



CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY  
FOR THE INCARCERATED  
FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA,  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

# The Serving Brother

FALL 2011

A Message to the Serving Sisters and Brothers from Donald Cardinal Wuerl

## Transfiguration of the Lord

The act of faith has been described as a step forward onto a pathway when we cannot see clearly where it ends. In other words, even though we cannot understand everything that God says to us, we still place our trust in God and His word. As we pray in the Act of Faith, “I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.”

Unlike human knowledge that looks for proofs before we accept something, the special kind of knowledge that we have in faith does not have scientific proof, but it does have signs that assure us that what God says is true. Carved in stone over one of the entrances to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington is a definition of faith taken from the New Testament: “Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). It is our faith that provides the assurance of the truth of what we cannot otherwise accept.

The New Testament story of the Transfiguration is an example of God giving a sign that what he asks us to believe is true. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and

Luke, there is the story of the revelation of Jesus’ divine glory witnessed by three of his closest followers – the apostles Peter, James and John.

In the story, we see that Jesus takes the three apostles apart from everyone else and on a mountain he allows some of his divine glory to shine through his humanity. Just for a brief moment a bright cloud overshadows them all as Jesus’ face shown brilliantly like the sun and his clothing appeared white as light, and all heard a voice declaring “this is my chosen Son; listen to him” (Luke 9:35).

Just like you and me, the apostles were humans who were very comfortable with things they could get their hands on. Like them, we accept the proof of our senses for what we claim to know. We look for and expect evidence.

However, when we come to Jesus’ message that he is God’s Son, that he brings to us the gift of the Holy Spirit, that we are blessed with his grace and that we are spiritually changed into adopted children of God, here we deal with realities that can never be proven by the ways in which we prove everything else. All of this we have to accept in faith. It is our stepping onto the path because it is God who calls

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ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM  
OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

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Fra' Matthew Festing**

The Prince & Grand Master  
Magistral Palace, Rome, Italy

**His Excellency Peter Quail, KM**  
President, Canadian Association  
Ottawa, ON

**Fr. Andrea Spatafora, MSF**  
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**His Grace V. James Weisgerber**  
Archbishop of Winnipeg



Painting by Peter Paul Rubens, c.1620

A Spiritual Message from Father George

## St. Michael's Always Got Your Back

I have always liked St. Michael the Archangel, and in fact I chose his name for my confirmation when I was 13. Michael is like one of the superheroes in today's graphic novels and movies, only he's way more cool than Batman or the X-men – he was the leader of the good angels who fought against the forces of Satan!

*Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it. Rev 12:7-9*

Michael was the general in God's army. His name in Hebrew means "Who is like God?" – a question to which the only true answer is "no one." This means that while Michael is a powerful warrior, he also knows that God alone is greatest. Satan on the other hand says, in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, it is "better to reign in Hell than to serve in Heaven." His pride and arrogance led him to rebel against God and to lose his place in heaven forever. Michael however is wise enough, and humble enough to realize that nothing is better than to serve God in Heaven.

Back in 1884, Pope Leo XIII asked the church to pray the St. Michael Prayer at the end of Mass:

