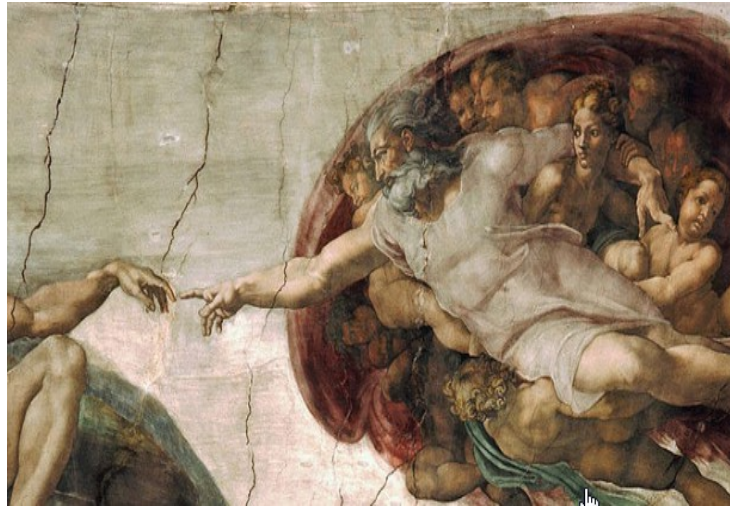


# Walking With God

## *A New Day – To Believe*



### **Ch XVI**

When we  
children, for

beneficial to present the prayer in the uniform language of the church in the common tongue, conforming to that in use by the community, or for that matter the country in which the instruction is taking place. It is through a common language that we find a more cohesive society, whither in religion or in secular society.

learn prayers as  
example, it is

When we sing at prayer, as with a hymn at Mass or during other communal devotionals, the philosophy of language applies not only to the lyrics but to the musical accompaniment as well. Our religious education needs to include our historical devotionals and music. What is it that I remember from my childhood religious experience? It is the participation in devotionals, such as, Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament, Stations of The Cross, communal recitation of The Holy Rosary and The Divine Mercy Chaplet, following an introduction into their content that, will recall our spiritual roots when we leave school, for our adult life. The music that accompanies these and other devotions, Such as the Ave Maria, or Hail Mary-Gentle Woman in English, the Sabat Mater or, At The Cross Her Station Keeping, O Salutaris, Tantum Ergo during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and others, cements our experience with God and the Saints in Heaven. Yes, as I have heard, when we sing, we pray twice.

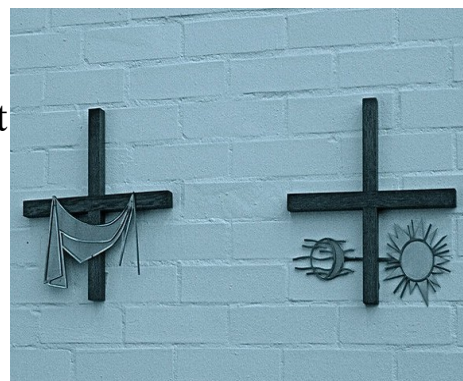
As we grow older, for many of us, the material demands of our lives tend to pull on our time that we devote to prayer and our relationship with God and His saints. The time comes, for most of us, when we realize that we are mortal and our future days on earth are numbered. For many of us, the need to return to our spiritual life, where we can nurture our

relationship with Jesus, is recognized. It is here that we find comfort in this troubled world. The Church, again, becomes our anchor, when we seek it out. In these end times I remember how close I was to Jesus at my 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. What has happened? It is life, punctuated by my sin that has molded me into the man I have become. Is it too late to seek forgiveness? Jesus appears in my prayer time to comfort me and the priest invites me in his homilies to acknowledge my sin in confession where forgiveness and the Holy Spirit enables me to be born again.



In some ways, entering a church building these days does not bring me back to my youth. There are no more stained glass windows featuring a Heaven full of saints watching over the congregation. The architectural influence seems to be utilitarian in stead of spiritual. Even the new church building in North Arlington, NJ, finished in 1952 provided electric vigil lights that were timed according to the coins entered. There was no sense of sacrifice, by the consumption of a holy candle's flame any longer. With artistic license, the Stations of the Cross are presented in abstract form rather than the realism I saw at St. Mary's.

