

Monday May 31 Among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. [Zep 3:14-18a](#) or [Rom 12:9-16](#) [Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6](#) [Lk 1:39-56](#)

Mary's Magnificat should be our prayer every single day. Her attitude should be our attitude. Knowing her wonderful role as mother of the savior, she did not hesitate to go and serve her cousin who needed her help. Do you think God has blessed you? Then blessing others is the only path open to you.

Saturday May 29 My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. [Jude 17, 20b-25](#) [Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6](#) [Mk 11:27-33](#)

Mercy is the one true sign of love. The mercy we show, little as it is, is the one thing we can offer others that does not have strings attached.

Friday May 28 The Lord comes to judge the earth. [1 Pt 4:7-13](#) [Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13](#) [Mk 11:11-26](#)

Hmmmm...what a curious message! Before you go off cursing your grape vines, or anything else, you might be wise to consider who you are. Why are you here? I dare you to take a little time with that question. St. Ignatius suggested that we ponder the scriptures by imagining ourselves right there in the story. Who are you in this one? Notice, Jesus looked around at everything!!! Are you just a by-stander? Are you a dove-seller, a money-changer, a street-urchin, an apostle in tow. Are you one of the "people of prayer", or one of the thieves? Let me be presumptuous enough to ask just one more question. Could you be the fig tree that our hungry Jesus encountered? You know He thirsts for souls.

Thursday May 27 Come with joy into the presence of the Lord. [1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12](#) [Ps 100: 2, 3, 4, 5](#) [Mk 10:46-52](#)

Wow, this one's for my new friend Joey M.!

Son of David! Now I see! Now I can follow Him on the way. My Jesus, the Master builder. Hey, you got a little "remodeling project" that needs done in your life? Don't turn that job over to just any old contractor. Make sure you get the best. Wanna be sure? Just check His references. Ask around, He's done work for lots of folks. He's a Master craftsman, especially when it comes to flesh and bone projects. I can tell you, and folks have told me, that when He goes to work He treats your job like it is the only one He has ever done. Every single customer is so very precious to Him. I guarantee that when the little project is finished, it will be "perfect". You will sing and dance for joy, and right away get busy looking for new ones to get Him working on!!!

Wednesday May 26 Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. [1 Pt 1:18-25](#) [Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20](#) [Mk 10:32-45](#)

Being kidnapped and held for ransom is really pretty common nowadays. You might say everyone of us has been kidnapped. Maybe the first image you have of a kidnapper is a scruffy young guy in camo with an AK47. But that guy is not the one who has us in lockdown. Want to see your kidnapper? Look in the mirror. What is his weapon? How about the TV remote. Just click the chains on for hours at a time. How about a brown longneck? Just twist off the lid and clip on the cuffs. How about all that primping and preening and prepping to look real good, or sound just right, or know everything. That ball and chain comes in so many disguises. But here is a marvelous secret. You can leave those chains behind any old time you want. The ransom money has already been delivered. There really is nothing to fear but fear itself! Your big Brother has delivered the ransom, and He has delivered you. You are free, truly free. All you gotta do is act like it!

Tuesday May 25 The Lord has made known his salvation. [1 Pt 1:10-16](#) [Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4](#) [Mk 10:28-31](#)

Life in the Spirit is the most amazing reality. In our quest to become holy because He is holy we first learn to give and surrender. As we give to others and as we surrender our selves to Him we find we have more than we started with. For example, we might give up our personal blessings here to serve in some distant place only to find when we arrive everything we need and so much more. We may have left behind our home and our brothers and sisters only to find dozens of places to stay filled with more brothers and sisters than we can imagine. It is a natural law, perhaps a supernatural one. It is more reliable than the law of gravity. This is the law: "It is impossible to outgive God."

Monday May 24 The Lord will remember his covenant for ever. [1 Pt 1:3-9](#) [Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9 and 10c](#) [Mk 10:17-27](#)

Perhaps I have been rightly criticized for "over"-emphasizing Jesus' one commandment in John 15, but here it is again. So, again I caution all that I am no "authorized", "diploma-ed", "certified", much less "canonized" scholar, though scholar I feel I am. But here it is again in Mark. When queried about the pathway to heaven, Jesus begins reciting the commandments, notably to me, leaving out the God ones we count as one, two, and three. Why? I believe that it is because He knows they are all wrapped up in the one thing the man was lacking. These "rules" are the ones Jesus has come to replace. He replaces them with something infinitely better. He replaces them with Himself. "Come follow me." It is never what we do for God that amounts to anything. It is always what He does for us. And He always does it to help us obey that great commandment of Jesus to love one another as He loved us.