*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*

## Mass readings for the fall

WEEK	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
<b>Aug 29-Sep 4</b>	1 Thes 4:13-18 Mk 6:17-29	1 Thes 5:1-11 Lk 4:31-37	Col 1:1-8 Lk 4:38-44	Col 1:9-14 Lk 5:1-11	Col 1:15-20 Lk 5:33-39	Col 1:21-23 Lk 6:1-5	Ez 33:7-9 Rom 13:8-10 Mt 18:15-20
<b>Sep 5-11</b>	Col 1:24-23 Lk 6:6-11	Col 2:6-15 Lk 6:12-19	Col 3:1-11 Lk 6:20-26	Rom 8:28-30 Mt 1:1-23	1 Tm 1:1-14 Lk 6:39-42	1 Tm 1:15-17 Lk 6:43-49	Sir 27:30-28:9 Rom 14:7-9 Mt 18:21-35
<b>Sep 12-18</b>	1 Tm 2:1-8 Lk 7:1-10	1 Tm 3:1-13 Lk 7:11-17	Nm 21:4b-9 Phil 2:6-11 1 Tm 4:12-16	1 Tm 4:12-16 Jn 19:25-27	1 Tm 6:2c-12 Lk 8:1-3	1 Tm 6:13-16 Lk 8:4-15	Is 55:6-9 Phil 1:20c-27a Mt 20:1-16a
<b>Sep 19-25</b>	Ezr 1:1-6 Lk 8:16-18	Ezr 6:7-20 Lk 8:19-21	Eph 4:1-13 Mt 9:9-13	Hg 1:1-8 Lk 9:7-9	Hg 2:1-9 Lk 9:18-22	Zec 2:5-15a Lk 9:43b-45	Ez 18:25-28 Phil 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32
<b>Sep 26-Oct 2</b>	Zec 8:1-8 Lk 9:46-50	Zec 8:20-23 Lk 9:51-56	Neh 2:1-8 Lk 9:57-62	Dn 7:9-14 Jn 1:47-51	Bar 1:15-22 Lk 10:13-16	Bar 4:5-29 Lk 10:17-24	Is 5:1-7 Phil 4:6-9 Mt 21:33-43
<b>Oct 3-9</b>	Jon 1:1:2-2:11 Lk 10:25-37	Jon 3:1-10 Lk 10:38-42	Jon 4:1-11 Lk 11:1-4	Mal 3:13-20b Lk 11:5-13	Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2 Lk 11:15-26	Jl 4:12-21 Lk 11:27-28	Is 25:6-10a Phil 4:12-20 Mt 22:1-14
<b>Oct 10-16</b>	Rom 1:1-7 Lk 11:29-32	Rom 1:16-25 Lk 11:37-41	Rom 2:1-11 Lk 11:42-46	Rom 3:21-30 Lk 11:47-54	Rom 4:1-8 Lk 12:1-7	Rom 4:13-18 Lk 12:8-12	Is 45:1-6 1 Thes 1:1-5b Mt 22:15-21
<b>Oct 17-23</b>	Rom 4:20-25 Lk 12:13-21	2 Tm 4:10-17b Lk 10:1-9	Rom 6:12-18 Lk 12:39-48	Rom 6:19-23 Lk 12:49-53	Rom 7:18-25a Lk 12:54-59	Rom 8:1-11 Lk 13:1-9	Ex 22:20-26 1 Thes 1:5c-10 Mt 22:34-40
<b>Oct 24-30</b>	Rom 8:12-17 Lk 13:10-17	Rom 8:18-25 Lk 13:18-21	Rom 8:26-30 Lk 13:22-30	Rom 8:31b-39 Lk 13:31-35	Eph 2:19-22 Lk 6:12-16	Rom 11:1-29 Lk 14:1-11	Mal 1:14b-2:10 1 Thes 2:7b-13 Mt 23:1-12
<b>Oct 31-Nov 6</b>	Rom 11:29-36 Lk 14:12-14	Rv 7:2-14 1 Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12a	Wis 3:1-9 Rom 5:5-11 Jn 6:37-40	Rom 14:7-12 Lk 15:1-10	Rom 15:14-21 Lk 16:1-8	Rom 16:3-27 Lk 16:9-15	Wis 6:12-16 1 Thes 4:13-18 Mt 25:1-13
<b>Nov 7-13</b>	Wis 1:1-7 Lk 17:1-6	Wis 2:23-3:9 Lk 17:7-10	Ez 47:1-12 1 Cor 3:9c-17 Jn 2:13-22	Wis 7:22b-8:1 Lk 17:20-25	Wis 13:1-9 Lk 17:26-37	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9 Lk 18:1-8	Prv 31:10-31 1 Thes 5:1-6 Mt 25:14-30
<b>Nov 14-20</b>	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-63 Lk 18:35-43	2 Mc 6:18-31 Lk 19:1-10	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31 Lk 19:11-28	1 Mc 2:15-29 Lk 19:41-44	1 Mc 4:36-59 Lk 19:45-48	1 Mc 6:1-13 Lk 20:27-40	Ez 34:11-17 1 Cor 15:20-28 Mt 25:31-46
<b>Nov 21-27</b>	Dn 1:1-20 Lk 21:1-4	Dn 2:31-45 Lk 21:5-11	Dn 5:1-28 Lk 21:12-19	Dn 6:12-28 Lk 21:20-28	Dn 7:2-14 Lk 21:29-33	Dn 7:15-27 Lk 21:34-36	Is 63:16b-64:7 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37

*– by the Divine Power of God –  
cast into hell Satan and all the evil  
spirits, who roam throughout the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.*

I'm not sure why we stopped saying it; it seems to me that in this world today we need all the spiritual help we can get, both in our own lives and as a society. At San Quentin, we say this prayer after Mass because we want Michael to watch our backs for us in our daily prison life.

