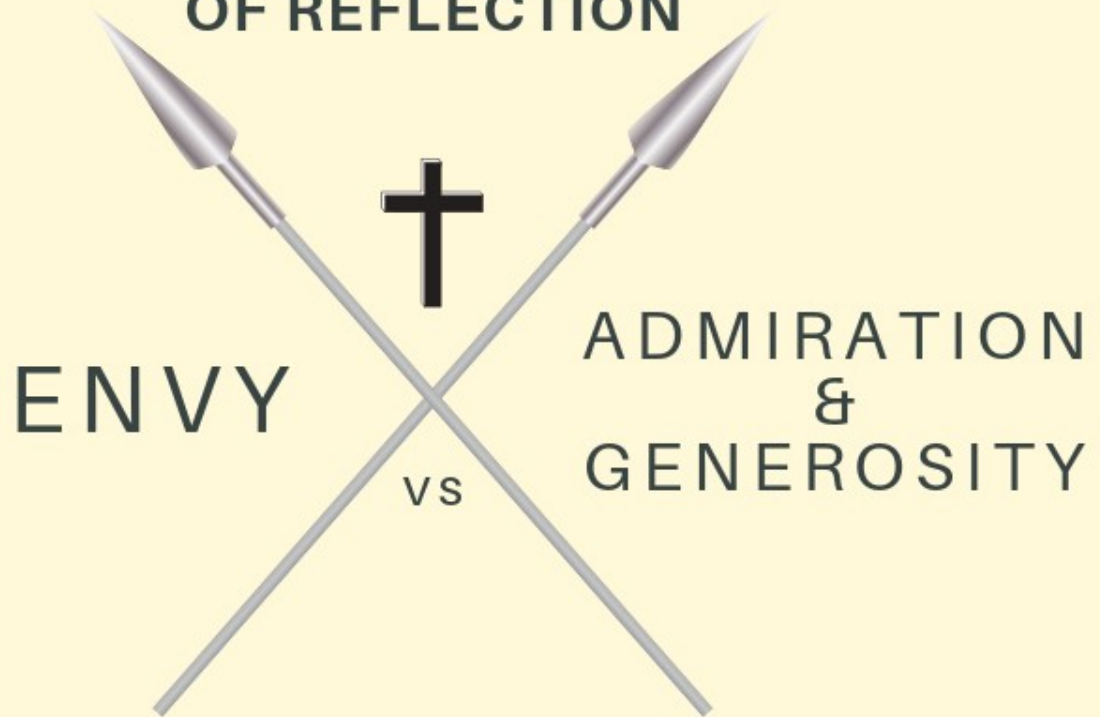




# The Spiritual Struggle of Following Christ

OCTOBER MEN'S EVENING  
OF REFLECTION



OUR LADY of BETHESDA  
RETREAT CENTER



REGNUM CHRISTI  
WASHINGTON DC

\*7:00pm – Mass

7:35pm – Wine & Dinner

8:15pm – Directed Meditation

\*8:35pm – Time for Personal Reflection & prayer (silence)

8:50pm - Conference

9:30pm – End

\*Confessions will be available throughout and following Mass

## Tonight's Schedule

**“BESIDE EACH BELIEVER STANDS AN ANGEL  
AS PROTECTOR AND SHEPHERD  
LEADING HIM TO LIFE”  
~ST. BASIL**

**October 2nd is the Feast of the  
Guardian Angels. Remember to  
turn to yours every day!**



### **Guardian Angel Prayer**

Angel sent by God to guide me,  
be my light and walk beside me;  
be my guardian and protect me;  
on the paths of life direct me.

**PRAYER FOR**



**THE MONTH**

### **PRAYER FOR GENEROSITY BY ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, teach me true generosity.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve.

To give without counting the cost.

To fight heedless of wounds. To labor without seeking rest.

To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward,

Save the knowledge that I have done your will.

Amen

## Gospel Passage

John 12: 1-8

*Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one (of) his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions. So Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."*

What happens when we're generous?

**R**emember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

**G**ood will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.

**Psalms 112:5**

**O**ne person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. Proverbs 11:24

**A** generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

**Proverbs 11:25**

# Quotes for Inspiration

*"He who gives when he is asked has waited too long." (Anon)*

**2538** The tenth commandment requires that envy be banished from the human heart. When the prophet Nathan wanted to spur King David to repentance, he told him the story about the poor man who had only one ewe lamb that he treated like his own daughter and the rich man who, despite the great number of his flocks, envied the poor man and ended by stealing his lamb.<sup>323</sup> Envy can lead to the worst crimes.<sup>324</sup> "Through the devil's envy death entered the world."<sup>325</sup> We fight one another, and envy arms us against one another. . . . If everyone strives to unsettle the Body of Christ, where shall we end up? We are engaged in making Christ's Body a corpse. . . . We declare ourselves members of one and the same organism, yet we devour one another like beasts.<sup>326</sup>

**2539** Envy is a capital sin. It refers to the sadness at the sight of another's goods and the immoderate desire to acquire them for oneself, even unjustly. When it wishes grave harm to a neighbor it is a mortal sin. St. Augustine saw envy as "*the* diabolical sin."<sup>327</sup> "From envy are born hatred, detraction, calumny, joy caused by the misfortune of a neighbor, and displeasure caused by his prosperity."<sup>328</sup>

**2540** Envy represents a form of sadness and therefore a refusal of charity; the baptized person should struggle against it by exercising good will. Envy often comes from pride; the baptized person should train himself to live in humility. Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother's progress and you will immediately give glory to God. Because his servant could conquer envy by rejoicing in the merits of others, God will be praised.<sup>329</sup>

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<sup>323</sup> Cf. 2 Sam 12:14.

