

**Thursday 6/30 I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living. [Gn 22:1b-19](#) [Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9](#) [Mt 9:1-8](#)**

There is a great folly in those who think they have power. Jesus preached this constantly. All power, as Foghorn might say, I said all power is from Our Father. He waits very patiently to work through us with us and in us to bring His power to bear for good in every moment of our lives. It is all in the aiming process. A high powered laser can deliver tremendous power. When it is carefully and precisely aimed this power can work great miracles of healing, communication, and so on. When its aim is off it can cause tremendous damage, or at best, a great waste of energy. It is a great wonder that Our loving Father chooses to use us to help aim the power of His love to deliver the wonderful miracles He wants to deliver. It is amazing that He has given such authority to men. It is wonderful when we choose to use it.

**Wednesday 6/29 The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him. [Acts 12:1-11](#)  
[Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#) [2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18](#) [Mt 16:13-19](#)**

Of course the life of a Christian is in God's hands, as is the life of every living person or thing. Being in His hands is not what is different about the Christian life. What is different is all in the attitude. The real Christian knows who is holding him and is grateful and filled with joy. The others are simply unaware or are busy doing their level best to get away. This is all very normal, but the strange part is that even the best Christians spend so much time being in and living with the latter attitude. It is the most amazing and curious thing that so many holy Christians spend so much time listening to one another that they can hardly ever hear God. Perhaps it is just that His ways seem to call for too much of them. Whatever the reason it is a reality that feeds on itself like the feedback that causes a PA system to blare out a great noise. The surest way to get back to reality is to turn down the volume. Then, after your ears quit ringing try listening carefully to one other person. Pay attention to the words from his heart, those are the ones most likely to be from Our Father.

**Tuesday 6/28 O Lord, your mercy is before my eyes. [Gn 19:15-29](#) [26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12](#) [Mt 8:23-27](#)**

"The glory of God is man fully alive." So there is no fear where God is present, unless the men present are unaware of His presence. Peace and joy are sure signs of God's conscious presence, and fear and doubt are their exact opposites.

**Monday 6/27 The Lord is kind and merciful. [Gn 18:16-33](#) [103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11](#) [Mt 8:18-22](#)**

Life is ultimately only one thing. It is a person's relationship with the Lord.

**Saturday 6/25 The Lord has remembered his mercy. [Gn 18:1-15](#) [Luke 1:46-47, 48-49, 50 and 53, 54-5](#) [Mt 8:5-17](#)**

As the apostle taught us, there are three things that last, faith, hope, and love. In truth these are the Father, Son, and Spirit in our lives. When we come to discover the Father's love, we know the certainty that is faith. It is what carries us through every little difficulty of life. When we come to know the friendship of the Son, we understand the reason for our hope. He is our best friend, our rock. When we experience the day by day intimacy of the Spirit we have found that wonderful deep and lasting reality of life that our Blessed Mother expressed so well in her Magnificat. Three in one, in us, with us, and through us.

**Friday 6/24 I praise you, for I am wonderfully made. [Is 49:1-6](#) [Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15](#) [Acts 13:22-26](#) [Lk 1:57-66, 80](#)**

Why is the Lord so close to His own? It can be no other way. Could He be further from them than for those who do not know Him? Of course not!!! He is close to all and close to each one of us, all the time. He is God. Were it not so we would not be, we would not exist. He is, so we are, whether we know it or not. Life is just the

process of coming to know it. Live, and live to the fullest. All you need to do is keep your eyes open, especially during the most exciting times!

**Thursday 6/23 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. [Gn 16:1-12, 15-16](#) or [16:6b-12, 15-16](#) Ps [106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5](#) [Mt 7:21-29](#)**

Action, action! Prophecy, drive out demons, do mighty deeds, so what! God says stop!, quit wriggling!, settle down, chill! LISTEN to Me! "Know Me". Then when you do, and when I know you, we will build. We will build together. We will build together, and our house will stand. It will stand as a shelter to all who call on my name. Do you not understand? We are building My kingdom right now.