Saturday May 22 The just will gaze on your face, O Lord. [Acts 28:16-20, 30-31](#) [Ps 11:4, 5 and 7](#) [Jn 21:20-25](#)

Worrying about the others is so very childish and so very silly. Momma loves me best. How silly can you get. Of course Mamma loves you best, you are the weakling! How silly can you get, but do not fear. You are in very good company. Just throw up your hands. Breathe a little sigh of relief. Beg God and your brother to forgive you, and go off to take care of His sheep.

Friday May 21 The Lord has established his throne in heaven. [Acts 25:13b-21](#) [Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab](#) [Jn 21:15-19](#)

Would you be His apostle? Take care of His little ones. So very much of our lives is spent worrying about how we are perceived. Am I doing the right thing? Do I have all that I need to get the job done? Am I letting the others down? Am I not living up to my standards? Am I not living up to His standards? Well of course not one single person can survive this scrutiny!!! Anyone who thinks he can is delusional!!! This mentality has absolutely nothing to do with Life in the Spirit. Am I living up to His standards? Certainly not!!! It is completely impossible. That's why living in the Spirit is always leaving the "I" behind. He loves even though I do not "measure up". He delights in me, and joyfully cleans up my messes, and scolds me gently, and changes my diaper as needed. Carving me into what He wants takes long hard work with the chisel and maul, and the real work doesn't begin until I lay down the tools and stand still so He can go to work.

Thursday May 20 Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope. [Acts 22:30; 23:6-11](#) [Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11](#) [Jn 17:20-26](#)

Unity is the sure and certain sign of the Spirit. Not a false unity born of hidden hurts, unexpressed anger, whitewashed guilt, or any of the many coping strategies so often used to look Christian. Unity in the Spirit is born solely through love, the love that abides in openness, and humility, and, most of all, forgiveness. Covering over hurts, and anger, and the like is like whitewashing your outhouse! It may look good, but there is a certain odor... Trying to "build" unity is folly. Sr. Bonin, founder of the Cursillos in Christianity, pointed out that Jesus great prayer, begs His Father to gift us with unity, it comes only from Him. Jesus commands us to "Love one another". When we do we are opening the door to let His Father shower the grace of unity upon us.

Wednesday May 19 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth. [Acts 20:28-38](#) [Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab](#) [Jn 17:11b-19](#)

We are in the world but do not belong to it, nor does it belong to us. The world belongs to Him, and so does everything in it. The problem is that so much of the world is clueless, and therein lies our purpose and our mission. We are His, and we know it. We are His and we are here to show it to the others. We are here to go His way so that the world will know it belongs to Him, and it is Him, His very Spirit that empowers us to do it. Know the way, show the way, as we go the way.

Tuesday May 18 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth. [Acts 20:17-27](#) [Ps 68:10-11, 20-21](#) [Jn 17:1-11a](#)

"I pray for them." What does this mean? What is prayer, really? I heard that question asked last night. What is prayer? We are always encouraging each other to pray, pray, pray. Do we know what we are talking about? Is it even possible to put into words? Pray.

Monday May 17 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth. [Acts 19:1-8](#) [Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab](#) [Jn 16:29-33](#)

Are you having troubles? Guess what? You are in the world. Pentecost recalls that great gift of the Holy Spirit, the very presence of God in us. In Him we are still in, but not of the world, and the sure fruit of His presence is the freedom from the troubles of this world. It isn't the freedom of license, but the freedom of mission. It is not the freedom of being abandoned to one's own devices, but the freedom of being possessed and used by Him. It is not the freedom to rule others, but the freedom to serve. It is not the freedom known by this world, but the freedom that is eternal life.

Saturday May 15 God is king of all the earth. [Acts 18:23-28](#) [Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10](#) [Jn 16:23b-28](#)

Has anyone ever come up to you and said, "Hey I need this and such, the boss asked me to check with you for it." Well does that little qualifier make a difference? Why doesn't my Father give me everything I ask for, especially when I ask it in Jesus' name. Jesus said He would. Think of all the good I could do with a million bucks. But then, at the risk of being very, very silly, "What would I do with all the antlers?" Perhaps I should be very thankful about what He gives and the way He gives. One thing I do know by faith in Him. Everything He has given me is given in love so that my joy, and the joy of others may be complete.

