



Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will



“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs.” Luke 18:16-17

The Right Response

By now it's no breaking story that the Church is in the midst of another crisis. But we're not going to comment on all the details because, first of all, we don't know them all. Secondly, it's not necessary. Though it can be important to stay informed about what's going on in the world so we know for whom and for what we need to pray, the devil would love nothing more than to twist those good intentions for his gain. A healthy desire for truth and knowledge can sometimes turn into a time-consuming, almost addictive hunger for more and more “news”, giving the evil one exactly what he wants...all of our attention to be fixed on him and what he's doing.



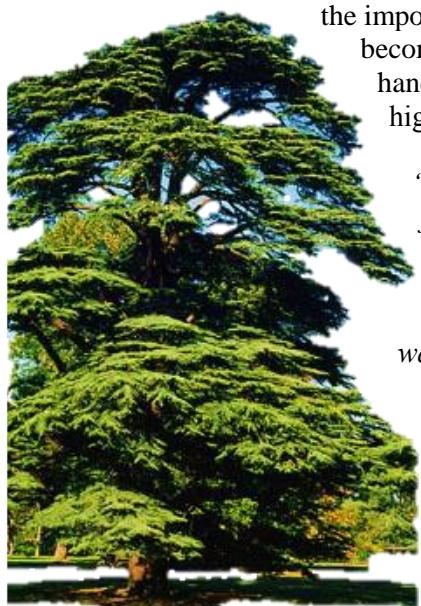
No matter how dark things may seem, whether in the Catholic Church or in our own personal lives, we must remember that we are children of the Light and respond accordingly. The most dismal periods of history have also produced some of the greatest saints, and as St. Louis Marie de Montfort prophesied: *“Almighty God and His holy Mother will raise up saints in the latter times who will surpass in holiness most other saints as much as the cedars of Lebanon tower above little shrubs.”* We might just be living in those times now, so are you in?! Put on your work boots and let's get started...



ACTS in the Divine Will

To Do...

First things first. We've got to place everything in the Divine Will, inviting Jesus to come and do in us only what He wants to do and how He wants to do it. And we mean everything...both the big and the small activities, the important and the insignificant, the exterior and the interior. Then everything becomes holy because God Himself is acting in us, taking our littleness in His hands and raising us to live more of Heaven than of earth. And Heaven is a bit higher than even the Lebanon cedars, isn't it?



“The soul should make sure that everything she does and all that is necessary for her, she does as if I Myself wanted to do it in her. If she prays, she should say: ‘It is Jesus who wants to pray and I pray together with Him’. If she has to work: ‘It is Jesus who wants to work’. ‘It is Jesus who wants to walk; it is Jesus who wants to eat, who wants to sleep, who wants to get up, who wants to enjoy Himself’, and so with everything else in life...It seems that souls who live in My Will do nothing yet they do everything because, being in My Will, these souls act divinely, secretly, and in surprising ways, so that they are the light which illuminates, the wind which purifies, the fire which burns, the miracles which work miracles...Being in My Will, they contribute to all the blessings that can exist in Heaven and earth.”

(Book of Heaven, Luisa Piccarreta, Vol. 11, 8/14 & 3/15/1912)

Daily Mass

At every Holy Mass, we are present at the foot of the Cross and participate in the one sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Father in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. It is the liturgy in which the mystery of our salvation is being accomplished...and most of us have the opportunity to go daily! Do we seize that opportunity as often as possible or allow other, less important things in our life take precedence? There is nothing greater we could do every day than attend Mass and receive Holy Communion in God's Most Holy Will. As St. John Vianney reminds us, "*It alleviates the pain of the souls in purgatory, draws down all types of blessings upon earth, and gives more glory to God than all the sufferings of all the martyrs together, more glory than the penances of all the saints.*" Why wouldn't we want to go as often as possible?



Eucharistic Adoration



When you love someone, you spend time with them...no? Jesus waits for our company as a prisoner of love in tabernacles all over the world. Think about how much He's suffering seeing the state of the world, how His images have reduced themselves, how few people truly love Him. Before the Blessed Sacrament, we can console the Heart of Jesus, repair for the sins of the world, earn all kinds of graces for our brothers and sisters, and sanctify our own souls. But there's only so much one can say about Eucharistic Adoration. It needs to be experienced in order to truly comprehend the love, peace and joy that await us there.