I miss the holy artwork that invokes a sense of wonder of the saints and Heaven. This physical representation of Jesus suffering enabled me to consider how my personal faults, that I hold on to, affect Jesus in His agony, Passion and Death. Yes He truly died for me. In some cases, even the crucifix is missing, and replaced by a “risen Christ, from the cross. It is true that Jesus rose from the dead, but the crucifix reminds me of the suffering that my sins and the sins of others had done not only to Jesus himself but to the whole world as well. We celebrate Mass where Jesus becomes present in the elements of the Eucharist, but without the crucifixion, His body and blood would not have been sacrificed. When I see that reminder in the crucifix, the Eucharist is made more of a reality in my mind.



Simple personal actions like genuflecting have gone out of style. Reverence for the sanctuary no longer is displayed by the people. Perhaps it

is because I no longer see the presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle, announced by the red vigil light, as I enter the church. How often is a head bowed at the name of Jesus any more?

Many churches have become meeting halls, noted by the conversation taking place before Mass. *Remember No Talking In Church?* When we arrive, we come to visit Jesus and to worship Him in the Mass. When do I go to a friend's house and ignore him? There is usually a large vestibule where such visiting and conversation can take place before or after Mass, while we devote the sanctuary to prayer and meditation in preparation for the sacrifice of the Eucharist.

It is the little things that have kept me from falling deeper into the sin of materialism and self gratification in this society, where, to be *the self made man* is a measure of a man's worth. I have found that I can't live for Christ alone. Help from other truly Christian persons serve to bring me closer to God. Fr. Payton, who produced many Catholic films to promote the family, always said, "The family that prays together, stays together." It is a truth not to be ignored. I believe that this saying also pertains to entire Countries as well.

Look at our society, for example. When I attended public high school during the 50's in NJ, there was a period of prayer the first thing each morning in our home room. Not everyone participated but we all remained present for this non-denominational reflection of the pre-eminence of God in our daily lives. It was not the forceful indoctrination of a particular religion by the state, but it was the same recognition of God that we find in the Declaration of Independence. Catholics, Protestants of all denominations and Jewish students together, participated and found worth in this short time beginning the day. An atheist was not obliged, nor was anyone else obliged to participate. When God is not recognized as our guiding light, there is a void to be filled for such a guiding light, by someone or something else. I believe the only two choices in this equation are, the God fearing, and those opposed to Him. These days, I fear it is the latter who reigns supreme by society's testimony.

On the question of suffering in our time, (*I Never Promised You A Rose Garden*) The theme of a popular song in the 60's is truthful, though not always easy to hear. Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow Me." He didn't say take up your recliner and relax! In our personal lives, we have many crosses. For some, it is physical health, for others it might be economic woes. It might be WAR, floods or famine to name a few.

Whatever it

may be, some of us are called to suffer while others are called to console and aid the suffering children of God.

When I look at the condition of the world today, society itself suffers in many ways. The 10 Commandments tell us that to COVET is the antithesis of the will of God. We know that is wrong to willfully desire what is not ours to possess. It is especially so when we encourage those *desires* with the desire to do harm or to seek the detriment of another to gain what we want. This is the sin 'to Covet'. One might say I wish that I had my desire instead of he who possesses it. Even if we do not wish harm upon another, we do harm knowingly when we give in and wish things were to our making rather than the way that God has seen fit to provide. Envy is the means by which we covet. I might envy another for their good looks or outgoing personality; what we do not see is that even if we gained those looks or whatever we envied we would still be the same person inside. It is not whether I am tall, short, heavy or thin that sets me apart as a man, but my relationship with God and the way I treat other people that makes me into the human that I am, for the benefit of others or to their detriment.

Looking at the reality of the world, It is difficult to imagine a world without suffering. People strive for contentment even though we will only achieve it after death, that is, when we are in Heaven,. Of course the person who does not believe in God or Heaven will have difficulty accepting this fact. It all boils down to what I believe. We cannot choose which facts might fit into our view of life. When we get to the resurrection of the dead and life in the world to come, these propositions lead us to eternity and how we intend to spend it.

