



Fraternity of Fatherhood

A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

Volume 12

Issue 2

June 10, 2023

How To Respond as Men of Faith

Brendan McVicker

Dear brothers:

We are living in a world that has truly lost its way. How do we respond to the barrage of evil that we constantly come across in our world and that is literally being pushed upon us on a daily basis. A post Christian secular culture is working to attack us from all directions. You see it everywhere; very aggressive secularism working to destroy any reference to God or Christianity in society. Pornography has run rampant is becoming more and more pervasive. We see traditional family values attacked, marriage attacked, fatherhood attacked, motherhood attacked. We see same sex marriage and trans-genderism being forced on us and real Christian truth is being presented as hate speech. Birth control is accepted even by 70% of Catholics. Abortion is the leading cause of death for babies. Secular society is doing their best to turn the Natural Moral Law upside-down. And they are getting pretty good at it.

How true it seems and how prophetic the words of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla spoke while on a trip to the United States in 1976...

"We are now standing in the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has ever experienced. I do not think that the wide circle of the American Society, or the whole wide circle of the Christian Community realize this fully. We are now facing the final confrontation between the Church and the anti-church, between the gospel and the anti-gospel, between Christ and the antichrist. The confrontation

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Hail Mary, Full of Grace
Pray for Us.

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle. Be our
protection against the
wickedness and snares of the
devil.



May God rebuke him we
humbly pray; and do Thou, O
Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the Power of God, cast into
hell Satan and all the evil
spirits, who prowl through the
world seeking the ruin of
souls. Amen.

... continued How To Respond as Men of Faith

lies within the plans of Divine Providence. It is, therefore, in God's Plan, and it must be a trial which the Church must take up, and face courageously."

St Paul presents us with the fork in the road in Romans 12:2. We can choose either to conform to this world or be transformed in Jesus Christ by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. So we have to choose either the world or to be transformed in Jesus Christ. But not to pick is to make a decision for the world because all we have to do is get up in the morning and we are there. But to be transformed in Jesus Christ is going to take effort and as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla said we have to face it courageously.

So how do we move forward? How do we respond as Catholic men? I was praying before Mass on June 2nd about this article and asking for guidance how to respond and what to share with the men of the Fraternity of Fatherhood. I would get the answer and it didn't take long. At that same Mass the priest's sermon gave me all the assistance I could ask for. It was as if his words were specifically for me and the assistance I asked for. Right after Mass I wrote my notes, while all was still fresh.

Men, no situation is out of God's reach. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, no matter what evil we come across in our world. No matter what secular society tries to attack us with as they push their post-Christian culture, God is with us and He will remain with us always. As men we have to support each other. We have to help each other to remain strong and to persevere. This is why Fatherhood groups are so important; we have to support each other and stay strong. Everything we do, we offer for the Glory of God and work for the Salvation of Souls. We are men of faith. We have to claim our faith with strength. No one takes our faith from us unless we give it up. Protect it. Protect your faith daily. Live your faith authentically. In the gospel today Jesus cursed the Fig tree for not producing fruit and it wasn't even fig season. Jesus is telling us that in living our faith authentically, we have to produce fruit both in season and out of season, whether we feel like it or don't feel like it.

Pray daily. Try to have a set time and place where you pray. May your words as you pray travel through your heart to God. In your prayer forgive grievances so our heart is not weighed down. Trust is God's providence. God cares for us, pray for protection and His protection is with us. Be with Him. Just be with Him. Go to a quiet place and pray. That is what we see Jesus do in the gospels. Attend adoration even if just for a few minutes if you can just to be with the Lord. Receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly. These are real food for the journey.



"The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times," said St. Padre Pio. "Now is the time for us as Catholics to take up more prayer, not less. It is time to seek Our Lady's help by praying the Holy Rosary. For indeed, it is the best weapon of our times. A weapon of harmony and peace, unity and charity, faith and hope."

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Lastly, When we live our faith authentically we have to pass it on. It has to be passed on! At least plant the seeds or what is the hope? It is our mission. Part of passing on our faith is to support our brothers in their faith. When we do this, it gives all us more strength to continue always forward and never backward. Pray for each other. It may get tough but we have to persevere, trust and live our faith; No matter what the cost. God tells us we will be blessed.

*'Blessed are those who trust in the LORD;
the LORD will be their trust.*

*They are like a tree planted beside the waters
that stretches out its roots to the stream:
It does not fear heat when it comes,
Its leaves stay green;
In the year of drought it shows no distress,
but still produces fruit.'*

Jer 17:7-8

FAITH is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all he has revealed to us (Catechism 1814) ...the disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it (Catechism 1816).