"The devotion which God sends to the succor of His Church and of the nations at the present time is the devotion to the Holy Eucharist. It is the highest of all devotions." (Pope Leo XIII)



Rosary

When someone had complained to Pope John Paul II about the state of the Church, begging that he do more, the humble Pontiff just held up his rosary beads and said: "I tried. This is our only weapon." Think about all that St. John Paul did accomplish both for the Catholic Church and the entire world throughout his twenty-seven year pontificate.

Remember his powerful and brilliant words, fearless actions, tireless defense of the faith? Yet he believed that his most powerful weapon in fighting evil and converting hearts was the Holy Rosary, entrusting everything to Our Blessed Mother.

Get distracted while praying it? No worries, it happens to us all. Find it hard to pray the Rosary all at once. Split it up...a decade on your ride to work, one while waiting on line at the bank, etc. The internet is full of Rosary mp3s to help you along, too. Listen while on the treadmill, pray while taking a walk. Let your Mama know that you love her and that you're also ready to fight!



ROUNDS in the Divine Will



As Our Lord many times explained to Luisa, all that He did in Creation, Redemption, and Sanctification was for love of man. Jesus is now asking us to "make our rounds" through all of these divine acts together with Him in order to: (1) receive and return to the Father His very own love hidden in each act on behalf of everyone; and (2) repair for the ingratitude of mankind.



Need some ideas? When meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, place an "I love You" on all that you are picturing in your mind (ex: on the moment Jesus was incarnated in Our Lady's womb, on every olive in the garden of Gethsemane, etc.). While making your morning cappuccino, mark each drop of water, each coffee

ground with your “I love You.” When resisting the urge to honk the guy who just cut you off, put an “I love You” on every time the Holy Spirit has inspired a soul to practice virtue. Look at how simply such greatness can be accomplished, for it’s not us, but God’s Will in us doing all the work.



I love You I love You

Fasting

“His disciples asked Him when they were by themselves, ‘Why were we unable to drive [the unclean spirit] out?’ He answered, ‘This is the kind that can be driven out only by prayer and fasting.’” (Mark 9:28-29)

From early on, Our Lady of Medugorje has been urging Her children to fast on bread and water every Wednesday and Friday, assuring us that it could stop wars and win back souls that Satan is leading on the path to perdition. Yet it’s probably one of our heavenly Mother’s requests that we just don’t take seriously enough. Yes, it’s difficult. You get hungry, feel tired, maybe experience some headaches, or just get plain sick of the same boring flavors all day long. But the martyrs were willing to suffer atrocious pains and sacrifice their very lives for love of Christ and His Church. For those of us in good health, are we not even willing to suffer a little discomfort and sacrifice a few pleasures?

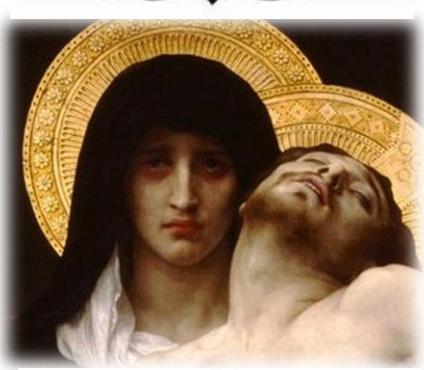


Having fun making bread

Penances & Sacrifices

The secret: Don’t focus on what you’re depriving yourself of but on the good you’re doing for souls. And think little. We’re more likely to remain faithful to the smaller sacrifices and less likely to grow proud by them. But if the Holy Spirit nudges you to do more, obey with a humble and generous heart. Just make sure to do all of your penances in the Divine Will so that *It may convert them for you into the little coin of infinite value with which you will be able to pay your debts and also those of your brothers.*

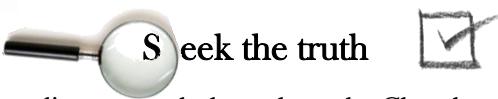
[from the memoirs of Sister Lucia, Fatima visionary]: “*My aunt called us to come and eat some figs which she had brought home, and indeed they would have given anybody an appetite. Jacinta (the youngest of the three children and now a canonized saint) sat down happily next to the basket with the rest of us and picked up the first fig. She was just about to eat it, when she suddenly remembered and said : ‘It’s true! Today we haven’t yet made a single sacrifice for sinners! We’ll have to make this one.’ She put the fig back in the basket and made the offering; and we, too, left our figs in the basket for the conversion of sinners.*”



Hours of the Passion

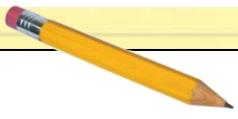
“It is not without reason that this book has provoked so much enthusiasm...there is an undeniable concurrence of grace which begs extensive reparations for all the sins of the world of every kind, like the very ones which Our Lord Jesus Christ presented to His Eternal Father interiorly at the time of His most bitter Passion. It will be like living with Jesus suffering and with Mary co-redeeming, gathering immense eternal goods for oneself and for all!”