Every Sunday when we go to Mass, we proclaim, "I believe in God the Father Almighty." Do I really believe? If so, I must then accept everything we see in the reality of the physical world along with all of what His Son Jesus Christ taught while He walked upon the Earth. His word is pre-eminant over us. We will remember that we did not create this world. God is the creator for we proclaim that also. At creation God said, "Let there be light," and it all began. Remember, there was nothing from which the universe was created, only the word of God. What power must exist in His Word alone! We are free to reject these facts but if we do, we will also experience the result of this non-belief.

When I choose to sin, I usually cause suffering by another person or in myself. When, as a child I did not obey my parents, that act of disobedience

caused anguish in my parents. When I took what was not mine, another person suffered the loss of that which I took for myself. I lied and suffered the consequences when caught or someone else took the blame for my misdeed and suffered innocently. I could go on, but you get the message, suffering is the result of sin, either personal sin or original sin that corrupted the universe.

Suffering comes in many forms, physical, psychological and spiritual.



The latest of the sufferings in society is 'Gender Dysphoria'. The characteristic of this suffering is the dis-satisfaction of the individual with his or her own body. When did it occur to society that ,to give in to this perceived dysfunction, would be the solution of the unhappiness caused by the condition. The question of the reality of the natural order is not negotiable. It is my habit to pray each day , not only for my family and myself, but for the condition of society and the world. As I dwell upon this dis-satisfaction of those who are living in this condition, find that it leads to suffering and alienation from the rest of society. Those who insist upon modification of their bodies in order to correct these perceived deficiencies, never succeed in achieving greater happiness or satisfaction in life. In extreme cases of the dysphoria, the person afflicted resorts to suicide in order to eliminate their problems. While this problem may have some physical component to it, the psychological and spiritual nature of the condition cannot be overlooked. God Makes us all and we all have our crosses to bear. Granted, this is a most difficult cross that has confronted mankind since the beginning. These days, however, the condition has run rampant throughout our society like the *plague*. I submit that the sin of pride and arrogance has tempted those afflicted to insist that they alone are in control of their lives. They refuse to believe in the loving kindness of God, and that He will provide for His children. Instead they seek to disfigure the gift of their own bodies in order to solve their problem. I submit, a spiritual life starting in infancy, may not solve all of humanities problems but will fulfill a basic need (*a hole in ones' heart*), so to say, that



only God can fill, for we are all made for Him. Service to others along with a turn towards faith in God, solves solves many tendencies towards despair.

**Discernment** : When I walk with God, I don't walk as a robot without any awareness of the world around me. The Christian must evaluate his or her choices in their daily life and work. It is not up to me to experiment with the latest fad popular within society when the society encourages me to seek self gratification. God has given me the intellect in order to discern good from evil, truth from fraud, and what will enhance my walk with God and what will enhance my potential walk with the devil. When society says ,”Try it you will like it!” The red flag flies high, the red flag of danger. Satan tries to use scripture to confuse me when he says, “Do not judge others, lest you be judged!” I must listen to God. I am required to discern the actions of society, whether those actions are in accord with the precepts of God as outlined in His creation, or in His law. I do not judge the soul or the person taking part in these actions, but I must judge the actions themselves, otherwise, anything can be rationalized as for my good if it brings pleasure. I must especially beware of Arrogance, Selfishness, Lust, Anger, Pride, Envy and Greed. To be Brave, Truthful, Kind, Humble, Courteous and Merciful, are some of the attributes that I strive for. Even though I fail most of the time, Confession helps me pick myself up and start again. Never worry about the accusations of others when they call you a hypocrite. When we continuously strive for improvement in our lives, we seek improvement from sin. Without the sin, there would be no need for improvement. Since all have sinned we all need improvement, thus when we attempt improvement, jealousy accuses us of hypocrisy. The devil is the great accuser.



Today,society seeks to eliminate God from the equation of life. How can we have life without the creator? The sin of Adam and Eve is alive today. People intend to make their own rules for society without acknowledging the Commandments of God or even the natural order of life in nature, 'The Natural Law'.. When one eliminates God, he or she becomes one of the millions who take upon themselves the position of God Himself. We are at war, a Spiritual War, raging today for the very being of mankind.