HOPE is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit (Catechism 1817)...it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment...buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to happiness that flows from charity (Catechism 1818).

Prayer for Protection

Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT

Prayer for Protection to the Precious Blood of Jesus

"Lord Jesus, by faith in your merits, I now take your precious blood and sprinkle it over myself and my family, right from the crown of my head to the very soles of my feet. Lord Jesus keep me free today from evil, sin, temptation, Satan's attack and applications, fear of darkness, fear of man, sickness, disease, doubts, anger, all calamities and all that is not of your kingdom. Fill me Lord Jesus, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and grant me the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, understanding and discernment; so that I will live today in your glory by doing what is right. I praise you Jesus. I thank you Jesus. I love you Jesus. I adore you Jesus."



The 15 Promises of the Rosary Explained

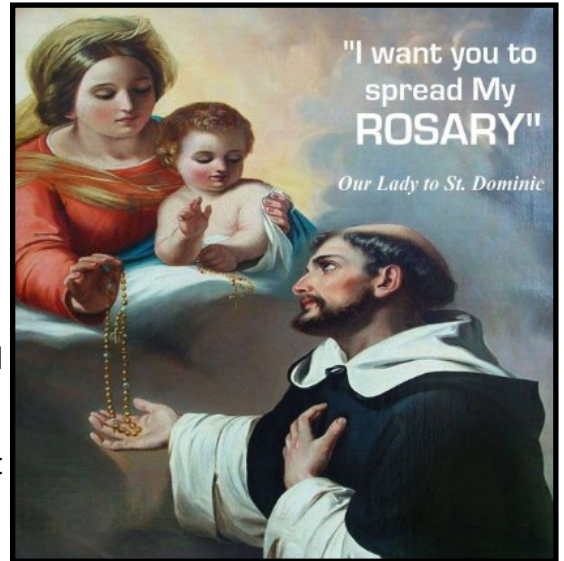
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Our Lady revealed to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan de la Roche additional benefits for those who devoutly pray the Rosary. Our Lady's promise is shown in darker blue text. Additional explanation on and doctrinal connections to each promise is shown following

1. **Whosoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces.**

Signal Graces are those special and unique Graces to help sanctify us in our state in life. See the remaining promises for an explanation for which these will consist. St. Louis de Montfort states emphatically that the best and fastest way to union with Our Lord is via Our Lady [True Devotion to Mary, chapter four].

2. **I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.** Our Lady is our Advocate and the channel of all God's Grace to us. Our Lady is simply highlighting that She will watch especially over us who pray the Rosary. (see Lumen Gentium chapter VIII - Our Lady #62) [a great more detail is available on this topic in True Devotion to Mary, chapter four, by St. Louis de Montfort]



3. **The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin and defeat heresies.** This promise, along with the next, is simply the reminder on how fervent prayer will help us all grow in holiness by avoiding sin, especially a prayer with the excellence of the Rosary. An increase in holiness necessarily requires a reduction in sin, vice, and doctrinal errors (heresies). If only the Modernists could be convinced to pray the Rosary! (see Lumen Gentium chapter V - The Call to Holiness #42) St. Louis de Montfort states "Since Mary alone crushed all heresies, as we are told by the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary)..." [True Devotion to Mary #167]

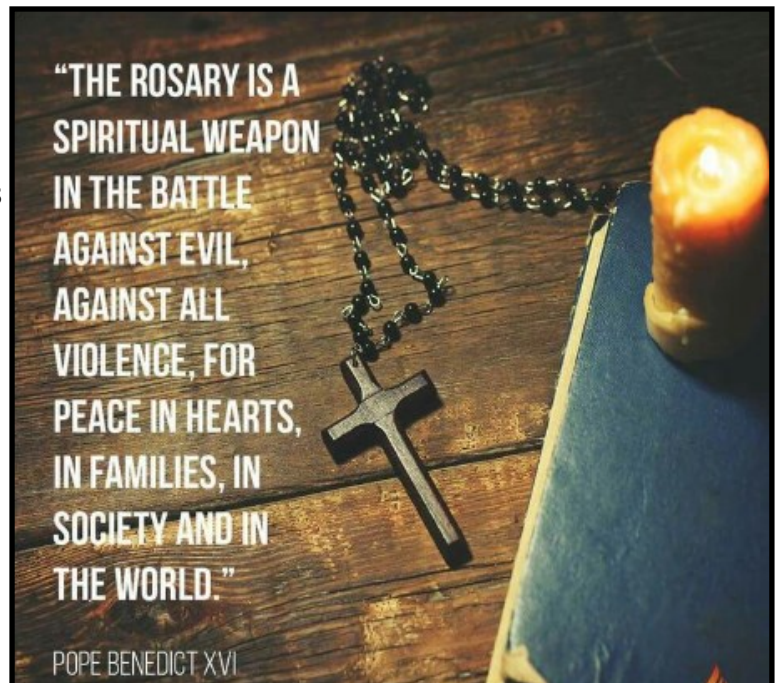
4. **It will cause good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire for Eternal Things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.** This promise, along with the previous, is the positive part, that being to live in virtue. Becoming holy is not only avoiding sin, but also growing in virtue. (see Lumen Gentium chapter V - The Call to Holiness #42)