**Wednesday 6/22 The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. [Gn 15:1-12, 17-18](#) Ps [105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9](#) [Mt 7:15-20](#)**

Faith is the fruit. Faith is the sign of righteousness. Faith is God's gift, it is His covenant in action. When a person knows who God is, He knows God. That person is the one who has offspring, not fruit of his actions, but fruit of His faith. Faith is not something I can do, even by years of hard work and determination. Faith is the acceptance of the great gift of entering into the presence of God Himself. Faith is like the ocean. You may look at it, see what it is and what it does, stand in awe of it, but once you take that one tiny step into it you begin to feel it and know it. In this paltry metaphor, faith is the process of becoming a fish.

**Tuesday 6/21 He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. [Gn 13:2, 5-18](#) Ps [15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5](#) [Mt 7:6, 12-14](#)**

The best choice is always His choice. Take your time. There is no rush to make a decision. He can wait an eternity, can you?

**Monday 6/20 Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own. [Gn 12:1-9](#) Ps [33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and 22](#) [Mt 7:1-5](#)**

The most difficult thing to see is the beam in my own eye. To do so I need a mirror. Mirrors can be quite scary things, especially the ones that magnify! It is the same with a soul. It is just too easy with a mirror to get distracted from the important things and to focus on the less important. Is a hair out of place? Are my lips the right color? What about my eye shadow..., my eye lashes..., and so on? Can we step back and look at the whole thing? It is the same with a soul. We know where the mirror is, but so often are afraid to look in it. When we do we often take such a narrow view. Now and then we really do need to step back and take a good hard look. When a person is able to do this he simply cannot avoid the astonishment and amazement at being so dearly loved by God. When you take up the mirror of the soul, no doubt you will at first concentrate on the little things; this wart over here or the lovely little beauty mark over there. But, eventually the image of the whole thing will begin to very dimly appear. It is so beautiful. It is the image of the Triune God.

**Saturday 6/18 Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. [2 Cor 12:1-10](#) Ps [34:8-9, 10-11, 12-13](#) [Mt 6:24-34](#)**

Power is made perfect in Weakness! How ridiculous is that! It is almost as ridiculous as the creator of the universe choosing to be born in a tiny stable to a teenage mother who conceived Him without a husband in one of the most socially troubled regions of this world...pretty ridiculous. But not nearly so ridiculous as the Lord of all Lords and King of all Kings choosing to let Himself be beaten, broken, pierced, and executed in the most hideous manner. That is simply incredible. Yet this is His Way. This is who we are becoming. Weakness, even if painful is perfecting our power. The power has many names but the most perfect of those names is LOVE. He is LOVE.

**Friday 6/17 From all their distress God rescues the just. [2 Cor 11:18, 21-30](#) Ps [34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7](#) [Mt 6:19-23](#)**

"I am a holy person." Can you say that? You should say that, you know you should. Why does it give you qualms to say so? Does it seem like boasting? It shouldn't, unless of course it is. Is it a boast for a child to say I am a child? Is it boasting for a youngster to proclaim that, "my mother loves me"? It is boasting only if it is not true. If you feel it is boasting to proclaim your holiness, you have slid a little further into the ditch. This does not, of course, mean you are not holy, only that you are a little confused about what holiness is. Let me ask one more tiny question. Is the little child who cries out, "momma hates me!" any less loved by his mother because of it?

**Thursday 6/16 Your works, O Lord, are justice and truth. [2 Cor 11:1-11](#) Ps [111:1b-2, 3-4, 7-8](#) [Mt 6:7-15](#)**

It is works, not words, that are God's justice and truth. Babble on as you wish. I may or may not listen to you, but I cannot fail to see what you do. It is not saying the "Our Father" that has any value at all. It is living it. It is being it. That is the meaning of walking in truth.

**Wednesday 6/15 Blessed the man who fears the Lord. [2 Cor 9:6-11](#) Ps [112:1bc-2, 3-4, 9](#) [Mt 6:1-6, 16-18](#)**

Righteousness is the fruit of Christianity, not its hallmark. Those who would be Christian simply need to be concerned with being His presence to everyone, His loving presence. I am amazed that when we pray at mass we say the words, "until you come in glory". How else can He come? His coming is always and by definition "in glory". His presence is the very meaning of the phrase! Problem is we, poor sinners that we are, so often miss the point. We too often overlook glory where it is and see it where it ain't!!! (to be quite blunt). Quite frankly, His glory is that of a tiny infant born amidst the filth of a lowly stable. It is the glory of a convicted criminal tortured and dying in the blazing hot sun on a bloody cross. It is the glory of the simplicity of friendship. Why do we spend so much time and effort trying to complicate things. Could it be an exercise to demonstrate how smart, or good, or great we are. Is it an attempt to show how glorious we are for being committed. If so, we have gone very wide of the mark. His glory is our glory, We are glorious when we surrender all, everything, every little bit, to Him by serving everyone. Not by making them righteous or showing them our righteousness. It is only by dying to ourselves for them that we become Him for them. That is the only "right" thing to do.

