



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

Revenge is the Rule of the Jungle

***To monthly mission donors:
Thank you for your support!***

On behalf of His Excellency Frederick F. Campbell, the Bishop of Columbus, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

God is the Chief Justice in the supreme court of Heaven. He wears the robe. He does not want to share the gavel with us. For this reason, Paul wrote, “I will do the “judging” says God. “I will take care of it” (Romans 12:19).

Revenge removes God from the equation. Revenge is like saying, “God, I am not sure you can handle this matter. Your punishment may not be enough. And it may take long for you to get to it. I will take this matter into my own hands”.

When someone hurts us, our animalistic response is revenge. Revenge is a natural response. Getting even is natural. Incidentally, that is the problem.

Revenge is natural and not spiritual. Revenge is the rule of the jungle. But it is not the rule of God’s Kingdom.

To forgive is a very difficult thing to do. But the consequence of unforgiveness is misery. If you do

not forgive, you can expect a miserable life.

Unforgiveness or bitterness is like a menacing and malignant tumor. It eats you up. We cannot change our past. But we can change the way we deal with it. Besides, we have so many things to do, without trying to do God’s work. Leave your offender in the hands of God.

How can we reconcile our hurt with God’s command to forgive? To forgive sounds so unfair and unjust. But we need to know that God cares about justice and fairness more than we do. Paul’s advice is “Never pay back evil for evil... never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God for He has said that He will repay those who deserve it” (Romans 12:17 and Romans 12:19).

We are afraid to forgive, because we do not want our offender to escape unpunished. But we need not worry. Scripture says, “God will repay”. God did not say, “God might repay”.

We also need to know that to forgive is not to excuse. What it means is to move on. It means not to linger on your hurts anymore. This does not mean to excuse your offender, or to endorse what your offender had to done to you. When you forgive, you are not saying that your offender is right. In effect, you are saying that God will do what is right. To forgive is to claim God’s promise who says,

“I will take care of it” (Romans 12:19). Let God do it.

No one had a clearer sense of right and wrong than Jesus did. Yet, “when He suffered, He did not make any threats, but He left the judging to the One Who judges fairly” (1 Peter 2:23).

Only God can judge fairly and accurately. Our punishments are either too light, or too severe. Only God can dispense perfect justice. Vengeance is not ours. It is God’s. Leave your offender in God’s hands. You can hate the behavior without hate consuming you.

Jesus was tough on people who refused to forgive other sinners. He told a story about a servant who owed a lot of money from his master. His debt was so huge that it was impossible for him to pay his master. But the master forgave him of all his debts. On his way out from his master’s office he met his co-servant who owed him a must lesser amount. He demanded that his co-servant pay him in full. His co-servant begged him to give him more time, but he demanded payment right then. He stirred the wrath of God. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’” (Matt. 18: 32 – 33). You know the rest of the story.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

O ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; look with mercy on me.

By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make a privilege sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal.

I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

Christ Transubstantiates our Suffering

We do not have the power to relieve ourselves from suffering. But Jesus did while on the cross. With a wink of His eye, He could have aborted the crucifixion.

The people taunted Him to come down from the cross and they would believe that He was the Son of God. But He did not come down.

Christ faced His suffering as a cup from the hand of God. Pilate, Judas, Cephas and the Romans and the people did not give Christ the cup. The Father did.

In Christ, our suffering is a cup from the Father. Without Christ our suffering has no value. But in Christ, the value is infinite.

Christ transforms our suffering like He transforms the bread and

wine into His Body and Blood at Mass.

Our suffering is like a blank check. With our signature it has no value. With Christ's signature its value is infinite.

In our suffering we are most like God.

Quest:

Freedom is not a question of doing as we like, but doing as we ought.

Quote:

Men are like wine - some turn to vinegar, but the best improve with age. -Saint Pope John XXIII

Pope Francis' February Prayer Intention:

For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

Funny and Interesting Facts...

- The only letter that does not appear on the periodic table is J.
- The offspring of a Polar Bear and Grizzly Bear is called a "Pizzly Bear".
- A single strand of Spaghetti is called "Spaghetto".
- In England, to leave a party without telling anyone is called a "French exit". In France it is called "to leave like the English".
- The Buddha commonly depicted in statues and pictures is a different person entirely. The real Buddha was actually incredibly skinny because of self-deprivation.

- In order to protect themselves from poachers, African Elephants are evolving without tusks.
- In 1923, a jockey suffered a fatal heart attack but his horse finished and won the race, making him the first and only jockey to win a race after death.

A joke a priest can tell...



A company, feeling it was time for a shake-up, hired a new CEO. This new boss is determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO notices a guy leaning on a wall. The room is full of workers and he thinks this is his chance to show everyone he means business!

The CEO walks up to the guy and asks, "And how much money do you make a week?"

Undaunted, the young fellow looks at him and replies, "I make \$200.00 a week. Why?"

The CEO then hands the guy \$200 in cash and screams, "Here's a week's pay, now GET OUT and don't come back!"

Feeling pretty good about his first firing, the CEO looks around the room and asks, "Does anyone want to tell me what that slacker did here?"

With a sheepish grin, one of the other workers muttered, "He's the pizza delivery guy."

**Leandro (Lany) Tapay, Director
Gina Sergio, Program Coordinator**

**Visit us on the web at
www.columbuscatholic.org**

- Follow us on Twitter
- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us on Pinterest