



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783
Newsletter
January 2020



REFLECTIONS FROM PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”

I have noticed that nothing I never said ever did me any harm.

“Patriotism is easy to understand in America.

It means looking out for yourself by looking out for your country.”

Brainy Quote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/calvin-coolidge-quotes>

PRAYING TO SAINTS

Faithful Scribe 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 Shakespearean 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 hear 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.

Work Cited:

Common Catholic Prayers. (n.d.). Mahwah: Paulist Press.

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Richert, S. P. (n.d.). *What Is a Saint in Roman Catholicism?* Retrieved from about.com:

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

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CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD

REGALIA UPDATE

The old Regalia (chapeau and cape) will officially be retired by the Order on 30 June 2019. The new Regalia will be the only uniform approved by the Knights of Columbus starting on 1 July 2019. Further details are available in Attachment 1 of this newsletter. Sir Knights who want to purchase the new Regalia the information is at:

<https://kofcuniform.com/CustomPage/OrderNow>

UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENT(S):

No Events Scheduled

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 2020

January 3-5	Mid-Year Meeting
January 10	March For Life – Charlotte, NC
January 15	Family of the Month Form Due
January 18	Rally and March for Life, Raleigh, NC
January 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
January 31	Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728)
January 31	Special Olympics Partnership Form Due

DEGREE CEREMONIES

Further details for upcoming degree ceremonies are available on the K of C State Council Website:

First, Second, and Third Degree: <https://kofcnc.org/>

Fourth Degree: <https://kofcnc.org/4th-degree/4th-degree-exemplification/>

DEGREE CEREMONIES (Continued)

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Council – Location</u>
<u>First</u>	8 January 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12481, Lexington, NC
<u>Second</u>	8 January 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12481, Lexington, NC
<u>First</u>	9 January 2020	7:30 PM	Council 10891, Asheboro, NC
<u>First</u>	14 January 2020	6:30 PM	Council 2829, Winston-Salem, NC
<u>First</u>	17 January 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12267, King, NC
<u>First</u>	18 January 2020	11:00 AM	Council 7406, Mooresville, NC
<u>Third</u>	18 January 2020	12 Noon	Council 3498, Burlington, NC
<u>First</u>	21 January 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12610, Mocksville, NC

DEGREE CEREMONIES (Continued)

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Council – Location</u>
<u>First</u>	23 January 2020	7:00 PM	Council 8684, Greensboro, NC
<u>Third</u>	1 February 2020	12 Noon	Council 2546, Raleigh, NC
<u>First</u>	5 February 2020	7:00 PM	Council 14767, High Point, NC
<u>Second</u>	5 February 2020	7:00 PM	Council 7547, Elizabeth City, NC
<u>First</u>	6 February 2020	7:00 PM	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
<u>First</u>	11 February 2020	6:30 PM	Council 9499, Clemmons, NC
<u>First</u>	11 February 2020	7:30 PM	Council 3498, Graham, NC
<u>First</u>	13 February 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12654, Huntersville, NC
<u>First</u>	18 February 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12610, Mocksville, NC
<u>Second</u>	3 March 2020	7:30 PM	Council 3498, Graham, NC
<u>First</u>	9 March 2020	6:30 PM	Council 7259, Newton Grove, NC
<u>First</u>	10 March 2020	6:30 PM	Council 11406, Mount Airy, NC
<u>First</u>	12 March 2020	7:00 PM	Council 11101, Greensboro, NC
<u>Third</u>	14 March 2020	12 Noon	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
<u>First</u>	16 March 2020	7:00 PM	Council 13532, Siler City NC
<u>First</u>	17 March 2020	6:30 PM	Council 8509, Kernersville, NC
<u>First</u>	18 March 2020	7:00 PM	Council 9249, Thomasville, NC
<u>First</u>	21 March 2020	9:00 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<u>Second</u>	21 March 2020	10:30 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<u>Third</u>	21 March 2020	12 Noon	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<u>First</u>	2 April 2020	6:30 PM	Council 10504, Winston-Salem, NC
<u>First</u>	2 April 2020	7:00 PM	Council 6970, Eden, NC
<u>Third</u>	2 April 2020	12 Noon	Council 9709, Raleigh, NC
<u>First</u>	17 April 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12267, King, NC
<u>First</u>	17 April 2020	7:30 PM	Council 4507, High Point, NC
<u>Second</u>	17 April 2020	7:30 PM	Council 4507, High Point, NC
<u>First</u>	18 April 2020	11:00 AM	Council 7406, Mooresville, NC
<u>First</u>	23 April 2020	7:00 PM	Council 8684, Greensboro, NC
<u>Third</u>	25 April 2020	12 Noon	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
<u>First</u>	7 May 2020	7:00 PM	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
<u>First</u>	12 May 2020	6:30 PM	Council 2829, Winston-Salem, NC
<u>First</u>	14 May 2020	7:30 PM	Council 10891, Asheboro, NC
<u>First</u>	14 May 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12654, Huntersville, NC