(St. Annibale Maria di Francia, Preface to The Twenty-Four Hours of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by Luisa Piccarreta)



With the smoke of confusion spreading so much throughout the Church, now more than ever we need to be Catholics who know the truth of our faith. It’s time to dust off the Bible, download the Catechism of the

Catholic Church onto our tablets, and get to know the Magisterium of our Holy Mother. Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would remain with it forever and save it from error. So anything that the Church has taught on faith and morals these past 2,000 years cannot be changed or reformed. That would be like saying there were moments in history when the Holy Spirit failed in Its duty and Christ made an empty promise, allowing the Church to make doctrinal mistakes (Baltimore Catechism Q.528-529). Knowing that can never be, we must arm ourselves with knowledge so that we will never be lead astray from the truth and will be able to keep others from being taken by the devil's cunning as well.



Faith



Last but certainly not least, for faith will be the motor that gets everything moving. Sometimes it feels as if we're as insignificant as a grain of sand at the bottom of the sea, that our prayers have little to no impact. Though we are nothing and can do nothing without God, with His grace and in His Divine Will, He can move mountains with our little hands. Your prayers are important, they are powerful, and they are changing the world. Though Our Lord doesn't always show us the fruit (for our own good), believe that somewhere in the world a young girl is deciding against abortion thanks to your Rosary; a dying soul is receiving the grace of conversion because of your fast; many poor souls in Purgatory are being released as a direct result of the daily mass you attended this morning. Jesus and Mary have hand-picked you for their army. And They not only trust you, but They *need* you too!

Already in the habit of these practices? Try doing them with even greater love, fervor, and attention. Do none of these things yet? Don't get overwhelmed. Start small and try to incorporate these suggestions little by little. The important thing is that *everyone* does something more. When our Holy Mother Church is in trouble, we need to be more Catholic than ever and compensate for the diseased members of Christ's Mystical Body. Otherwise we will have no one to blame for the outcome but ourselves.



The Promised Land



"Mother, your desert wanderings are over!" That's what we jokingly told Mother Gabrielle Marie when she celebrated forty years of the religious life this past August 15th. On the Solemnity of the Assumption in 1978, thirty-three year old Gayle Marie Breaux (baptismal name Gabrielle Marie) knocked on the convent door of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration in Birmingham, Alabama, waiting to officially enter Mother Angelica's community.

Mother Gabrielle Marie knew God wanted her to be a nun since she was a little girl. It was later confirmed in her twenties, as she sometimes reminisces to us, when she woke up in the middle of the night and saw a light in her room and felt a light in her soul calling her to be the spouse of Christ. Mother remembers not being able to fall back to sleep that night, she was so full of joy and impatient to find out exactly where the Lord wanted her. But after years of research and visits to various religious communities, she was never able to find the right place where she felt at home...that is until Heaven stepped in during a life-changing pilgrimage to an Alabama printing press.

Young Gayle and her parents wanted to learn how Mother Angelica made all of her famous mini-books. During the visit, the dynamic Abbess pulled her aside and asked, "What do you seek?" Her heart dropped as she



responded, "How did you know I wanted to be a nun?" Mother Angelica explained that they had received a letter from a Gayle who was planning to visit and was interested in discerning their community. But this Gayle never wrote any letter and no other Gayle ever came. Though convinced it was her Guardian Angel's intervention, she still had some hesitations. Being an elementary school teacher, Gayle admitted her reluctance to leave a career and the children that she loved so dearly for the cloistered Poor Clares.

Pinpointing the power and beauty of the contemplative vocation, Mother Angelica responded: "Honey, how many kids can you reach out in the world in one year? Maybe thirty? *Here you can reach the whole world every day.*"

Mother Gabrielle Marie confessed that at that moment she couldn't wait to get out of there, but as soon as she returned to Louisiana, she couldn't wait to go back. And after a couple of come-and-see visits, she knew she was home.