**Tuesday 6/14 Praise the Lord, my soul! [2 Cor 8:1-9](#) Ps [146:2, 5-6ab, 6c- 7, 8-9a](#) [Mt 5:38-42](#)**

The perfection of God is astounding in its simplicity. God is constant. His love gives life. His way is the amazing way of selflessness. We meet Him as a tiny helpless child, as a broken, tortured, and dying man. We know Him in an empty tomb and in the humble bread and wine that is His body and blood. He lives for those He loves and He dies for them, His love is everlasting. And this is the love He calls us to embrace. We do not need to generate it. It is far beyond the best of us to do so. We are called simply to be its vessels, its channels. We are called to be the way He becomes ever present to others.

**Monday 6/13 The Lord has made known his salvation. [2 Cor 6:1-10](#) Ps [98:1, 2b, 3ab, 3cd-4](#) [Mt 5:38-42](#)**

Why is now the acceptable time? Why does Jesus suggest that we should behave in such a ridiculous manner toward others?...do not resist evil?...turn the other cheek?...give the shirt off your back?...go the extra mile?...don't ignore borrowers? Why would Jesus say these stupid things!!!??? It really is not hard to understand. Jesus also said "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." Is this not exactly what God does? The perfection of God is shown in His sheer insanity. Nothing He does is the least bit logical, so great is His passion for His creation...for us. Is it possible for any one of us to do likewise? Of course not! And that is the secret to life in the Spirit. It is only, I repeat, only in our surrender to His thoroughly insane will that He can even

in some very small and weak way work His love, on His terms, for the others He has put in our lives. He has put them here now, at this time. That is the only link of importance for you and for me. He has graced us together with this tiny speck of His eternity. It truly is the acceptable time for us. It is our only time. When we give it back to Him we have truly accepted it.

**Saturday 6/11** The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. [Acts 11:21b-26; 12:1-3](#) Ps [98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6](#) [Jn 21:20-25](#)

Two things: First it is absolutely none of your business what God has called another to do. He has commanded all to love. It is He alone who calls the shots on the particular pathway each of us must travel, though our every step must be made in love. Second, our interpretations and our understanding of Him as individuals and even as a body is so far from His wondrous and amazing plans that it is simply common sense to keep our scheming and planning to a minimum. A simple suggestion is that we minimize trying to figure out where to go and concentrate on figuring out ways to love one another each little step of the way.

**Friday 6/10** The Lord has established his throne in heaven. [Acts 25:13b-21](#) Ps [103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab](#) [Jn 21:15-19](#)

There may be many, many ways to know where love exists, but one that is always certain is that the lovers are always together. Even when separated physically their minds are connected and they will take advantage of any means to share their love with each other. For this reason lovers cannot possibly resist the need to be intimately involved in one another's affairs. Their most joyful burdens are the time and efforts spent advancing the interests and plans of the beloved. It is very normal and natural. It is the way things work. Enjoy it.

**Thursday 6/9** 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](#)

God is. His being is constant, always whole and complete. Being one, being one in Him, is the only certain sign of His presence in us. This is so because it is only possible through love. It is our love for each other that makes us one. Nothing can separate those who are in love. Animosity and indifference are our greatest enemies because they are so clearly un-God-like. Think a moment where we would be if, even for an instant, God harbored even the slightest animosity towards us, or even if He were the slightest bit indifferent! It is His gift of love that brings us to perfection and it is unity that is the sign of it.