5. **The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.** Since Our Lady is our Mother and Advocate, She always assists those who call on Her implicitly by praying the Rosary. The Church reminds us of this in the Memorare prayer, "... never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided ..."

6. **Whosoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its Sacred Mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of Eternal Life.** This promise highlights the magnitude of Graces that the Rosary brings to whomever prays it. One will draw down God's Mercy rather than His Justice and will have a final chance to repent (see promise #7). One will not be conquered by misfortune means that Our Lady will obtain for the person sufficient Graces to handle said misfortune (i.e. carry the Crosses allowed by God) without falling into despair. As Sacred Scripture tells us, "For my yoke is sweet and my burden light." (Matthew 11:30)

Continued...The 15 Promises of the Rosary Explained

7. **Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the Sacraments of the Church.** This promise highlights the benefits of obtaining the most possible Graces at the hour of death via the Sacraments of Confession, Eucharist, and Extreme Unction (Anointing of the Sick). Being properly disposed while receiving these Sacraments near death ensures one's salvation (although perhaps with a detour through Purgatory) since a final repentance is possible.
8. **Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the Light of God and the plenitude of His Graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the Merits of the Saints in Paradise.** Our Lady highlights the great quantity of Graces obtain through praying the Rosary, which assist us during life and at the moment of death. The merits of the Saints are the gift of God's rewards to those persons who responded to His Grace that they obtained during life, and so Our Lady indicates that She will provide a share of that to us at death. With this promise and #7 above, Our Lady is providing the means for the person to have a very holy death.
9. **I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.** Should one require Purgatorial cleansing after death, Our Lady will make a special effort to obtain our release from Purgatory through Her intercession as Advocate.
10. **The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of Glory in Heaven.** This promise is a logical consequence of promises #3 and #4 since anyone who truly lives a holier life on earth will obtain a higher place in Heaven. The closer one is to God while living on earth, the closer that person is to Him also in Heaven. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states "Spiritual progress tends toward ever more union with Christ." (Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 2014)
11. **You shall obtain all you ask of me by recitation of the Rosary.** This promise emphasizes Our Lady's role as our Advocate and Mediatrix of all Graces. Of course, all requests are subject to God's Most Perfect Will. God will always grant our request if it is beneficial for our soul, and Our Lady will only intercede for us when our request is good for our salvation. (see Lumen Gentium chapter VIII - Our Lady #62)
12. **All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.** If one promotes the praying of the Rosary, Our Lady emphasizes Her Maternal care for us by obtaining many Graces (i.e. spiritual necessities) and also material necessities (neither excess nor luxury), all subject to the Will of God of course.
13. **I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire Celestial Court during their life and at the hour of death.** Since Our Lady is our Advocate, She brings us additional assistance during our life and at our death from all the saints in Heaven (the Communion of Saints). See paragraphs 954 through 959 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.