Imagine you have a powerful friend in Heaven who can keep you safe from the "wickedness and snares of the devil." Anyone who has ever struggled with addiction knows

how strong those traps are. We all need a power greater than ourselves – the power of God – to rescue us from the grip of the evil one. Michael shows us that we do not need to rely on our own strength – in fact, we cannot – but instead, "by the Divine Power of God" we turn to the only One who has the power to save us.

May St. Michael watch your back and keep you, and your loved ones, safe.

Fr. George T. Williams, SJ is Chaplain of San Quentin State Prison. Opened in July 1852, San Quentin is the oldest prison in California, and houses over 6,000 men, including more than 700 on death row.



## The Transfiguration: A Foretaste of the Kingdom

When one has the grace to live a strong experience of God, it is as if one is living an experience similar to that of the disciples during the Transfiguration: a momentary taste of what will constitute the happiness of Paradise. These are usually brief experiences that are sometimes granted by God, especially prior to difficult trials.

No one, however, is permitted to live "on Tabor" while on earth. Indeed, human existence is a journey of faith and as such, moves ahead more in shadows than in full light, and is no stranger to moments of obscurity and also of complete darkness. While we are on this earth, our relationship with God takes place more by listening than by seeing; and the same contemplation comes about, so to speak, with closed eyes, thanks to the interior light that is kindled in us by the Word of God.

The Virgin Mary herself, among all human creatures the closest to God, still had to walk day after day in a pilgrimage of faith, constantly

guarding and meditating in her heart on the Word that God addressed to her through Holy Scripture and through the events of the life of her Son, in whom she recognized and welcomed the Lord's mysterious voice.

And so, this is the gift and duty for each one of us... to listen to Christ, like Mary. To listen to him in his Word, contained in Sacred Scripture. To listen to him in the events of our lives, seeking to decipher in them the messages of Providence. Finally, to listen to him in our brothers and sisters, especially in the lowly and the poor, to whom Jesus himself demands our concrete love. To listen to Christ and obey his voice: this is the principle way, the only way, that leads to the fullness of joy and of love.

### POPE BENEDICT XVI

Saint Peter's Square

Second Sunday of Lent, 12 March 2006

In the event of the Transfiguration we contemplate the mysterious encounter between history, which is being built every day, and the blessed inheritance that awaits us in heaven in full union with Christ...

We, pilgrims on earth, are granted to rejoice in the company of the transfigured Lord when we immerse ourselves in the things of above, through prayer and the celebration of the divine mysteries. But, like the disciples, we too must descend from Tabor into daily life where human events challenge our faith. On the mountain we saw; on the paths of life we are asked tirelessly to proclaim the Gospel which illuminates the steps of believ-

ers... we are made for eternity and eternity begins at this very moment, since the Lord is among us and lives with and in his Church...

Let us pray that every Christian will know how to draw courage and constancy from contemplating Christ, who 'reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature' (Heb 1:3), in order to proclaim and witness faithfully through his words and works...

### HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II

Homily on the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Friday, 6 August 1999

## Two leaders of the Order of Malta in America pass on to their heavenly reward

Dear Serving Sisters & Brothers,

With a heavy heart we share sad news with all who count themselves among our extended religious family.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> the Order of Malta gathered in sadness to bury the President of the American Association,

Joseph H. Miller KM. Joe passed after a brief bout with cancer at age 73, leaving his loving bride of forty-eight years, five children and nineteen grandchildren. The large group assembled to



Joseph H. Miller KMOB  
1938-2011

celebrate Joe's life was consoled by the words of the Gospel – including the Lord's command in MT 25 to visit those in prison – and by the wonderful homilist and speakers. Having spent over fifty years as an executive in the insurance industry, Joe was a person who both made others feel comfortable and had a tremendous capacity for achievement. He was dedicated to good works throughout his life and modeled them for his children and grandchildren.