For the next thirty-three of her life, our future Mother wore lots of different hats at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery. She took care of the goats, worked as sacristan, played the organ, built a grotto, formed the Novices and Juniors, served as vicar, etc., etc. Through Mother Angelica and EWTN, she met numerous important figures in the Catholic Church, including Pope Benedict XVI (when he was still Cardinal Ratzinger) and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. But Mother Gabrielle Marie will tell you over and over again that the most significant moment of her religious life came in 1998 when she encountered Luisa Piccarreta for the first time.

She received the gift the Divine Will when one of her postulants approached her for permission to read a book that her grandmother had given to her, a diary written by a Servant of God from southern Italy. Wisely reading a bit first before making a decision, Mother immediately fell in love with Luisa's beautiful writings and couldn't get enough. Every time the postulant's grandmother would visit, she brought Mother

Gabrielle Marie more and more books along with various audio talks about the Divine Will. "*It was the most profound thing I had ever read and I wanted to spend every moment of my free time learning more,*" she would often tell us.



After having read Luisa's entire thirty-six volume diary several times, Mother Gabrielle Marie eventually received a "call within a call". She felt Our Lord and Our Lady asking her to found a new religious community centered on both Eucharistic Adoration and the Divine Will writings of Luisa Piccarreta. Of course in simple obedience, Mother said yes. She desired whole-heartedly to continue her life before the Most Blessed Sacrament. However, Mother Gabrielle also knew that if she and her future sisters were to try with all of their heart, soul and strength to live the "*Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven*" as taught in the

Divine Will writings, they would be able to reach the whole world with every heartbeat. For Jesus would be doing everything in, with, through, and for them in His Most Holy Will. And when God does something, it's perfect, infinite, eternal, and touches everyone without exception.

Almost eight years later and here we are, living our contemplative vocation but without the cloister. Though Mother really loved her years behind the grill, she feels we are now being called to share this pearl of great price with others and show them that everyone – not just nuns – can live paradise here on earth. And what is paradise? Being who we were created to be: joyful, fulfilled, and peaceful souls who love God with His own love and their



neighbor as themselves, giving the Father all of the honor and glory He deserves on behalf of every soul past, present, and future. We're not claiming to be perfect, but it sure is a fun ride as the Lord leads us, act by act, to the Promised Land!

What Our Lord taught and His “little secretary” recorded is not just another devotion, but what He Himself called the “Sanctity of Sanctities”! So if you’re ready to get started on Luisa’s *Book of Heaven*, contact us at daughtersofdivinewill@gmail.com and we’ll get you what you need. Don’t waste time and don’t take this gift for granted. Greater happiness awaits you both in this life and the next!

“A creature who lets My Will dominate and gives It free field in order to form Its life in her, is the greatest of prodigies. She can move Heaven and earth, even God Himself. It seems as if she were doing nothing, yet she does everything, and she alone can win the most important things, destroy all obstacles, face anything, because a Divine Will reigns in her...It is necessary and decorous to know about this Kingdom of Mine: the great good It wants to give, the happiness of those who will live in It, Its long story, Its long sorrow - and of many centuries, because while It wants to come to reign in the midst of creatures to make them happy, they do not open the doors to It, they do not long for It, they do not invite It; and while It is present in their midst, they do not know It...Therefore, be attentive, My daughter. This is not about just anything, or about forming a sanctity, but it is about forming a Kingdom for My adorable and Divine Will.”

(*Book of Heaven*, Luisa Piccarreta, Vol. 20, 12/10/1926)

A New York gathering...

Sister Francesca and her dad (top left), Sister Maureen (bottom left), and Sister Esther (middle, just weeks before entering) with Fr. Joseph Slaby (top, second from right) – Maryknoll missionary who brought the DW to Korea. Fellow missionary priest and DW lover, Fr. Henry (bottom right), along with a friend of Sister Maureen (far right). →



The whole gang with our confessor and Benedictine Oblate of Divine Will, Fr. Sante. ↓



Supporting the Sisters

Do you feel the Holy Spirit inspiring you to help support our growing family? Visit the “Donations” page of our website to make a one-time donation by credit/debit card or to sign up for automatic monthly contributions: www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org

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Our day of prayer is not complete unless we remember our benefactors with much gratitude. With confidence, we know Our Lady won't let any of you go unrewarded. God bless you all and have a blessed Fall!