



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783
Newsletter
December 2016



REFLECTIONS FROM ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE

Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word, equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude.

Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith.

When the past no longer illuminates the future, the spirit walks in darkness.

From: *Brainy Quote*

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/alexis_de_tocqueville.html

REPETITIVE PRAYER

Faithful Navigator 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 has 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!

Works Cited:

Echert, J. F. (2002, September 21). *DRV and KJV*. Retrieved from Eternal Word Television Network:
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CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD

REGALIA ITEMS FOR LOAN

Faithful Comptroller Rod Komlofske has regalia items to loan for members of the Assembly who do not have them. If you want to participate in an Honor Guard event and do not have the required regalia items send email to rod.komlofske@gmail.com.

UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENT: **NO EVENTS SCHEDULED**

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 2016

November 5	Knighthood (3rd) Degree – Swannanoa, NC
November 5	State Youth Soccer Challenge (WEST) – Belmont Abbey
November 6	State Youth Soccer Challenge (EAST) - Fayetteville
November 8	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 15	Family of the Month
November 15	IRS Form 990

DATES TO REMEMBER (Continued)

November 19 4th Degree Exemplification – Fayetteville, NC
November 24 Thanksgiving
November 25 Council Charitable Outreach Day
November 29 Bishop Burbidge Celebrates Last Mass in Raleigh Diocese, St Michael's, Cary, NC

December 2016

December 3 Knighthood (3rd) Degree (Spanish) – Wilson, NC
December 8 Spread the Light of Christ program
POSTPONED Holy Family Prayer Event
December 15 Family of the Month
December 25 Christmas Day

January 2017

January 7 Mid-Year Meeting (EAST) Kinston, NC
January 7 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity – #1728 – Due at Mid-Year Meeting
January 7 Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics – #4584 – Due at Mid-Year Meeting
January 13 Charlotte March for Life
January 14 Mid-Year Meeting (WEST) Morganton, NC
January 15 Family of the Month
January 21 Raleigh Prayer Breakfast
January 21 Love My Life Youth Rally and Mass
January 27 National Right to Life March, Washington, DC
January 28 Jacksonville March for Life

DEGREE CEREMONIES

First Degree Ceremony: 15 November 2016. Location: Council 2838, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

Fourth Degree Ceremony: 19 November 2016. Location: Assembly 783, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

Second Degree Ceremony: 2 December 2016. Location: Council 12640, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

Third Degree Ceremony (Spanish): 3 December 2016. Location: Council 4660, Horton, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

Third Degree Ceremony: 4 February 2017. Location: Council 2546, Raleigh, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

Third Degree Ceremony: 11 February 2017. Location: Council 8363, Franklin, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

First Degree Ceremony: 18 February 2017. Location: Council 2838, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

Third Degree Ceremony: 18 February 2017. Location: Council 9499, Clemons, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

First Degree Ceremony: 6 March 2017. Location: Council 11683, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

DEGREE CEREMONIES (Continued)

Second Degree Ceremony: 6 March 2017. Location: Council 11683, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

Third Degree Ceremony: 18 March 2017. Location: Council 1074, Wilmington, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

Third Degree Ceremony: 8 April 2017. Location: Council 9709, Raleigh, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

First Degree Ceremony: 1 May 2017. Location: Council 11683, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

First Degree Ceremony: 16 May 2017. Location: Council 2838, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

Third Degree Ceremony: 20 May 2017. Location: Council 13236, Greensboro, NC. For more details go to the NC K of C State Council Website: <http://kofcnc.org/>

PRAYING TO SAINTS

Faithful Navigator Christopher R 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 to 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.

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http://catholicism.about.com/od/thesaints/f/What_Is_A_Saint.htm

Slick, M. (2012). *Is praying to the saints biblical?* Retrieved from Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry:

<http://carm.org/praying-saints-biblical>

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IN MEMORIAM:

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

All Deceased Knights of Columbus.

All Members of the U.S Armed Forces.

All First Responders.

ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Any Sir Knight who wants to submit an article to the Newsletter, turn the article into Faithful Navigator Chris Cooper at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.