

Welcome To My New BLOG – Check Back Weekly For New Posts

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Why Does The World Need Another BLOG???

Why does the world need another BLOG? I am not rich, or famous, or a leader in my church or community. I am just simply me. Had I known 50 years ago in my teens what I know now, I likely would have made different decisions and found more ways to help those in need and make my life meaningful. Meaningful serving God and His Purpose rather than serving others and their purposes. So, I am writing this BLOG in the hopes that many can learn from my mistakes and sins of commission and omission and thereby learn to lead better, more fulfilling and productive lives serving His Purpose. Doing His Will.

Check back for more! God Bless!

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We are becoming a Godless Country and a Godless World. As Christians it’s Our fault.

Why is it our fault? Jesus commanded us to spread The Word to all men of all nations. Yet many of us just go to weekly Services, donate into the cup, and say Grace before meals. Many no longer even go to Sunday Service. How is that spreading The Word? Aside from Grace before meals, when was the last time you joined hands and prayed with your family? With friends? With co-workers? With strangers?

Wait a minute you’re thinking, pray with strangers? Yet isn’t that exactly what Jesus commanded us to do? It’s not spreading The Word if you only pray with your family at dinner and with the faithful at church on Sunday. To fulfill our Mission we Christians need to reach the unfaithful and non-believers.

How? Start with your inner circle of friends and family. You know who needs more Faith. Invite them to church on Sunday. Maybe they are not ready to go back to church, so invite them to a Bible Study, Prayer Meeting or just visit a church with them to pray. If you can’t get them to publicly pray, go to visit them and instead of discussing football or baseball, take a few minutes to read and discuss a Bible Passage. And they pray together in the peace and quiet of their home. Get creative! Get The Word out.

Only then, when we start making a concerted effort to spread The Word in our daily lives to all the people we meet who need Faith and God’s Help, will we be doing our Mission as Christians. God Bless!

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Keep God In Your Daily Life

Your days are crazy and chaotic. Work. Kids. Cooking. Cleaning. Errands. Exercise. Shopping. Sporting events. Family needs. Friends. The list is endless and often far exceeds your time, energy, and patience. You end the day with your To Do List half done ... exhausted, aggravated, and if you’re like most of us ... broke. So how in this morass of a mess that’s your life do you find time to keep God in your day?

News flash, God is already in your day. God walks with you, step by step, all day through thick and thin. All you have to do is reach out to Him. In the midst of chaos, acknowledge His presence. Acknowledge His prescience. He knows your needs, He feels your frustrations and He understands your challenges.

So why not acknowledge God and let Him Help? Acknowledge God and ask for His Help. God is there waiting for you. He will Help. In ways that you may never know, he will help assuage your anxiety, lessen your burdens and remove the roadblocks from your life. All you need to do is give God a chance.

When you're feeling overwhelmed by life, your day has descended into chaos and you can't cope, STOP. Take a minute to reach out to God. Talk to God. He will listen. He will Help. Then Thank Him. God Bless!

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How To Find Time To Pray During The Day

Ideally, we should go to Mass every day. For most of us, that's just not possible given our work schedule and the limited weekday Mass schedule most Churches have. If we can't go to Mass, we should find a quiet place and set aside time to pray every day. That's great if you can do it, but again for many it's just not practical. So how can you find a time and place to pray every day?

First, realize that in the eyes of God any place and any time is the perfect place and time to pray. Pray in the shower. Pray in your car. On the bus or train or plane. Extend your 10 Second rushed Grace before meals to a full minute of prayer. If you can take a five-minute break for coffee, you can afford to take a few of those minutes to pray. Reach out and connect with God. You'll find it more refreshing than a cup of tea or coffee. Say a few prayers before you chug down that cold brew with friends after work.

Try to pray throughout the day. Get prayers on your smartphone, notebooks or PC. Sign up for and pray the Liturgy of the Hours. It's free and can be accessed from your cell phone, notebook or PC. If you have a CD player in your car, get some prayer CD's, or Gospel Music, or even Bible Reading CDs. You'd be amazed at how comforting the Psalms can be after a long, hard and frustrating day at work or the office.

Find ways to pray during the day. Keep God in your life. And see what a difference it makes. God Bless!

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Make Someone's Day Today

I was in the drug store (pharmacy) the other day and there was this long line of people waiting to place and to pick up prescriptions. It's the cold and flu season here. At the front of the line was an elderly lady who was proudly wearing some worn and threadbare clothing as if it was her best Sunday outfit. It probably was. Her medications cost several dollars and a number of cents, I want to say 56 cents, but the exact amount is not important. The point is, she simply did not have that extra 56 cents, which we all could see as she dumped the contents of her purse on the counter and looked for every spare penny hidden inside. Everyone in line was intently watching her struggle. After about a minute, I went up and handed her a dollar (I'll admit I was later embarrassed, when I realized I could have just as easily handed her a \$5 or \$10 bill). Well you'd have thought it was Christmas all over again. I've never seen ONE dollar cause a person such joy. It was equally intriguing to watch the reactions of everyone else in line – while they were all happy that "someone" had come up with a solution to get the line moving again, none of them thought to offer this poor lady any help. It's too easy to stand by and watch than to participate.

And therein lies the point of this passage. You never know how much something little like a dollar, a smile, a simple sincere thank you, a helping hand or a kind word, can mean to a person. So little can often mean so much. So, the next time, don't just stand there being an observer, reach out and be a participant. Do that little something that makes a person's day. And you'll both be happier. God Bless!

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Would Jesus Have Tweeted?

It's a question I love to ask Priests and Pastors. The answers are interesting and illuminating because the question drives home just how different present-day society and culture are from Biblical Times. All too often clergy like to pretend like we still live the simple lifestyles of Jesus' followers. While it is true that The Word and its lessons are timeless, to ignore the cultural changes over the last two millennia is to create a chasm between what pastor's preach and what people today experience in their daily lives.

That is not to say that the Bible is any less relevant, or true, or timely. It's the foundation of our beliefs.