Tragically, Knight of Justice Augustus J. Grace was also buried only nine



Augustus J. Grace KJ  
1927-2011

days before after an unexpected health event claimed his life. Gus took his religious vows as a monk of the Order just nineteen months ago at age 82. A widower, he is survived by three children and two grandchildren. An accomplished engineer, Gus was a joy to be

around and was also tireless in his devotion to good works. In fact, he had been scheduled to lead a brigade of chefs preparing lunch at a homeless shelter the day after he passed. Touchingly, Gus had long before planned out the program for his funeral Mass – using the exact same readings that were proclaimed at his late wife's funeral over a dozen years earlier.

St. Francis of Assisi is attributed with saying "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary use words." Our friends Joe and Gus were textbook examples of those who strived hard to "live the Gospel." Undoubtedly, they would have been the first to warn you that they fell far short of that goal — and would be embarrassed by the complements that we now shower upon them. (They likely would have urged you to instead consider this quote from St. Francis: "If God can work through me, He can work through anyone.") However, each of them played an important role in "necessarily using words" to reach out to you. Gus was a strong supporter of "The Serving Brother" from its inception. During Joe's Presidency, this bulletin expanded distribution from 5,000 copies in four states to nearly 30,000 copies in twenty-eight states, plus Canada, Guam and the US Virgin Islands. If you are reading these words, you have personally benefitted from the efforts of our fallen brothers, Joe and Gus.

We will continue to share with you exactly what motivated them each day while they were our fellow members of the Church on Earth. An example is the description of the merits of the "First Knight," St. Michael, which they worked to mimic in their own lives. Of course, our sadness is limited by our faith that, now as members of the

CONTINUED ON BOTTOM OF NEXT PAGE

**Message of the Divine Mercy from Dr. Bryan Thatcher**

**St. Michael, Defend Us in Battle**

When I think of St. Michael, I think of a strong and tough-guy angel ready to defend good against all the evil in the world. St. Faustina, the secretary of Divine Mercy, wrote about St. Michael in her spiritual Diary: “I have great reverence for St. Michael the Archangel; he had no example to follow in doing the will of God, and yet he fulfilled God’s will faithfully.” (Diary, 667) I contrast that with my own weaknesses and sinfulness and how easy I fall into Satan’s traps.



ment of Reconciliation is so important because God’s overflowing love is present, and we know that where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more (Rom 5:20). While the availability of a priest can make attending Confession difficult, one should go to the Sacrament when available. Our Lord told St. Faustina, “the greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy.” (Diary, 723)

Let us call upon St. Michael to help us in our earthly journey as we battle

the evil around us, and if we fall, let us remember to call upon the mercy of God. Let us strive for daily perfection, remembering that every saint had a past, and yet every sinner has a future. And in the midst of it all, hold on to these words daily, “Jesus I Trust in You!”

Bryan Thatcher MD is the Director of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, 10016 Park Place Ave, Riverview, FL 33569 (877)380-0727 eadm@marian.org

We know that there is good and evil in the world, and we pray to St. Michael to “defend us in battle against the wickedness and snares of the devil.” Sometimes we succeed, and sometimes we falter.

Yet, we have a secret weapon that will overcome our greatest sins and the best trap set by the evil one; that weapon is the mercy of God. The Sacra-

**On the passing of Joe Miller and Gus Grace** CONTINUED

Church in Heaven through the Resurrection, they are in the house of the Father – enjoying, God willing, the Kingdom which we can only imagine.

You matter to us! Your prayers for the souls of, and expressions of appreciation for the work of, our late President and Knight of Justice will bring great comfort to all.

Yours very truly,

Roman J. Ciecwierz, KMOB  
Delegate of Communications  
Canadian Association,  
The Order of Malta

God wanted St. Michael to be His shield against the Devil in the first celestial fight. He also wants St. Michael to be the shield of men against the Devil, and the shield of the Holy Catholic Church as well.

But St. Michael does not limit himself to be a shield of protection, but also a sword to defeat the enemy: His is a double mission. For this reason, in the Middle Ages St. Michael was considered the first knight: faithful, strong, and pure as a knight should be. He was also victorious, because he put all his trust in God, and after the birth of Our Lady, all his confidence in her.

Following his lead, to this day the Knights of Malta venerate “The Virgin of Philermos” as its protector and patroness, honoring an image of the Blessed Virgin found in an ancient church atop Mount Philermos on the island of Rhodes during the order’s sovereignty over that land (1306-1523). Tradition credits Saint Luke the Evangelist with painting the image, which was later brought from Jerusalem to Rhodes.