**Wednesday 6/8** Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth. [Acts 20:28-38](#) Ps [68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab](#) [Jn 17:11b-19](#)

Pay close attention to the word "truth" in the New Testament, "speak the truth in love", walk always in the truth", "the truth shall set you free", and many more. Truth is, when Jesus knew the end is near He consecrated us in the truth, and He begged His Father to keep us in His name so that we may be one and our joy may be complete (and that means finished, done, as good as it gets!). He asks all these things of our Father, and He asks nothing at all from us, rather, He gives us a mandate, a command, one that sums up, rewrites, completes (finishes) and totally fulfills every "ordinance" of God, "LOVE AS I HAVE LOVED YOU". Are you one with all others? Is your joy complete? Well, if not, or if you are not sure, just "Put a Little Love In Your Heart"! PS: a song helps too!

**Tuesday 6/7** Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth. [Acts 20:17-27](#) Ps [68:10-11, 20-21](#) [Jn 17:1-11a](#)

There is an incorrect saying "All good things come to an end." Nothing could be further from the truth. The truth is that only goodness will last. Be good.

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

No great conflict ends abruptly. There is always a period of time needed to get the word out, for it to sink in, for all combatants to assimilate the message and cease hostility. This time can be very dangerous for individuals, especially those in remote areas. This is where we are. Jesus has won the victory, but so very many have not yet heard the news and so very few have really come into compliance with the wonderful terms of His gracious peace treaty. Friends, the war is over. It is time to go ahead and surrender, surrender everything to Him. Any other option you might be mulling over is simply your personal version of suicide.

**Saturday 6/4** God is king of all the earth. [Acts 18:23-28](#) Ps [47:2-3, 8-9, 10](#) [Jn 16:23b-28](#)

Complete joy, what can that mean? Complete means it is finished, there is no more. What does it mean to ask in "my name"? To ask in someone else's name is at the very core of friendship. Have you never told someone, "Hey, if you need this and such just go ask so and so. If he has any questions, just tell him that I sent you."? It is the basic understanding that my friend will always help my other friends. Jesus is not devising some ritual prayer form that one must follow to achieve some goal. Jesus is simply stating the profoundly simple fact of the amazing truth of Life in the Spirit, Life in friendship with Him. It is the completion of joy.

**Friday 6/3** God is king of all the earth. [Acts 18:9-18](#) Ps [47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7](#) [Jn 16:20-23](#)

Joy comes in the morning? Not really, joy is present always. When you walk in the Spirit there is truly nothing that can take your joy. It is the most amazing reality to know your own smallness. A perfectly cut diamond is just a tiny crystal of carbon. Completely insignificant in terms of mass or even usefulness, yet it is so very precious to its owner. In reality it does only one simple thing, exist reflecting light. Yet its price, its value is reckoned above anything else its own size. So is each person to Our Father because of Jesus. Be smart. Reflect His light. It is in this personal fiat that everlasting joy abounds.

**Thursday 6/2** 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](#)

Why do we see Him and then not see Him. Could it be something like the blinking lights on a commercial sign, a way to get our attention? At any rate the on again off again experience is good, but much better is the steady illumination that comes with the intimacy of friendship with Jesus. I have heard it said that the devil is in the details, and this may be true for some, but I assure you that He is there, whether we see Him or not, and nothing anywhere can match the overwhelming joy that comes with seeing Him there at all times in all the tiny, normal, happenings of life.

**Wednesday 6/1** 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](#)

The passage today from Acts must be quite difficult for Church people to accept. Yet this is the clear and constant message of all the Holy Scriptures. It is very interesting that it is also, to me, a key part of St. Justin's witness and teaching. Faith comes by the grace of God not by any amount of philosophy or human effort. This is the core (no, it was not an apple) of the story of the Garden of Eden and Gethsemane. It is the meaning of Babel and the "house built on a rock". It is the meaning of the bronze serpent and the crucifixion. It is the meaning of the flood and of the Jordan River. And it is the meaning of Moriah and of Joseph's new tomb. Grace is never earned. It can never be relegated to rituals. Grace is ever and always there; very close and available to everyone He loves. Grace is available, but it must be accepted. Those who have accepted grace know it. They can be "discerned" not by the way they dress, or the way they act, or the things they build, or the things they say. They can be discerned simply by the life they lead, that is the love they pour out for others. They are the ones who speak what they hear from the Spirit, and do so with their lives