But it does bring to mind questions like *would Jesus have Tweeted*. On the one hand scholars know of no recorded writings by Jesus. The written record of Gospels and Letters was prepared over the centuries by Jesus' Apostles and Disciples, and their followers and students. Who actually wrote the first Gospels will be the subject for future BLOGs, for today, from everything we know, Jesus did not.

Jesus certainly was knowledgeable enough that He could have written, so that leads some scholars to conclude that Jesus preferred to interact face-to-face and share His teachings by speaking not writing. On the other hand, Jesus gave His Disciples the mission of spreading The Word to all men of all nations.

Today, using technology such as Tweeting, TV, even emailing, or the Web, would be ways to spread The Word far and wide. That school of thought maintains that Jesus would have used every method He could to get his message out to as many people as possible. Writing was not a way to do that in His time because so few people could read and methods of copying and distributing writings were virtually non-existent. Documents were laboriously copied by hand and cached in libraries and religious buildings.

Today we have the luxury of worldwide instant communication with millions who can read what we write. So, whether you believe Jesus would have Tweeted, or not, do your part to spread The Word.

Tweet someone you know right now your favorite Bible Passage. And help spread The Word. God Bless!

Don't Donate To SCAMS!

I watch Religious, Bible and Gospel Shows on TV. I find many are informative and inspirational. And most of them will ask you for money. Feel free to support your favorite shows but beware of SCAMS!

So how do you tell a SCAM from legitimate shows, fund-raising or telethons? Listen carefully to the message and look carefully at the presenter. If the presenter is wearing religious garb, comes from a well-known order or society like the Jesuits or St. Vincent de Paul and clearly identifies why they are asking for your hard-earned money, they are probably legit. Still, it never hurts to Google them and look for reviews. Once you send that check or give away your credit card number, you'll never get it back!

On the other hand, if the presenter is wearing a \$1000 silk suit and adorned with \$5000 diamond cuff links and a \$10,000 Gold Watch, and they are asking you to send the money to them, or their "Ministry", don't donate a dime! Switch the channel FAST so you don't drive up their TV ratings by watching them. If you watch these SCAMS, you're just helping their ratings rise enabling them to rip off more people.

Frauds will be full of Bible Quotes such as "sowing seeds" and "planting". They'll say you must give to God to get in return. They'll speak about tithing (I'll cover that topic in an upcoming Blog). And they will have people provide fake testimonials. Where in the Bible does it say you'll gain God's Good Graces by giving money to charlatans and frauds? Where does it say that by supporting Evil you'll be rewarded with anything but thanks from the Evil One? Don't do the Devil's Work! Switch the channel on SCAMS.

So the next time some slick TV Presenter tells you all your problems will be solved by God for giving them money, RUN as fast as possible away from that Evil. Your Donations and Tithes should be given to your Church or legitimate Charities. Don't support Evil. Give to Good. And God will Bless You for it!

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Happy Valentine's Day!

Spread some love today. Spread some love every day.

Be sure to tell your family you love them when you wake in the morning to help get them through the day. Always tell them you love them before going to bed at night. Never go to sleep with anger in your heart, rather let forgiveness and love get you through the night and into a new dawn and bright day.

Make sure your friends know you care. And that you will be there for them. Remember to forgive them their trespasses so God will forgive yours. Let them know they are loved. The power of Love is life's great cure for all our woes and wounds. Spread some love today. Spread some love every day.

You never know when this day may be your last. You never know when you may never see that special someone again. So ... make sure to tell them you love them this Valentine's Day. And every day. And always make sure to tell Jesus that you love Him every day! Remember "Love thy neighbor as thyself".

It's Valentine's Day! Spread some love today. God will Bless you for it. Happy Valentine's Day!

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Can You Spare A Dollar?

True, many of us are experiencing tough times, *but couldn't you spare just ONE extra dollar this week?* That's just a cup of coffee, or can of soda, or several cigarettes. *Have one less soda so someone can eat.*

And there are many ways of giving in addition to donating a dollar. We all know how you can lift someone's spirits and "*make their day*" with a simple Random Act of Kindness. How many people could benefit from a *Random Acts of Christianity*. Below are some thoughts, I'm sure you have more.

- † Donate To Your Food Pantry. So many need so much. Just a few extra cans of food or packed goods will go such a long way to help those in hunger. When was the last time you stopped by your Parish's Food Pantry and donated a bag of food for the hungry?
- † Give A Cross As A Gift. Buy some small Crosses and ask your Priest or Minister to Bless them. Then give them out to people who need Jesus' help in their lives. The same holds true for medals, rosaries and other items you can find in your local Christian Bookstore. Don't have one, *why not ask your Pastor if you can set up a table after Sunday Service and sell them*, any monies earned after costs would be donated to your Parish or Congregation.
- † Give A Mass. Most Parishes will let you dedicate a Mass or Service for a small donation. If you know someone, or a family, in great need, dedicate a Mass or Service for them. Prayer works!

- † Give A Prayer Card. Many of the ideas above do take money, and for many of us money is very short. When I go to my Catholic bookstore, named the *Carpenter's Shop* in honor of St. Joseph, if I have some extra change I pick up a couple of the small laminated Prayer Cards for 99 cents. I keep a few in my pocket and give them to those that need prayers. (*Note: this website has free downloadable prayer cards that you are free to print and use, click the PRAYER CARDS TAB*)

I'm sure with a little thought you can come up with more *Random Acts of Christianity*. God Bless!

How Much Do You Know About The USA?

Many of those who visit this site are from around the world, Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. It occurred to me that they would like to know more about America. Not what you hear on the News is 30 second sound bites, but some real information they can relate to on a personal basis. Based on what they teach, or fail to teach, in American schools today, I felt even many of my US followers might find some facts on American History interesting. So I added this short BLOG on the USA today.

The first true Americans were Native Americans, often erroneously called Indians because Columbus thought he had landed in India. Settlement of America by Europeans really didn't start in any numbers until the 1600's. The English and Dutch settled what is now the East Coast and formed named Colonies. The French and Spanish sparsely settled wide territories along the Gulf Coast and major interior waterways. These Europeans, mostly in the Sothern Colonies, imported thousands of slaves to work their farms producing lucrative "cash crops" such as tobacco and later cotton. Except for the Spanish, most people were practicing Protestants.