<sup>324</sup> Cf. Gen 4:3-7; 1 Kings 21:1-29.

<sup>325</sup> Wis 2:24.

<sup>326</sup> St. John Chrysostom, *Hom. in 2 Cor.* 27,3-4:PG 61,588.

<sup>327</sup> Cf. St. Augustine, *De catechizandis rudibus* 4,8:PL 40,315-316.

<sup>328</sup> St. Gregory the Great, *Moralia in Job* 31,45:PL 76,621.

<sup>329</sup> St. John Chrysostom, *Hom. in Rom.* 71,5:PG 60,448.

# Saint of the Month

## St. Vincent de Paul

Feast day: September 27

The deathbed confession of a dying servant opened Vincent de Paul's eyes to the crying spiritual needs of the peasantry of France. This seems to have been a crucial moment in the life of the man from a small farm in Gascony, France, who had become a priest with little more ambition than to have a comfortable life.



The Countess de Gondi-whose servant he had helped- persuaded her husband to endow and support a group of able and zealous missionaries who would work among poor tenant farmers and country people in general. Vincent was too humble to accept leadership at first, but after working for some time in Paris among imprisoned galley slaves, he returned to be the leader of what is now known as the Congregation of the Mission, or the Vincentians. These priests, with vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and stability, were to devote themselves entirely to the people in smaller towns and villages.

Later, Vincent established confraternities of charity for the spiritual and physical relief of the poor and sick of each parish. From these, with the help of Saint Louise de Marillac, came the Daughters of Charity, "whose convent is the sickroom, whose chapel is the parish church, whose cloister is the streets for the city." He organized the rich women of Paris to collect funds for his missionary projects, founded several hospitals, collected relief funds for the victims of war, and ransomed over 1,200 galley slaves from North Africa. He was zealous in conducting retreats for clergy at a time when there was great laxity, abuse, and ignorance among them. He was a pioneer in clerical training and was instrumental in establishing seminaries.

Most remarkably, Vincent was by temperament a very irascible person- even his friends admitted it. He said that except for the grace of God he would have been "hard and repulsive, rough and cross." But he became a tender and affectionate man, very sensitive to the needs of others.

## Questions for Deeper Reflection

1. Have you ever felt resentment over somebody's success or joy over his or her failure? If so, do you still struggle with it, or do you defeat that in your heart? How?
2. Why is envy the daughter of pride and not, say avarice or gluttony?
3. Can you think of one person in your life who you need to "go out of your way" to praise? Have you ever, like John the Baptist, said of another you were tempted to envy, "He must increase, and I must decrease?" Have you ever had a sense of contentment in knowing where you begin and where you end without having to compare yourself to others?

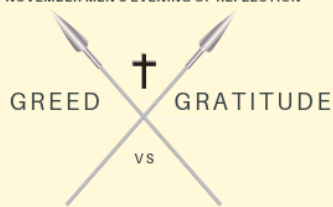
## Questions for Understanding

1. Read Isaiah 26:12 and Philippians 2:12-13. Who should receive the glory for every good thing we do? How does Paul understand the way in which we should view our accomplishments in light of our relationship with God?
2. Read CCC 2538-2540. How does the tenth commandment illuminate the sin of envy in the heart? What does St. John Chrysostom prescribe as the best medicine for killing the sin of envy?



# Upcoming Events at Our Lady of Bethesda!

NOVEMBER MEN'S EVENING OF REFLECTION



## November Evening of Reflection for Men: Nov 6

Join us next month for another strategy session for your soul!

The topic will be: GREED VS. GRATITUDE.

Bring your friends! And, thank you for registering in advance.



*"Come away with me and rest awhile."* Mark 6:3



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

## PERSONAL RETREAT DAYS

UPCOMING DATES:  
NOV. 15, AND DEC. 13  
MORE DATES ON OUR WEBSITE

8:30AM-4:00PM  
\$120 PER PERSON

STRENGTHEN YOUR SPIRITUAL MUSCLE

RETREAT DIRECTOR  
FR. PETER HOPKINS, LC

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works.  
Psalm 139:14

DEC 20-22.19 | JAN 30-FEB 02.20

MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE THRIVE,  
NOT JUST SURVIVE!

OUR LADY OF BETHESDA  
PRESENTS

## Strengthening Your Marriage

MARRIAGE RENEWAL WORKSHOP

NOV 16-17, 2019 | FEB 8-9, 2020



*Come, See,  
Experience the Person of Jesus Christ in  
the  
Holy Land*

*Save the Date March 2020  
Holy Land: 14-26,  
Jordan: 26-31*



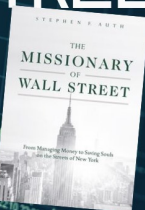
## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER EVENT

Steve Auth

## THE MISSIONARY OF WALL STREET

10/8/19

ADVANCE REGISTRATION  
REQUESTED



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