



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783
Newsletter
December 2012



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The monthly Assembly Meeting for 16 December 2012 is **CANCELLED**.

DEGREE CEREMONIES

Third Degree Ceremony: 9 February 2013. Location: Council 2546, 4301 Columbus Club Dr, Raleigh, NC. Registration will be between 11:00 - 11:30 am. For more information go to the NC website (www.kofcnc.org) under ceremonials, under 3rd Degree

Third Degree Ceremony: 2 March 2013. Location: Council 7406, 217 Brawley School Rd. Mooresville, NC. Registration will be between 11:00 - 11:30 am. For more information go to the NC website (www.kofcnc.org) under ceremonials, under 3rd Degree.

Fourth Degree Exemplification: 9 March 2013. Regional 4th Degree will be held in New Bern, NC. Candidates should arrive at 11:00 am. For further information go to the K of C website at (www.kofcnc.org) under ceremonials, under 4th degree.

Fourth Degree Exemplification: 26 October 2013. Location: Sheraton Imperial, Durham for next Exemplification. Details TBA. <http://kofcnc.org/FOURTH%20DEGREE/2008Exemplification.htm>

If your Council is hosting a Degree Ceremony send an email to COOP5614@yahoo.com with the information and I will place it in the next Assembly Newsletter and on the website Calendar page.



CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD

Special thanks to the Honor Guard members who performed at the Wake and Funeral for Rita Guzinsky, widow of the late SK Chester F. Guzinsky:

Wake:

PFN Dave Benes
SK Ron Foster
PFN John Handley
SK Jeff Jankovics
DD Rodney Komlofske
SK Bob Testa (Honor Guard Commander)

Funeral:

SK Ron Foster
PFN John Handley
SK Jeff Jankovics (Pallbearer at request of the family)

MOTHER RECALLS SON WAKING FROM COMA AS BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT

Rome, Italy, Dec 10, 2012 / 06:07 pm (EWTN News/CNA)

After spending ten years in a comatose state, a young Italian man named Maximiliano Tresoldi woke up on Christmas of 2000 to dry the tears of his mother, Lucrecia.

In an interview with EWTN News, Lucrecia recounted how Maximiliano – Max to his friends – was only 20 years old when he was injured in a car accident on Aug. 15, 1991.

He was diagnosed by doctors as paralyzed “with no chance of recovery,” she said.

Over nine years later on Dec. 28, 2000, Lucrecia tucked Max into bed as she had each night since he came home from the hospital.

Overwhelmed with depression and sadness, she didn’t follow her usual routine of taking his hand to make the sign of the cross.

“I just can’t do any more tonight, I don’t want to pray or anything,” she told him.

However, Lucrecia said, “the sign of the cross was really his salvation,” and at that moment Max found the strength to console his mother.

He raised his hand and made the sign of the cross himself. Then he gave her a hug.

Lucrecia said it was the best Christmas gift of her life and that after that encounter, Max began to externalize his feelings and emotions.

The first words Max told his mother after waking up were, “I am happy, I am happy to be with you,” she remembered, adding that he “has always been happy despite his paralysis.”

Further shocking Lucrecia, Max said he was aware of everything during his coma and that he even knew the exchange rate between Italian liras and the euro.

His mother is sure that God has a plan for him: to remind the world that handicapped persons have a right to a life of dignity, that they are a source of life and should be loved and respected.

She noted that Max was born on Sept. 8 – the feast of the Nativity of Mary – and his car accident happened on Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption.

Lucrecia said the first miracle God worked in her was to help her accept what was happening right away and to put her son in the Lord’s hands.

“On the day of the accident, I told Our Lady: ‘On Aug. 15 my son was in your hands. You had him born on Sept. 8 even though he was supposed to be born a month later, and I don’t know what plans you have for him, but I put him in your hands,’” Lucrecia said.

“Just give me the strength to move forward and accept all this.”

She reflected that she had always been a fragile woman, but that the faith is what kept her close to her family.

“For this reason this is the strength that we have to give to all the families who are experiencing this terrible tragedy and tell them, ‘Do not be afraid,’” she said.

Lucrecia has recounted Max’s entire story in a new book entitled, “E adesso vado al Max,” which she co-wrote with Italian journalists Lucia Bellaspiga and Pino Ciociola. The book received the 2012 Woman in Life literary award.

Max received his own award: a ceramic sculpture by artist Gianni Celano Giannici representing the same hand that he raised to make the sign of cross after ten years in a coma.

On June 2 of this year, Max met Pope Benedict XVI in Milan and gave him a signed copy of the book.

Courtesy of *Eternal Word Television Network*: <http://www.ewtnnews.com/catholic-news/World.php?id=6698>

PRAYING TO SAINTS

Chris Cooper

Should Catholics pray to the Saints? Many Fundamentalist Christians say no. In their mind Catholics are communicating with the dead. But are Catholics communicating with the dead and thereby practicing the dark art of necromancy? Or worse yet, are Catholics deifying a Saint? These allegations are false. They are misinterpretations of passages in the Bible. So, who is a Saint? What does the Bible say on the subject of praying to Saints?

