**

# Don't worry

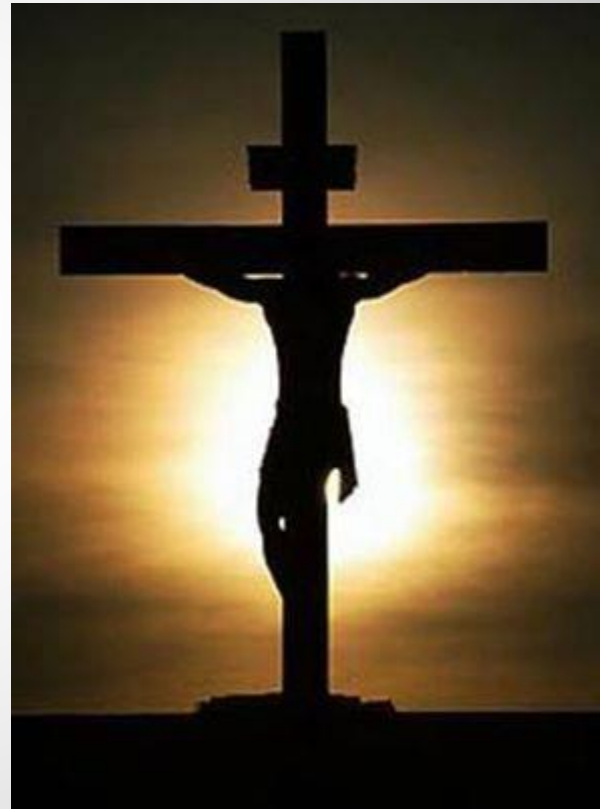
- ▣ I don't worry about tomorrow, that's why I am procrastinating today.- Alfred E Neuman
- ▣ Obedience is better than sacrifice. 1 Sm 15.22





# Listen to God

- ▣ Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Jer 7.23
- ▣ Christ crucified in me is the key to victory.
- ▣ Speak Lord, your servant is listening
- ▣ 1 Sam



# Transformation

- ▣ Go straight against self
- ▣ Be transformed, regenerated
- ▣ Poor in spirit, humble, obedient

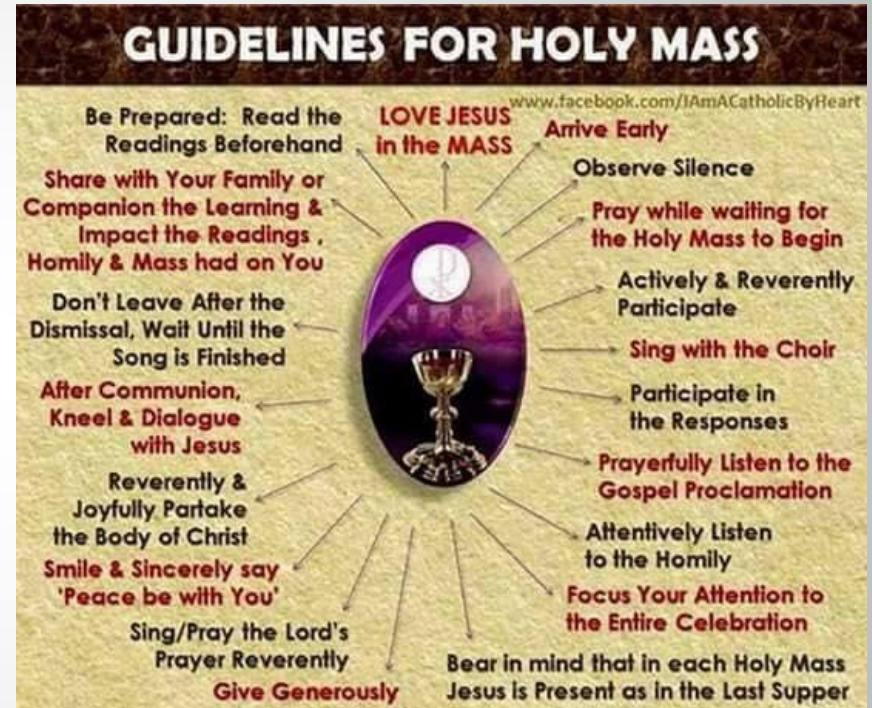
Grant me, O Lord my God,  
a **mind** to know you,  
a **heart** to seek you,  
**wisdom** to find you,  
**conduct** pleasing to you,  
faithful **perseverance** in  
waiting for you,  
and a **hope** of finally  
embracing you.

Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas

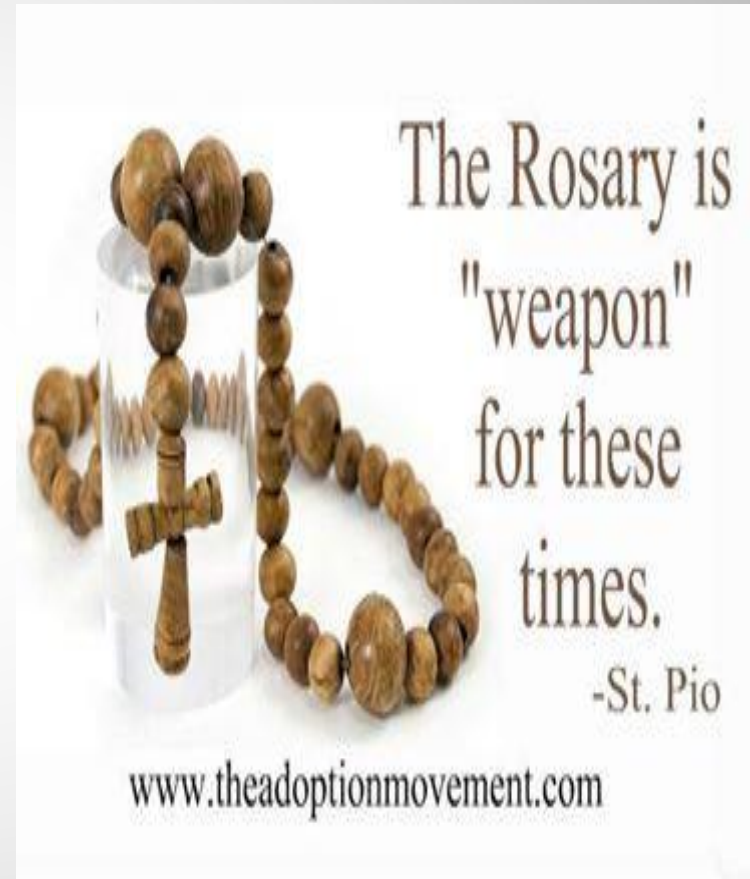
# Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality

- By Matthew Kelly
- Is the Catholic church relevant in America?
- 1- Confession
- 2-Contemplation
- 3-the Mass



# The Scriptures

- ▣ 4- The Scriptures
- ▣ 5-Fasting
- ▣ 6-Spiritual Reading
- ▣ 7 – The Rosary
- ▣ A tree with strong roots can weather any storm.
- ▣ There's nothing wrong that cannot be fixed by what is right in the church.



# How do I become like Jesus?

