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Suggested Materials:

- (1) *St. Francis of Assisi: Sign of Contradiction* (Video) by 4PM Media & The Ministry of the Wild Goose;
- (2) *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship* (Encyclical) by Pope Francis;
- (3) *Mary in the Church: A Selection of Teaching Documents* (Book) by U.S. Bishops & Papal Magisterium;
- (4) *Directory for Catechesis* (Book) by Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization.

For more resources visit www.bmjsajonas.com

Pilgrimages: If you are interested in the near future to join a pilgrimage, you can email Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas to inquire. You can also check the upcoming activities of Fr. Millan at <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/upcoming-activities> Let us continue to pray for one another! God bless you!

Faith Formation: For online resources, please visit <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/adult-faith-formation>

Next issue's contents:

Luke 14:31-32: The parable of the king's plan; getting to know a catholic devotion; Bible Study, resources for faith formation, and much more...

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IN MINISTERIO DEI ET VERBI SUI

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Luke 14:7-11: The Parable of the Humbled Guest

By Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas

Jesus told a parable to the guests invited with him upon seeing how they were selecting places of honor in the banquet. Choosing is an ordinary human action, which characterizes our free will. One makes a decision to act that has an effect or which may have several consequences. In the context of the parable, Jesus takes the opportunity to teach the guests about humility indicating one's search for the lowest place, far from the limelight and attention. Such action demonstrates prudence. God alone gives honor and importance. Worldly elations and lofty ideals of greatness are momentary, and are a futile way of attaining life's meaning. God's standard for greatness confounds earthly wisdom. One has to rely upon God's grace and mercy, being dependent upon Him, for only He alone can save us.

The present world crisis demonstrates the pointless aspirations for significance, authority, riches, and power. Human life is fragile. Positions and riches cannot control world events, nor can they save lives. No amount of control will suffice to preserve order, or to escape from the reality that we are but mortal creatures. Like in the parable, when one waits for God in the simple and in the ordinary circumstances of life, God sees the childlike attitude of being dependent and trusting. Here one can find joy and contentment, for God uplifts the one who waits for Him patiently and unwavering in faith. In the endless wandering of the human heart, the answer is to be still and to be at peace. Let God find us. Sometimes, in the busyness of life, and the desire to understand God through various means and ways, there is only one thing necessary. This is to be still and listen to the Word of God. Let God find and meet us. He will remove the fear and the anxiety of these unbridled and confusing worldly events.

In simplicity and dependency on God, there is a rediscovery of the true order and power in the universe. It is a spiritual preparedness that goes beyond human explanation. It is a rediscovery, because it has always been there, and what God expects from us as individuals and as a Church. As an individual, there is a need for a relationship with the Lord, and as a Church, we need to help one another to have a relationship with Him. To find the lowest place is to observe from afar, to have a wider perspective of circumstances of life. From here we can reflect on the experiences of one's self and others, accepting and being open to the Divine. (Continued on Page 2)

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Reflection Questions

1. What is your understanding of being great?
2. Being dependent on, and trusting in, God are childlike attitudes; how do you demonstrate these in your life?
3. Can one have a lived relationship with God? How?
4. Have you helped others to have a lived relationship with God? In what ways do you assist them?
5. Do you believe that God searches for us? If yes, how?

Bible Study

Read Genesis Chapter 1-5
Questions to Answer and Reflect

Genesis 1

1. What did God say after He saw each of His creation?
2. In Gen. 1:26-27, how many times is the word “image” mentioned? What is the difference between ‘image’ and ‘likeness’?
3. How will you interpret God’s words, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all the living creatures that move on earth.” (NJB)?

Genesis 2

1. What is “Eden”?
2. How will you interpret, “a man leaves his father and mother and becomes attached to his wife, and they become one flesh” (NJB)?

Genesis 3

1. What do you think is the sin of Adam and Eve? Why?
2. What do you think are the consequences of sin for humanity?

Genesis 4

1. What was the first sin of Cain?
2. Who is the offspring of Adam and Eve that replaced Abel?

Genesis 5

1. Who walked with God among the descendants of Adam?
2. What is the meaning of the name of “Noah”?

Praying the Rosary

There are many stories of how the rosary became a beloved devotion for Catholics. It is quite often associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom we ask for her powerful intercession every time we pray it. Yet, the different mysteries of the holy rosary are about the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Almost all of them tell about the events in the life of the Lord. We reflect upon these mysteries of the rosary from the Incarnation of the Word of God through the wonderful works of God in Mary. They tell us about the life of Jesus, which reveals God’s love and deeds, and how He has acted to save us. In these stories, we remember the life of Jesus, meditating on them, learning from them and enlivening our faith. Jesus and Mary’s stories give us examples to follow. Truly, they serve as an inspiration for us so as we strive to persevere with hope of attaining heaven, our destiny.

When we begin the rosary, just as with any prayer, it is with the sign of the cross: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* The Trinity is invoked to whom we direct our prayers and petitions. Devotion in praying the holy rosary echoes our longing for God’s graces through the intercession of Mary, our mother. Immediately, we profess our faith through the *Apostle’s creed*, affirming, stating, and renewing our beliefs contained in the articles of faith in the creed. The prayer *Our Father* is said next. The three *Hail Mary* may be offered for the intentions of the Holy Father or to ask for an increase of the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. At the end, a *Glory Be* is said. Then follow the Joyful Mysteries (Mondays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 1st Sunday of Advent to the Baptism of the Lord), Luminous Mysteries (Thursdays), Sorrowful (Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays of Lent), or Glorious Mysteries (Wednesdays and Sundays of Ordinary Time), which are announced depending on the day the rosary is recited. Each of them has five mysteries corresponding to the five decades of the rosary. After saying the corresponding mystery for a decade, the prayer *Our Father* is recited and followed with the ten *Hail Marys*. To close the decade, a *Glory Be* is recited, followed with the Fatima Prayer. After finishing the five decades of the rosary, it is concluded with the prayer ‘*Hail Holy Queen.*’

In praying the rosary, we reflect on the life of Jesus. The story of the life of Jesus will always remain important for all of us. Like the Blessed Mother Mary, let us ponder the mysteries of God’s plan of salvation. With the rosary, we pray also for our intentions, for those who have asked our prayers, and we include in our prayers the souls in purgatory.

“The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary.” Pope Saint Pius X