

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