When God created the angels, Heaven was at peace. As creation progressed and God saw fit to create man in His own image, He did so in order to share creation with a being of His own nature who could appreciate creation. One third of the angels rebelled, for they felt shunned by God. After all, the angels were beautiful and the most intelligent of all of God's creation. They were pure spirits, not like the mundane creatures that God created, who were restricted to a physical body for their existence. God wanted a being, one like unto Himself that would be a part of his physical world. Those rebellious angels, headed by Lucifer, the most powerful of angels, who is *the angel of LIGHT*, because of their pride, destroyed their perfection. God in His compassion did not destroy them but cast them to the Earth where they could reign outside of God's presence; they had become devils, in total opposition to God and His creation. Even though they were spiritual beings, they were jealous of the physical creation of the world and of mankind. God gave to them their most ardent desire, the physical world of the Earth, but they remained spiritual angels with all the power they were originally created with. Lucifer and his followers were now at war with God and all of Heaven.

Starting with Adam & Eve, in the garden of Eden, this war continues even today. In Jerusalem, Pontius Pilate questioned what Truth was after Jesus had told him, "I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice." Today, especially, politicians proclaim what they consider facts, that by observation cannot be true. Their contention is, if proclaimed enough, over a period of time people will accept it as truth. Society revels in this deception when they think that they will personally benefit from it. When we have succumb to the lie, Our moral position is diminished and Satan is encouraged to continue his domination of the world. Even though he knows that he cannot win, his goal is to take as many people as possible with him into the Hell of alienation from God in the afterlife.

As our moral position is diminished, it becomes easier and easier to rationalize our own arrogance and pride as we pursue our life of self satisfaction. It is as if the world is turned upside down. We have gained control of our own sexuality when we give into birth control. It becomes within the control of mankind to determine how and when, what was in the realm of God, when children should come into the world. In my lifetime, it began with the women's movement, as women proclaimed control over

their own bodies. I concede that the control they seek, they refuse to exercise. Generally, society ignores the commandments and peruses lust as a recreational tool. Actions have consequences and when we place ourselves in the position that might end in copulation, it is imperative upon those in that position to exercise control. This is the time when it counts, not after the fact. We must all learn and exercise self control. When a child is conceived, that child is a completely separate and whole human being. He or she is not the mother but the mother must protect her child, whether inside or outside of her body. The child is not her body but God has, by nature made a safe haven for the child in the womb of the mother. When we violate that condition of God, it is as if we cause murder to take place. We kill the living human being within the mother.

It is my thought that Jesus did not come to eliminate suffering on Earth. With His example of suffering, He redeemed the world and even asks that we unite our suffering with His, as we follow Him even to the cross. In my own life, if things come too easily, I take them for granted without true appreciation. The woman who suffers from rape or the girl who has been ravaged by incest, have been done a great injustice and evil to them. I cannot begin to understand the pain or psychological harm that they suffer. There is still one truth in these situations that cannot be avoided. When conception occurs as a result of this injustice, a third person is involved. This child suffers violence. Even as the child is conceived in violence, is violence to the innocent child the solution, in order to alleviate the possible pain suffered by the mother? Should I have compassion, only for the mother and kill the child? Violence to the mother does not justify an even greater violence to the innocent child.

What then is the solution? Compassion for each victim. Only with the love of God can this be achieved. There are, however, many compassionate organizations that will help such as Crisis Pregnancy Centers among others. How can the love of God help? It is in combination of the love of God and the love LIKE God in the people who show compassion for these victims.

As I mentioned before, the world is turned upside down. Morality, these days, has been thrown out the window, how can we survive? Men disregard creation when they become dis-satisfied with how God has created them. This dysfunction is aggravated when schools allow the gender dysphoria condition to be presented to children as a normal progression of sexuality and it is up to the individual to determine their own



sexuality or preference. All of this will eventually lead to a culture of death within society. Men disregard God's creation and spread their seed on the ground, couples prevent conception with chemical manipulation of the womb of the potential mothers, and we kill unwanted created beings in the womb of their mother's as we eliminated undesired babies.



These moral matters even though they deal with activity in the secular world, are spiritual in nature for they deal with the sin of a nation. I see them as affecting not only my walk with God but the walk of the nation. The corruption of language feeds the distortion of reality in our society. Referring to God as HE does not make Him a man. We are referring to His Fatherhood of all creation itself. God is Spirit and does not have gender, which is a created thing. The seed of plants is nurtured by the earth and the seed of man is nurtured by the womb of woman. While the seed of man makes him the father of his children, the seed of God makes Him the Father of all living things. Specifically, as God intended to become a part of His creation in order to show His ultimate Love for mankind and all living things, His seed was nurtured by a woman to produce a child of mankind, that is Jesus Christ. God, therefore is not our mother, He is, by definition, our Father. We cannot change the nature of God buy modifying our language, neither can we modify the nature of man by modifying our language. Gender is not a matter of feeling or desire, it is a biological fact of life. Inclusive language is not inclusive at all, but a lie; it is divisive because it divides us from reality.