Continued...The 15 Promises of the Rosary Explained

14. [All who recite the Rosary are my Sons, and brothers of my Only Son Jesus Christ.](#) Since the Rosary is a most excellent prayer focused on Jesus and His Life and activities in salvation history, it brings us closer to Our Lord and Our Lady. Doctrinally, Our Lady is our Mother and Jesus is our Eldest Brother, besides being our God. (see Lumen Gentium chapter VIII - Our Lady #62)

15. [Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.](#) Predestination in this context means that, by the sign which is present to a person from the action of devoutly praying the Rosary, God has pre-ordained your salvation. Absolute certainty of salvation can only be truly known if God reveals it to a person because, although we are given sufficient Grace during life, our salvation depends upon our response to said Grace. (See Summa Theologica, Question 23 for a detailed theological explanation). Said another way, if God has guaranteed a person's salvation but has not revealed it to Him, God would want that person to pray the Rosary because of all the benefits and Graces obtained. Therefore the person gets a hint by devotion to the Rosary. This is not to say that praying the Rosary guarantees salvation - by no means. In looking at promises #3 and #4 above, praying the Rosary helps one to live a holy life, which is itself a great sign that a soul is on the road to salvation. (See also paragraphs 381, 488, 600, 2782 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.) In fact, St. Louis de Montfort says even more strongly that "an infallible and unmistakable sign by which we can distinguish a heretic, a man of false doctrine, an enemy of God, from one of God's true friends is that the hardened sinner and heretic show nothing but contempt and indifference to Our Lady..." [True Devotion to Mary, #30]

Steps In Littleness

Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT

STEP 2

Grace Of The Moment

Live In The Present

- Recognize grace in little things.
- Attribute all good to God.
- God cares for you.
- God's grace is sufficient for you.
- Search for the precious.
- Be aware of the Lord's presence in all things.
- Be attentive to His presence.
- The Lord is with you always.
- He guards you as the apple of His eye.
- "Fear not it is I!"
- The poor you will always have with you.
- Whatever you did to the least of My brothers you did it to Me!



They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love

Mike Allison

On June 5, I had the opportunity to attend a multi-faith community prayer vigil organized by the Bishop of our diocese in Sacramento and the California Catholic Conference. This peaceful prayer vigil took place on the front steps of the State Capitol in response to a state legislator honoring the so called "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence" for what they called their "life saving work in the community."

I will not go into details of what profanities, perversions and vile attacks these men dressed as women nuns commit against the Holy Catholic Church. A great principle taught to us by Father Santan Pinto; founder of Disciples of Jesus and Mary as well as the apostolate of the Fraternity of Fatherhood, is that Nothing happens accidentally, but everything is gifted by God providentially - Therefore, everything has purpose.

Evidence of this great life giving principle was evident at this prayer vigil as Christians of every sort and denomination stood with Catholics and the Catholic Nuns as one community in Christ, praying and giving glory to God. Even many legislators joined us in solidarity and prayer. One congressman put it quite well by saying, "What's good about all this is it gives us an opportunity to show how Christians love." It was a great blessing and sign of hope.

The blessing of living in the world at this time is that a sharp contrast is drawn between living and behaving as the world lives, and behaving and living as a man of God. The greater the evil, the easier it is to find where goodness exists and where there is true peace- peace that only the Lord can give.

"Let Your Light Shine Before Others, That They May See Your Good Deeds and Glorify Your Heavenly Father." (John 5:16)

We are called to be a light to a world in darkness. Rather than argue people out of sin and darkness, let us attract them to the light of Christ by our acts of goodness, virtue, and holiness. Consecrated in the Truth (Jesus- The Way, The truth and The Life) we are set apart for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Let us by His grace be a light that attracts others to Jesus and a desire to know and follow Him. Are you willing to walk the journey with them and be their companion and true friend in Christ? It takes courage; the courage we are given as a grace from God by virtue of our vocation and baptism. Do not be afraid. "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." (John 16:33)

What Are You Made Of?

Making the sign of the cross is a sign of our baptism and a reminder that we are claimed for Christ. When made in public settings it is a great sign to others that you know to Whom you belong. Whether they're drawn to the Lord through you or they reject and persecute you, blessed be the name of the Lord!

The word "of " is VERY important in our faith and in knowing God is our Father. The word "of" is used as a word to indicate belonging or a possessive relationship. We proclaim that we belong to God each time we make the sign of the cross.

The sign of the cross is a prayer in itself that proclaims our Trinitarian faith in God. We are "of" God. We are His unique possession and He claims us as His Own.

We are men of the resurrection

Men of hope

Men of joy

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...continued They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love

Men of courage
Men of the Truth
In the Name of THE FATHER
In the Name of THE SON
In the Name of THE HOLY SPIRIT

Be confident in who you are and who you belong to. Be seen as a sign of contradiction to the world. We are in the world but we are not of the world.

The world has the imprint of the image of Caesar. Jesus said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." But, we are imprinted with the image of God, so we must "give to God what belongs to God." ... all of our mind, heart, soul and strength.