First things first, who is a Saint? According to Scott P. Richert, “Saints, broadly speaking, are those who follow Jesus Christ and live their lives according to his teaching. Catholics, however, also use the term narrowly to refer to especially holy men and women who, through extraordinary lives of virtue, have already entered Heaven.” (Richert) Saints are both in this world and the next. In the broader sense of Mr. Richert definition the terms Christian and Saint are synonymous since Christians are those individuals who follow Christ.

Another word that needs scrutiny is the verb “pray”. Pray is defined as “...often used as a function word in introducing a question, request, or plea ([pray] be careful)” or “to address God or a god with adoration, confession, supplication, or thanksgiving.” (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 1993) These definitions illustrate two problems with the English language. Many words such as “pray” have double meanings depending on the context they are used in. In one sense to pray is a request and in another it is adoration to God. The second problem is the English language has changed over time. Outside of Shakespearian Theater not many people today use the phrase “pray be careful”. Today a person would just say, “Be careful”. A modern phrase for “praying to Saints” could be “request to Saints” or “plea to Saints”. However, to me these phrases don't have the same ecclesiastical impact.

In their opposition to praying to Saints many Fundamentalist Christians quote the Book of Deuteronomy 18:10-12, “10. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times or and enchanter, or a witch, 11. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits or a wizard or a necromancer. 12. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord...” (The Holy Bible: King James Version, 1976) The key word in this passage is necromancer. Necromancy is the conjuration of the spirits of the dead for purposes of magically revealing the future or influencing the course of events. (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 1993) The Catholic tradition of praying for the intercessions of Saints does not fall under any of the prohibitions in this passage. An example is the last lines of *The Hail Mary*, “Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.” (Common Catholic Prayers) Catholics are petitioning St. Mary as a fellow Saint to pray for them. There is no request do reveal the future or magically influencing the course of events. Certainly, there is no evidence in this prayer of any call to deify St. Mary or assume she is a deity.

Did Christ ever pray and Saints appear with him? Yes, in the Gospel of St. Luke 9:29-31, “29. While He [Christ] was praying His face changed in appearance and His clothing became dazzling white. 30. And behold, two men were conversing with Him, Moses and Elijah, 31. who appeared in glory and spoke of His exodus that He was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.” (The New American Bible: St. Joseph Edition, 1986) Was Christ practicing necromancy? No, God the Father chose this time to reveal His divine plan to Christ. God the Father sent two Saints, Moses and Elijah, as His messengers.

Is it permissible for Christians (Saints) to ask fellow Christians to pray for them? The answer is yes. An example from the Bible is the Epistle to the Colossian 4:3, “at the same time, pray for us, too, that God may open a

door to us for the word, to speak of the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison". (The New American Bible: St. Joseph Edition, 1986) St. Paul is petitioning his fellow Christians to pray for him and those who are in prison with him. He does not specify only the Christians who are still on Earth or those who are in Heaven, but to all Christians to pray for him and those who are imprisoned with him.

The next argument Fundamentalist Christians reference against praying to Saints is 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God: and one mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (The Holy Bible: Douay-Rheims Version, 2005) However, upon reading the preceding verses 1-4 the entire context of what St. Paul is saying comes to light especially in verse 1, "I desire therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayer, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all men." St. Paul is instructing all Christians (Saints) to pray for each other. Again, he does not specify only the Christians living in this world or those who have passed on to Heaven, but all Christians (Saints). St. Paul is instructing his fellow Christians to direct their petitions to Christ, not to circumvent our Lord and Savior. Remember it is always a good idea to read the entire passage to acquire the full meaning of what the Bible reveals to the Faithful.

In my opinion the silliest argument I have encountered from Fundamentalist Christians against praying to Saints is, "...can the saints in heaven hear every prayer of every creature all the time?" (Slick, 2012) My answer to this ridiculous argument is from the Gospel of St. Matthew 19:26, "Jesus looked at them and said, 'For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'" (The New American Bible: St. Joseph Edition, 1986) In this passage Christ is talking about who can be saved and God the Father's power. The key part is "...for God all things are possible". Christ proclaims the omnipotence of His Father and all things are possible for His Father. Can the Saints in Heaven every prayer of every creature all the time? Yes, because *for God all things are possible*. To say anything less is placing a limitation on God. To be very blunt and to the point, God puts limitations on us. We **DO NOT** put limitations on Him.

Praying to Saints is a Biblical concept. Of all the Catholic prayers to Saints I have encountered, none have called to deify any Saint or ask for inside information on future events. St. Paul instructed the followers of Christ to pray for him. He made no distinction between those followers in this world or those in Heaven. Prayers to Saints are request for their intercessions on our behalf before Christ.

Bibliography

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MEETING SURVEY

On the Assembly Website is a survey concerning our meeting date and time. The goal of the survey is to find out if a new time will work out better for the membership to attend meetings. The survey is at: <http://cardinalgibbonsassembly783.weebly.com/meeting-survey.html>. The survey will be closed 1 January 2013

IN MEMORIAM:

Please keep in your prayers for the repose of the souls of:

SK Chester F. Guzinski

Rita Guzinski

ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Any Sir Knight who wants to add his article to the Newsletter, submit the article to the Faithful Scribe, SK Chris Cooper, at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.