



**Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783**  
**Newsletter**  
**April 2013**



**WITHOUT EVANGELIZATION CHURCH BECOMES BABYSITTER, POPE WARNS**

By David Uebbing

Vatican City, Apr 18, 2013 / 10:57 am (EWTN News/CNA)

If Catholics do not proclaim Jesus with their lives, then the Church becomes “not the mother, but the babysitter,” Pope Francis cautioned in a homily and a separate letter to his brother bishops in Argentina.

When believers share their faith, “the Church becomes a mother church that produces children (and more) children, because we, the children of the Church, we carry that. But when we do not, the Church is not the mother, but the babysitter, that takes care of the baby – to put the baby to sleep. It is a Church dormant,” Pope Francis stated.

The solution to this is “to proclaim Christ, to carry the Church – this fruitful motherhood of the Church – forward,” he said.

The Pope first mentioned the importance of being spiritually fruitful during the April 16 Mass he celebrated for employees of the Vatican’s Institute for Works of Religion in St. Martha’s residence.

He based his homily on a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, which recalled the lives of the first Christians.

“They left their homes,” he recalled, “they brought with them only few belongings, and going from place to place proclaiming the Word.

“They were a simple faithful, baptized just a year or so – but they had the courage to go and proclaim,” the Pope said.

Pope Francis then turned to a point that he emphasized frequently in Buenos Aires.

The early Christians, he stressed, had nothing but “the power of baptism,” which “gave them apostolic courage, the strength of the Spirit.”

But, he asked, do Christians today really believe in the power of their baptism?

“Is it sufficient for evangelization? Or do we rather ‘hope’ that the priest should speak, that the bishop might speak?”

This way of seeing Christianity often carries with it the attitude of, ‘I was baptized, I made Confirmation, First Communion ... I have my identity card, alright.’ And now, go to sleep quietly, you are a Christian,” the Pope explained.

Instead, he said that believers must be “faithful to the Spirit, to proclaim Jesus with our lives, through our witness and our words.” Pope Francis repeated this message in a letter he sent to his fellow Argentinean bishops who are meeting for their annual full assembly in Pilar, Argentina.

“Mission,” he underlined, “is key to ministry.”

“A Church that does not go out of itself, sooner or later, sickens from the stale air of closed rooms,” the Pope wrote.

He acknowledged that in going out the Church runs risks, but “I prefer a thousand times over a Church of accidents than a sick Church.”

The Church, the Holy Father observed, typically suffers from being self-referential, only looking to and relying on itself.

This kind of self-centeredness “leads to a routine spirituality and convoluted clericalism” and prevents people from experiencing the sweet and comforting joy of evangelization, he warned.

Pope Francis finished his letter by greeting the Argentinean people and asking his fellow bishops to pray “I do not grow proud and always know how to listen to what God wants and not what I want.”

From Eternal Word Television Network: <http://www.ewtnnews.com/catholic-news/Vatican.php?id=7477>

## **DEGREE CEREMONIES**

**Third Degree Ceremony:** 27 April 2013. Location: Council 6451, Hickory, St Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 Second St. NE, Hickory, NC. Registration will be between 11:00 - 11:30 AM. For more information, go to the NC website, ([www.kofcnc.org](http://www.kofcnc.org)), under ceremonials, under 3rd Degree.

**Fourth Degree Exemplification:** 4 May 2013. Location: George L. Gettier Assembly 780, St Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. Charlotte, NC. More information to follow.

**Third Degree Ceremony:** 11 May 2013. Location: Bishop Greco, Council 9499, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Winston-Salem, NC. Candidates and observers should arrive prior to 11:30am for registration. Candidates will not be admitted to the Anti-Chamber prior to 11:30am. Costs for candidates is \$12.00 and is the responsibility of the council to which he is a member. Costs for observers is \$12.00. For further information go to the state web site at ([www.kofcnc.org](http://www.kofcnc.org)) under ceremonials, under degrees.

**Third Degree Ceremony:** 1 June 2013. Location: Council 3303, 1125 Pine Tree Dr. New Bern, NC. Registration will be between 11:00 - 11:30 am. For more information go to the NC website ([www.kofcnc.org](http://www.kofcnc.org)), under ceremonials, under degrees.

**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](mailto: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 following events:

Holy Thursday All Night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; 28 - 29 March 2013  
St. Michael the Archangel Maronite Catholic Church, Fayetteville, NC

John Handley

Running of the Rose (Silver Rose); 14 April 2013  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church, Raeford, NC

Jose Santos  
Ed Seaman  
Bob Testa

## REPETITIVE PRAYER

Christopher R. Cooper

An accusation often leveled against the Catholic Faithful is engaging in repetitive pagan like prayer. Many Protestants misinterpret the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of St. Matthew 6:7 "In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words." (The New American Bible - St. Joseph Edition, 1986) On the surface it appears the Catholic Faithful is guilty as charged, but upon further reading in the Bible Sacred Scripture supports repetitive prayer. Why the inconsistency? The key word is misinterpret.

Anyone who accuses the Catholic Faithful of praying like pagans with repetitive prayer have not studied Biblical history. During the time of Christ pagans would use lengthy prayers "... to alert a god through magic formulas or through the invocation of his [deity's] name." (Echert, 2002) The pagans hope using a lengthy prayer would gain their god's attention and the god would grant them their wish. Our Father in Heaven is omniscient. He knows our needs without us using a lengthy rambling magical formula. Prayers to God are for our benefit. It is time for us to reflect on God and the blessings He bestows upon us. An example would be praying the Rosary. The Faithful recount different parts of Christ life while praying the Rosary. The Joyful Mysteries are based on Christ' life prior to his ministry. The Luminous Mysteries recount Christ' ministry. The Sorrowful Mysteries are based on Christ' path to Calvary and the sacrifice He made for our sins. The Glorious Mysteries is a history after the Resurrection.

Are there specific examples in the Bible of repetitive prayers? The answer is yes. One example is the Agony in the Garden in the Gospel of St. Mark 14:39 "And again he went away, and prayed, and spake [spoke] the same words." (Holy Bible - King James Version, 1976) In this passage Christ uses repetitive pray to petition His Heavenly Father. The next example is in The Apocalypse of St. John the Apostle 4:8 "And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all round and within, and day and night they never cease to sing: Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (The Holy Bible - Douay-Rheims Version, 2005) In this example the angels are praising God with repetitive prayer that never ceases.

The accusation that the Catholic Faithful engage in repetitive pagan like prayer is a bogus claim. Misinformed individuals have drawn the wrong conclusion from the Gospel of St. Matthew 6:7. Christ chastised the pagans on their long prayers to summon their deities. Repetitive prayer is for human benefit as the Rosary reminds us of Christ' life on earth. The Bible supports repetitive prayers. Christ himself used repetitive prayer in Gethsemane to petition His Heavenly Father. The Angels in Heaven recite the same pray of praise without end;

**Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Omnipotens!**

### **Bibliography**

Echert, J. F. (2002, September 21). *DRV and KJV*. Retrieved from Eternal Word Television Network:  
[http://www.ewtn.com/vexperts/showmessage\\_print.asp?number=304833&language=en](http://www.ewtn.com/vexperts/showmessage_print.asp?number=304833&language=en)

*Holy Bible - King James Version*. (1976). Nashville: Regency Publishing House.

*The Holy Bible - Douay-Rheims Version*. (2005). Fitzwilliam: Loreto Publications.

*The New American Bible - St. Joseph Edition*. (1986). New York: Catholic Book Publishing Company.

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

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

Victims of the Boston Marathon Bombings

Victims of the West, TX Explosion

### **ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP**

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