DEGREE CEREMONIES (Continued)

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Council – Location</u>
<u>First</u>	19 May 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12610, Mocksville, NC
<u>First</u>	20 May 2020	7:00 PM	Council 9249, Thomasville, NC
<u>First</u>	3 June 2020	7:00 PM	Council 14767, High Point, NC
<u>Second</u>	3 June 2020	7:00 PM	Council 14767, High Point, NC
<u>Third</u>	6 June 2020	12 Noon	Council 11266, Garner, NC
<u>First</u>	8 June 2020	6:30 PM	Council 7259, Newton Grove, NC
<u>First</u>	9 June 2020	6:30 PM	Council 9499, Clemmons, NC
<u>First</u>	9 June 2020	7:30 PM	Council 3498, Graham, NC
<u>First</u>	11 June 2020	7:00 PM	Council 11101, Greensboro, NC
<u>First</u>	20 June 2020	9:00 AM	Council 6717, Gastonia, NC
<u>First</u>	20 June 2020	9:00 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<u>Second</u>	20 June 2020	10:30 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<u>First</u>	8 July 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12481, Lexington, NC
<u>First</u>	18 August 2020	6:30 PM	Council 8509, Kernersville, NC

THE BOOKS OF PSALMS & PROVERBS

Faithful Scribe Christopher R. Cooper

Two books in the Bible that are complimentary to each other are the Books of Psalms and Proverbs. Both books instruct us how to conduct our daily lives. Psalms is based on our relationship with the one true God. Proverbs furnishes us with a road map for this life. Psalms instructs us to praise God and seek his help. Proverbs instructs us how to interact in this world by seeking wisdom. First we will examine the Book of Psalms.

The ancient Hebrews called the Book of Psalms, Tehillim, translated as the Hymns of Praise. (Loreto Publications, 2005) As inferred by the name, Tehillim, states the purpose of the Book of Psalms is to praise God. Upon further examination according to *Webster's Dictionary* the term "psalm" is defined as a sacred song or hymn. (Random House, 1996) The number of Psalms is 150 and they are divided into five books. (Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1986) Depending on which translation of the Bible you encounter the Psalms will be numbered slightly different. (EWTN, 1998) One example is, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." If you are using *The New American Bible – St. Joseph Edition* this quote is from the beginning of Psalm 23. If you are using *The Holy Bible – Douay-Rheims Edition* it is Psalm 22. The St. Joseph Edition follows the Hebrew numbering system while the Douay-Rheims Edition follows the Greek and Vulgate numbering system.

Several examples from the St. Joseph Edition defining our relationship with God are Psalms 23, 24, and 25. Psalm 23 acknowledges our dependence on God and what he provides for us. Psalm 24 states all the earth and those who dwell there belong to Him. Psalm 25 says we should look to God for guidance. These examples illustrate our relationship with God and now let's take a look the Book of Proverbs.

The Book of Proverbs provides guidance for us in this world. For many centuries the Roman Missal called the Book of Proverbs, "the Book of Wisdom." (Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1986) To avoid confusion, the Book of Wisdom in the St. Joseph Edition was written approximately one hundred years before the birth of Christ. The Book of Proverbs was compiled from different works in the early fifth century B.C. By definition the word proverb means to state a commonplace truth. (Random House, 1996) In ancient times fathers used the Book of Proverbs to

teach their sons. (USCCB, 2015) This father-son relationship is stressed throughout the Book of Proverbs. One example is Proverbs Chapter 5. In this chapter the father warns the son against committing adultery and the cost of not heeding this teaching. Christ and the Apostles quoted the Book of Proverbs when they taught the Faithful. In the Gospel of St. Matthew Chapter 6 Christ is giving the Apostles the Lord's Prayer. In verse 11, "Give us today our daily bread;" Christ alludes to Proverbs 30:8, "...provide me only with the food I need..." Here Christ ties the Law of the Old Testament with the promise of Salvation in the New Testament. St. James in his epistle counsels the Faithful to seek wisdom (James 1:5). The Faithful should pray to God for Him to grant them wisdom. St. James makes use of Proverbs 2:2-6. The father instructs the son to seek wisdom as St. James instructs the Faithful to seek wisdom.

The Books of Psalms and Proverbs are complimentary to each other. Psalms describes our relationship with the one true God. Proverbs furnishes us with a road map for our life in this world. The map is to seek wisdom. Psalms teaches us the following points. We are to praise God. This world and all that inhabit it belongs to Him. We are his children. The Book of Proverbs provides guides for us to follow. Wisdom should be sought. Proverbs uses the father-son relationship as a teaching method. One example of wisdom to follow is the virtue of marital fidelity. Christ and the Apostles used the Book of Proverbs to teach the Faithful as the Church does today.

Works Cited

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USCCB. (2015). *Proverbs - Introduction*. Retrieved January 31, 2015, from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/scripture.cfm?bk=Proverbs&ch=>

IN MEMORIAM:

Please keep in your prayers for the repose of the soul 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 Scribe Chris Cooper at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.