By the time the 13 Colonies went to war with England in 1775, called the American War of Independence or American Revolution, there were over 2,000,000 people and several hundred thousand slaves living in America. Almost 85% of the white population was from Britain (including England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland), while 9% were German and 4% Dutch. As mentioned, most of the Spanish and French "settlers" lived in coastal and interior territories not part of the official 13 Colonies. America experienced unprecedented growth, its economy increasing 12 fold between 1700 and 1775. Interestingly, White American's had the highest standard of living in the world even back then and the Colonial Economy rivaled other nations.

Today, America has truly become a "Melting Pot". It's 326 million people making it the 3rd most populous country in the world behind China and India. In addition to Western Europeans that were the original settlers, today America has many people from Latin America, Asia, Africa and other countries across the world. Large immigrant populations from Italy, Ireland and Mexico have swelled the Catholic population in America to over 70 million, but Protestants are still the majority religion comprising over 50% of the population. Other major religions include Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim. America's Economy, as measured by GNP, is the world's largest.

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Starting Now ... The Two Things You Must Do ...

It's Sunday so you if you haven't gone to Mass please go, Jesus is waiting for you. Don't disappoint him. Don't disappoint yourself! But even if you have gone to Mass there is more that you must do.

Just going to Mass is not enough. It never was, but today it's even more important to be proactive in your parish. So starting today there are two things you must do.

First, next Sunday bring a friend to Mass with you. No, I don't mean carpool. I mean bring someone with you who hasn't been going to Mass. Who hasn't seen the inside of Church in a long time. We all know friends who need to "Come Home" to the Church. Don't wait until next Sunday to ask them. Call them today. Make an appointment with them, make it a date, treat it like an exciting event. After all, weekly Mass should be the most exciting and important event of the week.

Can you appreciate the huge impact if we all brought just one more friend to Mass? There would be more prayers to help solve our world's problems. More collections money to care for the sick feed the hungry. Most importantly your friend would have taken big step on the path to Coming Home. Help a friend or loved one Come Home. Help them, and you help yourself. And all of us. God Bless!

Starting Now ... The Second Thing You Must Do ...

The Second Thing is don't limit your participation in your Faith to just the time you spend at Mass. Get involved. Do one thing this coming week to participate in your Parish. And I don't mean an extra \$5 in the collection. I mean attend an event, prayer service or help at the food pantry or visit the homeless.

Things are past the point where we can afford not to get involved. The critical issues confronting Catholics and Christians are no longer world news, they are local news impacting your hometown. Infringement on our rights to pray and worship without persecution. Being forced to support sinful government programs in fear, under threat of prosecution. Runaway addiction and drug abuse. Human trafficking of children and runaways. An explosion of terrorism and crimes of violence around the world.

How long can you afford to sit on the sidelines and not get involved? What sounds like a trite cliché has now become a major truth ... *if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem*. We Christians must act. We must stand up, be counted and be heard. Start today. Be part of the solution. God Bless!

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Matthew 6:9-13. New International Version (NIV) from the Bible Gateway: www.biblegateway.com

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Today, the Caesars, politicians and lawyers who write the laws in our world have become skilled at *Justifying the Unjustifiable*. Killing unborn children is legal in many places. Euthanasia of seniors is becoming more and more widely practiced covertly, or in more and more places, overtly and legal. Same Sex marriages. Transgender restrooms. Sex without marriage. All Legal Evils. *Satan is stalking us!*

Most states in the USA hold elections this coming Tuesday, November 7th. Take the first step to stop them from *Justifying the Unjustifiable*. Vote for candidates who will uphold our right to practice the Law of God. Candidates who will draw the line at further erosion of our right to Religious Freedom. Our Constitution guarantees Religious Freedom, not that we will be *free from religion* as so many politicians today try to justify under the pretext of "*political correctness*".

Time to Un-elect them! If you don't live in an area holding elections this week, or if you live outside the USA, you can still take the next opportunity to speak out for, *and vote for*, God and Good.

In today's War of Good vs. Evil there is no such thing as being neutral. If you are not for God and Good and do not uphold the Law of God, then whether you are willing to admit it or not you are supporting Satan and Evil. When you die you go to Heaven or Hell. There is no third option. You followed the Law of God or did not. Political correctness is not a substitute for God's Law.

Let's stop our leaders from *Justifying the Unjustifiable*. *Get out there and Vote for God*. God Bless!

Satan Is Stalking You!

A quick look at today's news headlines and you can see that Satan is running rampant around the world.

Do you really think a person not possessed by Satan would just wake up one day and decide to gun down 5, 10, 15 or 50 people as they attended Sunday Service? Or blow up women and children?

While secular society's pundits and politicians would have you believe that guns were evil in and of themselves, and that Terrorists are the new normal, that's just another version of the age old myth that "Satan doesn't really exist". The person pulling the trigger is evil, not the gun. And make no mistake, Satan is standing next to them whispering in their ear, just like Satan the Snake in the Garden of Eden.

Satan has permeated our society. Widespread abortion, killing the unborn. Euthanasia, killing of the aged. Bombings. Genocide. Killing of women and children. Widespread Addiction of youth. Pandemics like AIDS. Sex Trafficking. Slavery. Wholesale worldwide rejection of religion. In places less than 1 in 5 Catholics still go to Mass. We have become a Godless society. Unless we act soon, Satan will prevail.

It's been 2000 years since Christ was Crucified for us and Satan still runs rampant 'round the world.

So ... what can you do? We must defeat Satan one soul at a time. Start with your own. Obey the Lords Commandments. Love don't hate. Go to Mass. Pray. Every day. Pray Morning, noon and night. Be steadfast in your love of Our Lord. Have Faith. Through Faith, Love and Prayer we can defeat Satan.

But you must start now, today, this minute. Take a few minutes, Pray and reaffirm your Love of Our Lord. Because Satan has a head-start on us and is running rampant 'round the world. God Bless!