Friday May 14 Is it just me or is this about the tenth time we have heard this gospel since Easter? This time it is with what I think is one of the funniest stories in Acts. Jesus tells the folks, "Don't leave town. Wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit, then you will have power and go to work." So they all gather back in the upper room to pray. Only Peter just can't wait, and proposes Matthias and Joseph/Barsabbas/Justus to replace Judas. He just had to do something. Of course they asked God to make the choice, but when He did not do it, they drew straws! Did you know Matthias was the only apostle who did not leave Jerusalem? Now, folks, I want you to know for sure that Charley Green is no scripture scholar. I have no degree or capital letters after my name. Nevertheless, I've been around a while, and have a pretty good read on people. Mr. Simon Peter is my favorite of all the boys of the book. I have no idea why, he is always impatient, bold, brash, and impulsive. He has a hair trigger tongue, and a bald head, but he also has a very big heart. If Jesus can call a guy like that His friend, there is a little hope for me!

Thursday May 13 The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. [Acts 18:1-8](#) [Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4](#) [Jn 16:16-20](#)

Would you control revelation? Can you imagine what you would do if every moment was like that "closest moment" you remember? You would not do a thing. You would be paralyzed with

ecstasy. How could He use you? He is the here and there Jesus, the come again gone again Jesus, for our benefit. He is always here, we just do not always see Him. If we did we would never have a chance to tell anybody about it. It is simple. Rejoice when you see Him. Savor the moment. Give it all your attention, so that when it dims or passes you can go about with great joy telling all the others all about it! Rejoice in the Lord always, I'll tell you again, rejoice in the Lord always!!!!

Wednesday May 12 Heaven and earth are full of your glory. [Acts 17:15, 22—18:1](#) [Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14](#) [Jn 16:12-15](#)

Why is it that we are always so blind and so bound and determined to make our own gods? Why do we always dream and scheme, and almost never listen? Is it because the reality of a god who would be so close and personal just seems so absurd? How could it be at all possible that a god of any power could take the time to speak to me? The answer really is simple. God is absurd. He cares. He loves me, me! He loves me so much that He is dying for me. Do you think He would not speak with me!!!!? Do you think He would not take all the time in the world to instruct me!!!!? Sometimes I just want to shake people! Listen to Him! Leave off trying to tell Him what to do and do what He tells you. Treat His loved ones the way He treats you. Free them. Heal them. Empower them. Quit trying to make them jump through your hoops, Instruct them not with your paltry wisdom, but instruct them to listen to Him and do what He says. Do you love Him? Then feed His sheep.

Tuesday May 11 Your right hand saves me, O Lord. [Acts 16:22-34](#) [Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8](#) [Jn 16:5-11](#)

If there is one single attribute to life in the Spirit it is Joy. Joy in everything, joy at seeing Him at work everywhere, at work in the good in the bad and the ugly. Rejoice whenever you see good (righteousness), it is the very presence of God. It is Jesus in the Father. Rejoice even when you see bad (sin), not in the sin, but in the certain knowledge that the Spirit is convicting us even there because of our lack of faith. It is through this conviction that we can give and receive forgiveness from Him through each other. Rejoice too in the ugly (the evil one) not in his evil presence. Do not fear him, fear God. Rejoice that the Spirit has condemned the ruler of this world. Very, very soon he will be gone forever. Joy is the fruit of the Spirit of Love. It is the calm assurance that He is always with me.

Monday May 10 The Lord takes delight in his people. [Acts 16:11-15](#) [Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b](#) [Jn 15:26—16:4a](#)

I love to attend mass when little children participate. Years ago my friend, Ronnie, made it a practice in our parish for the little ones to bring up the gifts. Just watching puts smiles on so many faces! Why? Does it not remind us who we are? We really, in spite of our brilliance, our grand schemes and plans, our fervent holiness, we really are very little. Yet He really does delight in us. When we stop acting childishly and come child-like to him with our tiny gifts of love, He cannot help but smile. That is exactly why the apostle once cautioned us "Do not make the Holy Spirit sad!"

Saturday May 8 Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. [Acts 16:1-10](#) [Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5](#) [Jn 15:18-21](#)

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. The world just takes away. Be His and He will give you plenty of joy, much more than the world can take away. And remember this, any little bit the Lord takes away is always given to another, and it always comes back in so many wonderful ways. What the world takes is gone.