Praise be to Jesus Christ

Californians hold prayer vigil on State Capitol steps



Fraternity of Fatherhood—Group locations & Area Coordinators

Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world. He has granted us his permission, his blessing and he guides us spiritually. It is with this confidence that we now move forward with humility, obedience and docile hearts. If you are interested in joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your city contact Dcn. Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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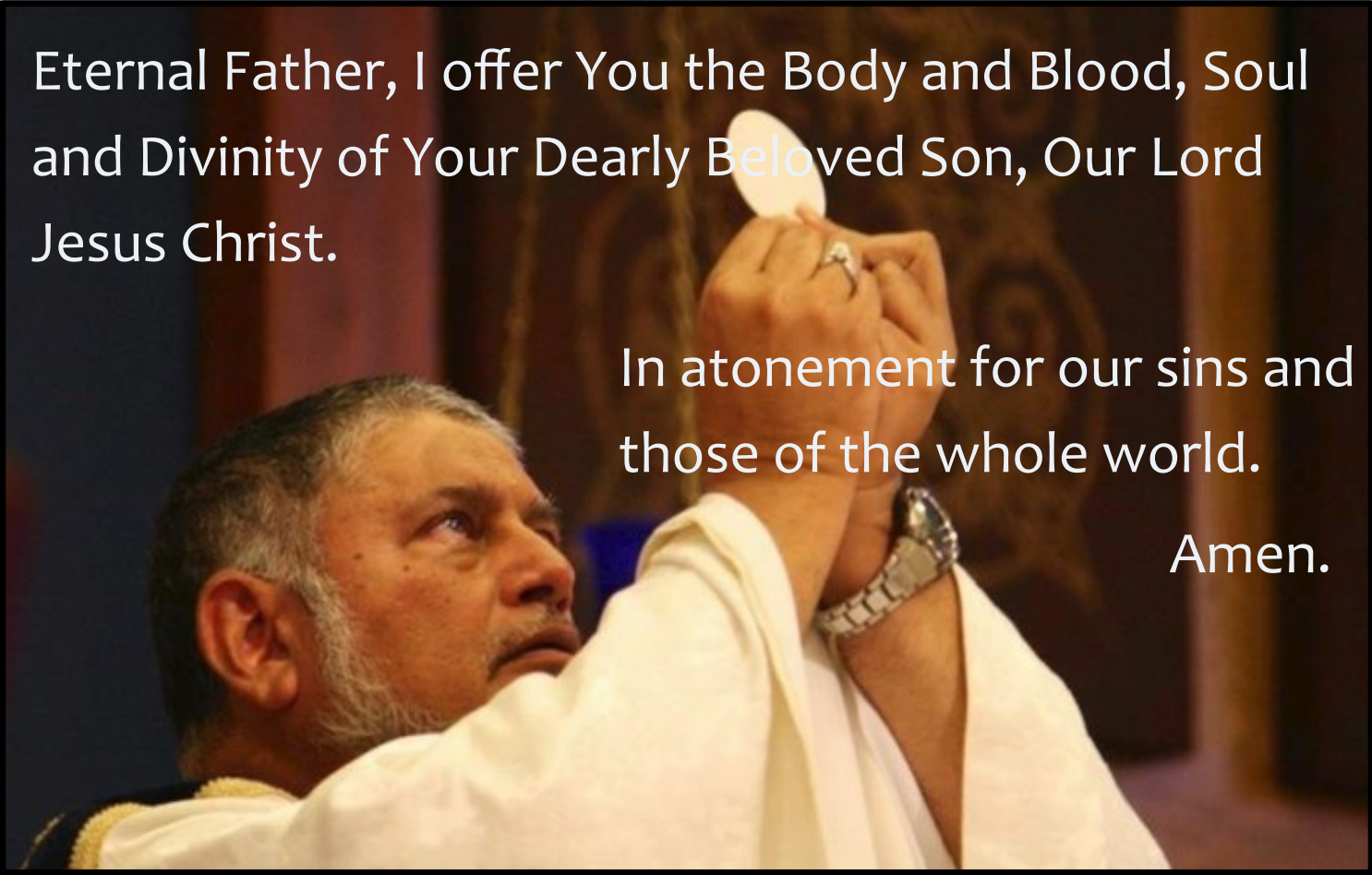
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Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

In atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

Amen.

POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

**We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage
of St. Joseph.**



**St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.
Feast Day March 19th**



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To submit feedback and/or suggestions for future article topics, please email the editors,

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