Satan's Six Step Plan

Yes it is true. Satan is stalking you. Me. All of us.

Just look at the mess the world is in today! Widespread abortion, killing the unborn. Euthanasia, killing of the aged. Bombings. Genocide. Killing of women and children. Widespread Addiction of youth. Pandemics like AIDS. Sex Trafficking. Slavery. Wholesale worldwide rejection of religion, God, Christ.

Do you think the Good Side of man is responsible for all of this anger, anguish, pain and suffering? Only the Dark Side of man could do such damage and create such chaos. That Dark Side is Evil. Satan is Evil.

And Satan has a Plan. Here is Satan's Six Step Plan:

1. Convince people that Satan doesn't really exist, that way he can roam free to cause chaos
2. Like the Snake in The Garden, whisper lies in people's ears to cause discontent and chaos

3. Whisper to the weak and non-religious politicians so they legalize Abortion and Euthanasia
4. Prey on the sick and mentally deranged so they commit mass murder, even in God's House
5. Persuade more and more people to abandon their Faith to create a Godless Secular Society
6. Satan Succeeds. Christians are persecuted, hunted and slaughtered just like in Roman Times

You follow the News! How fare have we come down Satan's Path so far? Is Satan's Plan succeeding?

Jesus said that even Satan would not prevail against His Church. Let's do our part to fight Satan and help Jesus. Let's tell Satan to GO AWAY TODAY. So, pray today. Go to Church this week. And take a friend with you. If we all took just one Friend with us, we'd double the number of people at Sunday Services!

Satan cannot succeed in the presence of God. Join Jesus and tell Satan to GO AWAY TODAY. God Bless!

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The Biblical Battle of Good vs. Evil. God vs. Satan.

This BLOG POST It was inspired by stories of various groups suing towns, parks and people to remove crosses and other religious symbols from their property. Many, including a frightening number of supposedly impartial local, state and federal judges, have started to interpret our cherished Constitutional Right of Religious Freedom as a guarantee against religious expression of any kind, in public or private. In today's upside-down world flag burning, pornography, and violent political rhetoric are tolerated under our Constitution's right to Freedom of Speech. *Just don't dare PRAY in public.*

No American has been burned at the stake for praying in public, yet. But Christians claim they have been arrested for praying. Not in some Third World Country. Right here in the US of A. Scary stuff. Others have been fined and arrested for not performing acts against their religious beliefs.

Which brings up the point of this week's thought. Can you be Neutral in this Great Struggle? Can you be Neutral in the fight of Good vs. Evil? God vs. Satan? If you're not on the side of Good and God then aren't you supporting evil and the devil? This is not a debate about the way you worship God. Regardless of what denomination you are, if you are for Good and God then you must stand against evil.

Romans 12:21 says: "be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good". (NIV Bible Gateway).

So, make no mistake. Those who would free us from God are actually actively working to turn us over to the evil deeds of the devil. This is a message that man cannot afford to miss in the Bible.

Christians jailed for praying and practicing their faith. Law enforcement officers fired or killed for trying to enforce the law. Teachers suspended or fired or driven off campuses for teaching that we should prefer and do Good over evil. Yes, evil has established a firm foothold in America. We can no longer afford to be Neutral in the eternal Battle of Good vs Evil. Time to make a stand. We must make a stand.

The Devil's greatest success has been to convince people he doesn't exist. And he could seal his victory of evil over Good if he can now convince the world that God does not exist. Let's prove him wrong! Stand up for God and your rights to proclaim Him. Pray to Him. And worship Him.

In public and in private. God Bless!

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Under the apprentice method one focused on using learning to produce a desired outcome. Under the law, fulfilling the law was itself the desired outcome. A classic case of substance versus form.

Interesting that God chose his Son to be raised by a Carpenter and not a Pharisee. Was that because God values substance over form? A way of life over merely obeying the letter of man-made laws?

In fact, The Bible we know today didn't exist for hundreds of years after Jesus walked the earth. How did Christianity survive for those first tumultuous centuries? It survived because the teachings of Jesus were passed along as a way of life, the Christian way of life, not simply as written laws.

We call it Christianity.

God Bless!

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How Do We Get To Heaven?

As we end Lent and enter The Holy Week, many of us have fasted, given alms and done penance to purify our souls to celebrate Easter and receive the Lord's Grace and a fresh start on our journey through this life to our ultimate goal as Christians, joining Jesus in Heaven with His Father. That raises the question that we all must ask ourselves ... *how do we get to Heaven?*

For 20 Centuries man has tried to turn the Teachings of Jesus into a recipe for Salvation. This is understandable. We always seek a map to find the treasure. While Jesus did in fact present us with a Pathway to Salvation, He did not give us a “recipe”, rather He gave us a Way of Life.

What is the difference? A recipe is a set of instructions where you follow a defined set of steps to achieve a specific result. Jesus gave us a Pathway that you must follow with each step you take every day of your life. Jesus gave us a Way of Life. A Pathway to Salvation. And Heaven.

Jesus never said getting to Heaven was like baking a cake. There is no recipe. Take a bushel basket of Masses, combine with a 1/2 cup of Confession, add a tablespoon of Tithing and season to taste with Prayer as you can find time for it. And you're in. You're Saved. Really?

This totally misses the meaning of what Jesus taught. And it causes conflicts within us about the True Path to pursue. So, I ate meat on Friday. Or missed a Mass. Or didn't Tithe a full 10%. Or my job made me work on a Sunday. Does that mean I am lost and will surely go to hell?

Many Churches say no. Simply ask for forgiveness. Roman Catholics say go to Confession. Others say it doesn't matter what you do just ask Jesus to be saved. And some TV preachers say send them money and they will make things right with God for you. No worries. Really?

Jesus intended for us to follow His Path that He taught us to gain Salvation. We all may stray from His Path on occasion. Jesus will forgive us and help guide us back onto His Path if we ask Him. Nobody else can do this for us. WE MUST ASK JESUS TO LEAD US ... *and then follow Him.*

What is The Path Jesus has set for us? Read your Bible. Study your Bible. The more often the better. Don't let others tell you what Jesus wants you to do. Discover His Path to Salvation for yourself. Follow His Path to Salvation. It's not a recipe. It's a way of life. Let Jesus guide you.