Friday 5/7/2010 I will give you thanks among the peoples, O Lord. [Acts 15:22-31](#) [Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12](#) [Jn 15:12-17](#)

Every once in a great while it is wise to just shut your mouth and listen to Him:

Jesus said to his disciples:

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.
You are my friends if you do what I command you.
I no longer call you slaves,
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.
I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.
It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.
This I command you: love one another."

Thursday 5/6/2010 Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations. Acts 15:7-21 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 Jn 15:9-11 And there it is! His joy... It is His joy that is ours. What a wonderful simple formula, His bonehead Algebra. Keep My commands, remain in My love, savor My sublime joy. And I think I have seen this somewhere else...do the right thing, love with passion, walk humbly with God. Isn't it amazing how He always says the same thing. What a joy to serve such a wonderfully consistent Master. Could it be so because He is my Father?

Wednesday 5/5/2010 Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 Jn 15:1-8 Feeling a little heat? Maybe you've come loose from the vine. It is the most certain feature of being human to interpret everything in the light of me. It is a very bright light. Cartoonists often depict it as a light bulb over ones head! Some tiny spark of "wisdom" flashes in our heads. We utter "a-ha" and rush off planin' and jamin'. "This is the way it must be. This is what I'm gonna do." In our flash of brilliance that vine can easily become the "tie holding me back". How can I save everybody when I am shackled? Therein lies the rub! There is only one Savior. Would you like to be of use to Him? It really is very simple. It requires no Dr. of Theology. His wisdom and love is all around you all the time. He is very clearly speaking to your heart all the time. Remain as firmly in Him as you can and let Him use you. It does not work the other way 'round. Remember, "people will gather them and throw them into a fire." All these plans and ideas, no matter how brilliant, will be dimmed to nothing and doomed to ashes. In the end, He is. Remain in Him and His fruit will come. Charge off on your own and His people, the ones who know His voice, will know where to go and what to do. Feeling warm and cozy, or is it getting just a little too hot? Am I in His arms, or are they coming to take me away? Do not worry. Time will tell. Just look for the fruit. By the way, sometimes you can see it best in the mirror. When you look there try to see the others and not just your own pretty face. Not the powerful, look for the little ones. Which way are they going? Do you see their faces or the back of their heads. Are they coming with smiles and open arms or blank stares and puzzled looks. Remember, not the powerful, it is the little ones He is drawing to Himself.

Tuesday 5/4/2010 Your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 Jn 14:27-31a There are so many who pay lip service to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In a way it is very sad, for it certainly is not their fault. In fact every single one of us over and over falls into the trap. It is certainly so very natural and human. Think about it. Which one of us has a heart un-troubled and completely un-afraid? This is Jesus, Father God, Sweet Spirit of Love, who says these things. He orders us to love as He loved. He calls us to make His kingdom known to all the world everywhere. He calls us to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. It is very simply an absolutely impossible task for any and certainly for all of us together. That is why we really are Him. We must be Him. If you still are skeptical let me share a few simple questions. Did Jesus in the flesh not tell us that if we see Him we see His Father? Did He not point out that He and the Father are one? What made it possible for Him to say this? Is it not the very Spirit of Him and the Father Who is the tie that binds the Trinity into unity? Now I ask you one last very simple question. Is this not the same Holy Spirit Who dwells in you and me? The logical conclusion, though it is completely ridiculous to us mere mortals, is that we are Him. He, the perfect fluid, fills every spot of our soul that we can find the grace to yield to Him. It really and truly is Him that the world sees in us. Too bad that it is so hard for us to

let go. Tranquility and fearlessness are the only sure signs of His presence. He is the Master of all and so is eternally at peace in every meaning of the Word.

Monday 5/3/2010 Their message goes out through all the earth. 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Jn 14:6-14 What shall I ask for today? He said clearly that if I ask in His name He will do it. So, what shall I ask for? Shall I be bold and ask for some great miracle that will astound thousands or millions? Should I be timid and ask for some little tiny gift? Can I be selfish and ask for something personal, or gracious and ask for something for a friend, or even an enemy? What shall I ask for today? On the other hand, what are the works that Jesus does? It really is not too complicated. What Jesus always does is point to His Father. Who is His Father? If you know Jesus you know Him. Everything He does is so that the Father may be glorified in Him.

Saturday 5/1/2010