The art of inclusive language started many years ago with the womens movement. Don't get me wrong, I am sure that God sees and is not pleased with the wrongs that women have suffered. That being said, women are not the same as man. We are two different genders in biology and in spirit. God sees our equality in our moral condition; That is fairness in the secular life is the same for each human gender. The value of a man is the same as the value of a woman. Men should not aspire to replace the woman in society nor should the woman aspire to replace the man. We each have our natural and God given roles to play. When either promote the idea that the other is not necessary for the good functioning of or for the creation of a family, look at the results displayed throughout society where single

parenthood is considered the desirable norm.

I am not ignorant to the manner by which children come into this world, but the norm, created by God and shown to us in Genesis, is for a man and a woman as they come together in LOVE (not LUST) the result is a child of that love. This child, then, has the best chance of fulfilling his or her purpose on earth. That is to Know God, to Love Him, and to Serve Him here on Earth and to be happy with Him forever when arriving at Heaven. Woman was made for motherhood and men for fatherhood. If you doubt it, just look at us and tell me it is not so. Do not deny reality.

It is also true that in some cases we cannot aspire to the natural norm, either because of mental or physical reasons. In these cases, fulfillment can be achieved through service to others in society wherever or however the need may be. We do well to acknowledge our position in life and seek to fulfill God's will within the confines of what is given to us.

Where does God fit in this, life's condition? I remember that we are beings made in His image and likeness, but what does that mean? Because God created everything, nothing, therefore, exists without the knowledge and intent of God. When God became man in the flesh, His purpose is to show us God his father, whom we can not physically see in His natural spirit. He therefore shows us himself in the physical world that we can see, in His Son Jesus Christ. As I have mentioned before we are unique creations of God consisting not only of Body (That which mortal, is physical in nature), Soul, (that which animates the body and is immortal and while the body lives is inseparable from it), and Spirit, (that which contains the intellect and person hood, assigned to the body through it's earthly life). Anyone can know this by observing nature coupled with reading scripture and prayer. While alive on earth, we cannot separate ourselves from our physical nature and therefore our physical bodies cannot separate myself from my spirit. Whatever affects my body, soul, or spirit affects my walk with God.



Propaganda, whether it be political or advertising, for the purpose of changing the minds of the individual or of society as a whole can be extremely destructive of moral values when misused. One view of the tactic is to repeat the message as often as possible in as many media outlets as possible, when

finally, the public will accept it, whether it be true or false. We have seen it used effectively in regards to race or ethnicity in this as well as other societies. The lie is pronounced until the population is numb to the subject and eventually accepts the premise. When this tactic is aimed at children and adolescents, it is especially concerning. Today it comes in the form of language modification in order to achieve the goal. In school, children are asked to select the pronoun by which they want to be referred, That is, he, she; him, her; ze, hir, or other gender neutral forms, depending upon how the child is encouraged to think about themselves. I propose that this perpetrates a lie about the human condition itself. Instead of asking children for their pronoun preference in school perhaps we should be helping them become the boys and girls, men and women that God intended in Genesis, where we see that the natural world, as created by God, made us male and female. We were not made as a negotiable gender such as were some of the lower creatures who can reproduce individually. Man is called by nature into a relationship with woman, as his helper into completeness as a human being. When we take God at His word, “be fruitful and multiply,” we become the fulfillment of His creation by bringing forth children to love and bring to Him.

Those who promote alternative life styles claim that their only desire is to be left alone in their position. They are never satisfied, and need to recruit as many new members as possible, by whatever means, in order to justify their position as normal and not a dysfunction of the human condition. I must be-ware and vigilant in presenting the natural will of God our Father in a most compassionate and truthful way possible.

In Hope and prayer, my life on earth will never correct the division caused by my sin but I am tasked to hold firm in faith because God has already prevailed.

my Conclusion follows . . . . .