Have a Blessed Palm Sunday and Holy Week, and a very Happy Easter! May God Bless You!

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A VERY Happy & Healthy Easter Sunday To You, Your Family And Friends. Go To Mass!

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Yes ... Jesus Does Exist!

We just celebrated Easter Sunday. Jesus Christ is Risen! Jesus, The Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, who came down from Heaven and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered death, was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God and He will come again to judge the living and the dead. This is the essence of the Creed that many Christians say every week at Services.

We should all believe in Jesus Christ. To me, believing is not an option. Jesus was a reality. To claim that He never existed, or was a mere prophet, or that He is simply a myth or legend, or a figment of people's imagination, is to ignore reality. Do people believe that Julius Caesar, or Plato or Alexander the Great existed? There are thousands more surviving documents testifying to Jesus' existence, His life and His works than there are for Caesar, Plato, Alexander or any other "historical" person from antiquity. Certainly, no massive conspiracy could have created such a widespread and enduring myth or legend as Jesus.

I know that Jesus exists. How can I know that? Do you love your mother and your father? If they have passed away and gone to Heaven, don't you still love them? Of course you do. You loved them while they were here on earth and you still love them now that they are in Heaven. But answer this, do you love Mickey Mouse, Superman or Spiderman? Of course not. You may like these fictional characters, but you can only love that which is real. Like your parents. And that's how I know Jesus exists. Because I love Him. Even though he is not here on earth, I love him just like I love my parents who are now in Heaven with Him.

Apostle Peter said; *"although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,"* (1 Peter 1:8)

I know I loved my parents and I know they loved me. There is no gauge, no digital readout, no dipstick to let you measure and quantify that love, but I know that it was real. True, you could look for evidence of that love by the way we treated and took care of each other, but you could not grab hold of it and measure it. We can see the same evidence of our love for Jesus and His love for us. Those who can look at the world and not see evidence of Jesus' love are truly blind. Those that look and can see only the pain and suffering are missing the point. My parents would be disappointed with me when I let them down and punish me if I deserved it. Likewise, we can disappoint and be punished by Jesus. But their love was there and so is Jesus'. To know that Jesus is real and not myth, you only have to know His Love.

We've all just experienced the Joy of Easter. Tell everyone Jesus Does Exist. And He is Risen!

God Bless!

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God's Ten Commandments.

God presented Moses with Ten Commandments. Jesus told His followers to "Love thy neighbor as thyself" and presented parables like the Good Samaritan as examples of how we Christians should behave. He commanded His Apostles to spread His Teachings to men of all nations and to forgive their sins. His Word was simple but many missed the meaning.

So many churches and denominations are so busy making their own laws for their own self-serving interests that many have missed the real meaning of His Teachings. What Jesus really meant. Don't eat meat on Friday, well at least not this Friday, depending on where you live. If you are a Priest you must remain celibate. Sort of. Depending on what type of Christian you claim to be. Funny, I can't find any passage in the Bible that says different groups of Jesus' Followers should follow different rules, laws or Commandments. I also couldn't find where Jesus said don't eat meat on Friday or that Priests could not be married. Some of His Apostles were in fact married with families.

Has man missed something here? Have we perhaps lost the true meaning of His Teachings?

In fact, eating, or not eating, meat on Friday and Priests being celibate are Church rules made by various denominations which don't even apply across all Christians. Certainly, Christ never taught that there should be different "Laws" or "Commandments" for different people. Quite the opposite, everything I read in the Bible says that Jesus intended for there to be "one Church" and "one Body". And thus by extension of that "oneness" only one set of rules for all mankind to live by.

Much of this "let's make up our own rules" stems back to the passages where Jesus declared Peter the Rock upon which he would build His Church and conferred the power to His Apostles to "bind and to loose". Jesus also gave the power to forgive sins, as is found stated in other places in the Bible as well. This makes sense. When Jesus returned to His Father, someone on earth had to have power to forgive sin. However, Jesus didn't confer the power to add Commandments or define new sins.

Part of the problem is that one must understand how the phrase "to bind and loose" was used in the time of Jesus. You must also understand the context in which Jesus used it. The history of the Bible as we know it today sheds some light on the problems of mistranslation and misinterpretation that have occurred over the last 2000 years. Problems which lead to different sins for different people.

For a very simplified history, the teachings of Jesus were most probably *spoken* in Aramaic to His Apostles. Jesus' teachings were likely first *written* in Greek, the language of the learned at that time. Then translated into Latin. Later they were translated into other languages, the first mass produced Bibles were printed in German then translated into English. Now there are literally dozens of translations being printed in hundreds of languages. And they are not all the same. They differ.

Take for example the Sixth Commandment; *Thou Shalt Not Kill ... or Slay ... or Murder?* One word. Huge difference. Many use "Kill" to include not only humans but animals and God's other creatures. Slay obviously applies only to man. Murder is different. Killing to defend yourself is not Murder. There are hundreds of men and women serving in the military because defending your country is not considered Murder. Still others believe that all killing is sin and become conscientious objectors.

The "translation" makes a huge difference in what we define as "sin". But what did Jesus really mean?

I believe Jesus intended one set of "Laws" for all mankind. It's your job to study The Scriptures and understand what Jesus really meant. Because too often man missed what Jesus meant in The Bible.

God Bless!

Directly below this BLOG link please find a downloadable PDF of Mom's Story. This is a story about the life and death of my Mother. While Mom was just shy of her 79th Birthday when she died, I still rate her death as tragic because of the circumstances and long path of medical malfeasance, misfeasance, and plain incompetence that contributed to her ordeal and death. Mom's Story was written to help others cope with terminal illnesses, especially cancer and congestive heart failure, and to help their loved ones be more effective caregivers and to urge their friends and family be more supportive. As we Baby Boomers age, our families will all face these same challenges.

You will be able to tell from some of the events in Mom's Story, like the attacks on 9-11, that this book has been a number of years in the making. In truth, while I started writing this soon after Mom's Death, it was some years before I could bring myself to bear the pain of reliving many of the events depicted here. And while some medical procedures may have changed, and the public is becoming more aware of health issues, such as the dangers of eating too much salt, I believe that the most important messages in Mom's Story are timeless, so that even now she would want me to tell it.

Dedicated to My Mom.

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Is there a greater meaning and deeper meaning in the teachings of Jesus in the New testament? This is not about some secret hidden message or Bible code, rather it is about grasping the full meaning of what man has been reading teaching and preaching for the last 2000 years. Simply put, is there more to God's Message than we read in the Scriptures. What's Missing. What is the true meaning?

Christians themselves are divided on this question. Many believe in the doctrine of Sola Scriptura, that God's entire message is contained in the written word of the Bible. Still other adhere to Prima Scriptura, that the Bible is the primary source to which man must add reasoned interpretation and teachings. Roman Catholics believe that oral teachings (called somewhat confusingly "traditions") combined with the written Word form a body of knowledge called the Deposit of Faith. Fine, so there are different beliefs. What has this to do with man having missed God's message?

Let me provide an example. For those that say the entire message is in the text of the Bible my question is which text? There are dozens of translations and the bible is written in hundreds of languages. Let's take the Sixth Commandment. Thou Shalt Not Kill. Simple right? Not so fast. In various translations of the Bible this is written as;

- Thou Shalt Not Kill
- Thou Shalt Not Slay
- Thou Shalt Not Murder

The difference in meaning is not trivial, it is significant. Many Christians interpret the meaning as "not kill" and therefore are opposed to killing in self-defense and in the military. Some interpret "kill" broadly and maintain that it applies to all of God's Creatures including animals. Others interpret "slay" to mean man and do not apply it to animals. Finally, "murder" has an entirely different meaning and it is often this interpretation adhered to by people, police and the military that do not believe that taking a life in self-defense is a sin. I myself had discussions with priests before entering the military and was given this meaning. Sergeant York, the most decorated American of WWI originally applied for conscientious objector status, but ended up "killing" to defend himself and his other friends in the army. The fact that there is one text and one interpretation is simply not true. And in those multiple interpretations man has come up with multiple meanings and may therefore has missed God's true meaning. My life has been spent reviewing and rewriting history where the experts got it wrong, and Our Savoir has tasked me to put those talents to work exploring the true, and perhaps missed, meaning of The Word of God.

God Bless!

Questions (And Answers) of Faith ...

Some ask, if Jesus loves us, why does God permit hunger, sickness and war in the world? I ask why do we bring these unto ourselves? We have it in our power to end all wars, feed the hungry, and cure almost all sickness. When someone like my father dies of lung cancer, was it because God had forsaken him? Or because he smoked 3 packs of poisonous cigarettes a day? How much of the bad things in our lives do we bring on ourselves? How much of the killing, starvation, privation and devastation has the world brought on itself? The fact that mankind has made a mess of things doesn't in the least bit shake my Faith.

Perhaps it doesn't shake my Faith because I don't believe these horrors exist because Jesus has failed us, but because we have failed Jesus. We have failed to follow Jesus' teachings. The world has had two thousand years from the time of Christ to get it right and follow Jesus' footsteps, but even counting all Christians, not just Catholics, less than half the world follows Jesus today. And we have even seen that many of the various Christian religions differ in major beliefs from the Catholic Church that the Son of God founded.

The fault lies mostly with us, the Roman Catholics. Jesus intended us to be more than just Sunday Church Goers. An hour a week, \$20 in the collection basket, a prayer before bedtime and *Salvation Here I Come*. Really? *Do you honestly believe that?* Who do you think you are kidding? Not God. God knows. You are just kidding yourself and risking your eternal Salvation.

That's assuming you are a practicing Catholic. Many, many Catholics do not even go to Mass every week, give nothing to the Church and pray infrequently. I've talked to many experiencing a "*lapse of faith*", and they almost always blame it on some life event, a death in the family, a divorce, the loss of a job. Times when they felt that Jesus Christ or The Church did not come to their rescue. Jesus never said; "*follow me and you will have a perfect life*". But Jesus will help you survive the bad times.

In fact, all through Scripture and History we see where it is precisely those who follow Jesus through good times and bad, through happiness and sadness, through "thick and thin", that reap the rewards of Faith. The rewards of Salvation and Happiness in Heaven. Not riches and wealth on earth. Do you recall Jesus' words about the camel, the eye of a needle and a rich man getting to Heaven? If you think Jesus has abandoned you, then try praying longer and more often. *Try practicing more Faith.*

That's right, I said *practicing more Faith*. Try adding a few more minutes of prayer each day. Not for you, but for the sick and hungry and the homeless in this world. Put one more can of food into the Charity Collection at your Church on Sunday. Wear your Cross outside of your shirt instead of hidden inside it. Afraid that's not "politically correct", shame on you! If you have stopped going to Mass, start again. Now. This Sunday. When you go to Mass, take a friend by the hand and bring them to Mass with you. Try performing a *Random Act of Christianity* every single day of the week.

There are over 1 billion Catholics in the world today. Faith is contagious. If we each took one non-Catholic friend by the hand to Church with us this week, we'd have 2 billion Catholics in no time. If each of us billion Catholics started to actually live the way Jesus taught us to and to spread the Word and His Teachings as he instructed us to do over two thousand years ago, then we would start to see a new world that was filled with peace and love just as Jesus intended.

We need active, not passive, Catholics. If those people born into other religions are not practicing Catholics when they grow up, it's the fault of those of us who are practicing Catholics. We need to be more active and aggressive in spreading The Word as Jesus told us to. We must be more visible in our good works and healing for all of mankind to see. *We must all embrace the New Evangelization!*

Stop Wars. Ban Abortion. Diminish Divorces. Eliminate Human Trafficking. Love Your Neighbor.

Jesus is alive and well and waiting for you at your Church. Go spread Good News! God Bless!

Matthew 21:22. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.

First, ask yourself are you praying for what you want for you or what God wants for you? Many times in my own life I focused on a particular thing or goal and was disappointed when it didn't happen the way I wanted. When I didn't get my Miracle. But later, when I looked back on my life, I realized that God had brought me a better outcome than I had asked for.

Also consider that God may be answering you, but you may not be listening. Open your head and your heart and Listen. While praying stop at times to mediate. Listen. Allow God to speak. When we pray, so many of us blurt forth a steady stream of wants and needs, like children reading their Wish List to Santa at the shopping mall. Then we rush off to continue our busy lives without ever stopping to Listen. Take time to Listen. God has answers for you.

*Dear Jesus, I want so much to follow Your Footsteps, to spread Your Word, and to live a Christian Life. Please send the Holy Spirit to bless me with the Gifts of Understanding, Knowledge and Wisdom that I may discern and do Your Will. Lord Jesus, You promised us; ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you. From the depths of my Heart and with all my Faith, I now ask You Lord for **(state your plea to the Lord here)**. Please bless me with Your Love, Your Peace and Your Mercy and prepare me to receive Your Help and Your Gifts.*

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1. They advocate for abortion rights, killing babies for the sake of convenience.
2. They support euthanasia (murder) and assisted suicide for the aged and infirm.
3. They persecute anyone professing belief in God and religion, especially Christians.
4. They fight our right of Religious Freedom, claiming we need freedom FROM Religion.
5. They deny the existence of Jesus, God, Heaven, and Hell, meaning money is their God.
6. They say governments should control your life because they know what's best for you.
7. They promote sexual freedom and LGBT lifestyles to destroy our families and values.

When they have reduced Faith and Religion to irrelevance or made it outright illegal, when they have destroyed the Family and demeaned our Values, when they have allowed the government to control every facet of life from cradle to grave, then they will have succeeded in having Satan rule the world.

Then they will wither and die and become irrelevant like the seed cast on poor soil. And, last but not least, PRAY for them that they see the error of their ways, renounce Satan and *Come Home to Christ*.

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Yes, I'm talking about the thorny topic of abortion, and it is one of the more controversial topics in the Catholic Church today. While no religion advocates abortion, many critics of Christians are opposed to the Church's staunch "Pro-Life" position against abortion. I have looked for support in Scripture for abortion, or for the "Pro Choice" movement, and can find none. There is no passage that says one person may dispose of the life of another, under any circumstance.

It's OK many Pro-Choice people and politicians say, to kill an unwanted baby up until it is three months old, but after that you are stuck with it. Using that logic, imposing one's own limits on The Commandments, limits that God never intended, what's to stop people from one day

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**I Am Catholic ... *and proud of it!***

**I promised a BLOG on why I am a Roman Catholic. Here it is. It does not quote Scripture, nor references. It is a blog of Faith. If you need to have support from the Scriptures and research the facts, I encourage you read and research for yourselves. But first search into your own Faith.**

**My first memories of the Catholic Church date from when I was very young and my mother became a single parent after my dad got sick and died from cancer. Society did not have all of the single parent support systems like it has today and times were very tough. The Catholic Church helped us and even gave my mom a job teaching in the Catholic School. Without The Church we could not have made it. Now I am certain many other religions have done the same thing, however the point for my Faith is that it was the Catholic Church that did it for us.**

**I always had an enquiring mind and as I grew up, I learned about my Protestant and Jewish friends' religions. In college I was exposed to even more religions through friends and readings including most of the Eastern Religions and even Islam. I was shocked to learn that many of my fellow students from some Communist Countries were even atheists. I could not contemplate a life without God. I found that some Protestants did not believe in the Virgin Mary and the Saints. But I had seen the workings of the Saints, especially St. Jude, in my own life during my childhood. Some believed that Communion was simply a representation of the Body of Christ. But I know that when I receive the Holy Eucharist at Mass it is really the consecrated Flesh and Blood of Christ. The Beliefs the Holy Spirit had Blessed me with did not fit any other religion.**

**Good reasons to be a Catholic. But I am Catholic for one simple reason. Because I believe in the Resurrection and Salvation of Jesus Christ and Roman Catholics are the only religion founded by Jesus Christ. One can even go further and state that Roman Catholicism is the only religion started by God. Judaism, Islam and all the Protestant religions were started by men. True, God had contact with men in the Old Testament, when he told Noah to build the Arc and when, as the Burning Bush, he spoke to Moses. But the origins of the oldest monotheistic religion, Judaism, are generally attributed to the kings and men of Israel. Truly men inspired by God, but men nonetheless. Islam was founded by the great prophet Mohamed, again a great man inspired by God, but Mohamed was nonetheless also a man. And there are many Christian religions and groups besides Catholics started by men. Great men, but nonetheless men.**

**Jesus Christ founded the Catholic Religion when he broke bread and shared wine with his Apostles at the Last Supper and said "do this in remembrance of Me", the first participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion which has become the central rite of the Catholic Mass. Jesus made the Apostle Peter The Rock upon which he would build his Church and gave him the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Hard to argue with that. While critics try to argue that "Roman Catholic" is only a name, a name that was first created by the Emperor Constantine centuries after Christ, the facts are that Constantine only put a name to The Church that had been in existence since the time of Christ. The Church founded by Jesus Christ in circa AD 33 and spread by His Apostles across what we now call the Middle East, and by later generations**

**"I believe in one God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his Kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."**

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**It's true that many people don't pray when things are going good. It's when times turn bad that we turn to prayer as a last resort. That's sad but true. So when you REALLY need God's help what should you do ... try these suggestions:**

- **Pray always and everywhere. Prayer was not meant just for morning, mealtimes and bedtime. Pray all day. Anywhere. Everywhere. When you're stuck in traffic instead of cursing the cars, try praying to God. Taking that 5 minute coffee break? Take a minute for God and Pray. Pray in the shower. Stop by your Church. Visit your loved ones at the cemetery, its hallowed ground. Pray.**
- **Pray it forward. Of course, that may sound like pretty hollow advice when you're deep in the dark depths of this day's crisis, BUT when God has rescued from your current crisis, don't put the prayer book back on the shelf. Use it daily. Remember to keep praying every day to Pray It Forward.**
- **Try Reading Scripture daily, or more, and performing Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina is a method of prayer designed to improve your communication with God. It helps you clear your mind and focus. Focus to present your message to God and focus to hear what God may be trying tell you. There are many books written on Lectio Divina, you can Google it and this website has a Homepage link.**



- **Read the Psalms.** The Psalms are uplifting, comforting and will help fill you with Hope and Courage to face your troubles. And Psalms are good prayers. Many have been saying them for Thousands of Years as way to praise and thank God and ask for His Help! They have stood the test of time.
- **Give God Thanks.** Remember to give God thanks in all situations ... you're not giving thanks for the particular situation or predicament you find yourself in, but rather you are giving God thanks for helping you and "having your back". Try Giving Thanks when you really need God's Help.
- **Pray with your friends.** Remember Jesus said "Wherever two or more are gathered in His Name" He would be there with them. There is Power In Prayer and there is Power In Numbers. Ask your friends to pray for you, who knows that might get THEM into the practice or praying more often. And get together with your friends to hold prayer sessions, even go to your local Church together.
- **Try asking God for His Plan rather than what you want.** Sometimes the things that we want may not be in God's Plan. They may not be the best for us. When you Pray keep an open mind and heart and LISTEN to what God is trying to tell you. God will ALWAYS answer your prayers, maybe not with your preferred solution, but He Will Answer! Make sure you don't drown out His Voice with your requests, pleas and prayers. Take some time each day to be quiet and LISTEN to God.

**So Pray Today ... and God Bless!**

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## Did You Pray With Purpose Today?

from my BLOG on [www.JesusCanHelp.us](http://www.JesusCanHelp.us)

**We often ask for God's help. In other words a Miracle. Face it, we seldom ask for His help when we think we have all the answers. When the solution is simple and straightforward. We only ask when we feel helpless and the situation seems hopeless. We ask when we need a Miracle.**

**If you need a Miracle from God, then make a Miracle possible. You're without a job and you suddenly feel inspired to answer that ad for a position you normally wouldn't apply to. And you get the job. You're lonely and depressed and suddenly a dear friend from the past reaches out to you. You have a serious illness and try a new treatment which cures you. Miracles!**

**Because you took action that helped solve your situation in no way means it wasn't a Miracle. God wants us to help ourselves. God works His ways through others and seemingly random events. There are no coincidences. God helps those who work with Him and help themselves. So If you need a Miracle then take action and work with God to make that Miracle possible.**

**If you need a Miracle, pray and open your mind, heart and spirit to Our Lord. If you need a job send out three time as many resumes this week. If you have lost a loved one find another and end the sadness and loneliness in two people's lives. If you need a cure, talk to another doctor, and keep asking until you find one that can offer hope. Most of all, NEVER quit. Let Him Help!**

**And if He asks you be someone else's Miracle ... say YES.**

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My work over the last couple of years has blessed me with the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas with many Catholic and Christian Pastors. What has emerged from my interactions is a truly frightening glimpse of the *Crisis in Christianity* not only in America, but around the world. Here are some of the shocking stories I've heard, which sadly, are all true ...

- † There are over 70 million people in the USA who claim to be Catholic but less than 1 in 5 (*some say less than 1 in 6*) go to Sunday Mass or participate in the Holy Sacraments.
- † Over 1/3 of Millennials don't profess being a member of ANY Religion and *many of them are affirmed Agnostics or Atheists*.
- † Many actors, sports stars and other famous celebrities, politicians and other public personalities openly mock God, Religion and those who practice their Faith.
- † Rampant homosexuality has ravaged the Catholic Church and has been exposed to be not just a past problem, but a continuing scourge in the USA and around the world. This problem has drained Church coffers (*thus severely impacting one of its primary missions of helping the poor*) and cost it its credibility among millions of its members.
- † Prosecutions of people practicing their Faith in the USA have grown dramatically over the past few years, *and politicians continue to advocate for less Religious Freedom*.
- † Behavior that is sinful in The Bible has been legalized in our modern society; abortion, euthanasia, same sex marriage, "no fault" divorces, destruction of the family, and legalization of mind-altering drugs. *What was once unthinkable is now commonplace.*



Historians say as many as 50 million civilians died during WWII. Indeed, some estimates for total civilian and military dead reach 100 million during the six years of that worldwide war. It was so terrible we named it The Holocaust and still study it 75 years later so it can never happen again. Today, estimates from world organizations put the number of Abortions at 50 million babies EVERY YEAR. that's 125,000 murdered babies each and every day, and we call that Legal. What's wrong with this picture? We in the USA are coming up to one of the most important national elections in history later this year. Many are advocating against any restrictions on Abortion, claiming that it's a woman's *"right to choose"*. But the Bible tells us that it's God's right, *and only God's right*, to choose who lives and who dies. It must be God that holds the power of "Life and Death", not the politicians, not the women who find it inconvenient to be pregnant, and certainly not the rabble rousers who would destroy our democracy and substitute their socialism so it could control every facet of our lives ... *down to life and death.*

Thousands of children, both born and unborn, are being killed every day. Dear Lord, we know that in Your eyes a baby is a child whether in its mother's womb or in her arms. Too many sons and daughters, future fathers, holy men, leaders and scholars have been murdered before they could make the contributions to mankind that You had planned for them. While these babies now rest forever with You in Heaven, alas too many other souls have been lost in committing and condoning these multitudes of mass murders. We ask You to forgive those who have committed these murders. We plead with You to help the Faithful stop the Killing of the Innocents that plagues the world today. Send the Holy Spirit and all Your might to help us in our fight, that we may show those who would murder Your Children the Light and Sacredness of Life. Help us to finally end the Innocents' screams of terror and their Mothers' tears of sadness. And we also pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to please help us help them! God Bless.

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**Next Post ... Coming Soon ... Don't Miss It!**