**What is a Serving Brother?**

The Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilization. During its early history as a military force, the Knights of Malta required the support of many helpers. One such group of helpers was known as “Serving Brothers.”

These men assisted the Knights when called to fight, and also served the Chaplains in tending to the sick. While not members of the Order, they fully embraced its values and lifestyle. Anyone may spiritually participate as a Serving Brother or Sister by actively participating in the life of the Roman Catholic Church, including regular attendance at worship services, keeping up with seasonal bible readings, saying the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, studying our Faith and staying true to the admonitions of our Lord Jesus Christ, guided by the teachings of the Church.

**An introduction to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta (SMOM)**

The SMOM is an international religious order recognized by a decree of Pope Pascal II in 1113. Led by the Knights of Justice who are professed Friars, its Grand Master holds the rank of Cardinal. Most of its 13,000 Knights and Dames are not under vows, but are devoted to developing their spirituality, serving the faith and caring for the sick, poor and outcast.

The influence of the Order in Canada dates back to the colonial era, when several Knights inhabited Acadia and New France. The first Governor General of New France, Huault de Montmagny, was a professed knight of the Order. The Canadian Association was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation by federal charter on January 27, 1953.

**Give your brain a workout!**

**Sudoku Puzzle**

7				5		
2	4	9	8	7		
6			4		8	1
	2		6		4	
1			7			8
		8		9		6
4	5			3		9
	7		1	5	8	2
		1				3

Sudoku Directions – Fill each square with the numbers 1-9. No number can appear twice within the same row, the same column, or within the same frame of nine squares. ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE

**Brain Teasers**

A pipe in the ceiling of a room breaks, and water starts filling the room. After five minutes, there is an inch of water on the floor, after another five minutes, it is up to 2 inches. But the leak is getting stronger: after another five minutes the water has doubled to 4 inches, and then doubles to 8 after another five minutes. Every five minutes, the depth of the water doubles. If the room is eight feet high, how long will it take to fill the room to the ceiling?

If there are three apples and you take away two, how many do you have?

What word describes a woman who does not have all her fingers on one hand?

Why can't a man who is living in the USA be buried in Canada?

**CARDINAL WUERL, CONTINUED FROM FRONT**

us. Our recognition of his call substitutes for any clear human knowledge of where that path leads.

But God does not leave us without at least signs pointing us in the directions we are to go. That is why in the Transfiguration Jesus gives these three apostles a short glimpse of God’s power within him that they otherwise simply would not see. He was a man; he looked and acted like a man and yet he asked them to believe that he was also God’s Son. The many miracles he worked were signs as was the Transfiguration to confirm his message and to call them to place their faith in him.

While faith is a gift, we must also do our part. We are capable of supporting and strengthening our faith life by the actions we take every day to build up our friendship with the Lord. It takes two to carry on a conversation, even when one of the participants is God. When Jesus led the apostles to faith, he first invited them to friendship with himself. As they came to know him, they began to realize the richness of the kind of life that they had not known and they longed to share in its fullness.

Jesus invites you and me to faith. The great consolation and encouragement of faith is knowing in our heart that what God says to us is real and true simply because it is God who speaks. By opening the Bible and reading the New Testament, especially the four Gospels, we can hear Jesus’ words as clearly as if he were sitting with us, talking to us.

Just as Peter, James and John saw a glimpse of the divinity of Jesus on Mount Tabor, so you and I receive a glimpse of the divinity of Jesus when we recognize in his Church, in the sacraments – and most especially in the Eucharist – the goodness, compassion, kindness and wonder of God coming into our lives in a way that helps us say, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”

All of us are on a faith journey. We step onto that path that God tells us will bring us to life everlasting. We cannot see the end of the road, but Jesus’ word, the pages of sacred Scripture, the teaching of his Church and Jesus made truly present in the Eucharist are all there to shine a light on that path that allows us to stay on it with confidence.

Faith is both a great gift and an immense challenge. The apostles came down from Mount Tabor aware that they had received a unique invitation to believe, but they were still very much in need of their own commitment each and every day to keep alive in their heart that flame of faith. That is what you and I do every time we pray, every time we ask God to help us fan into flame the ember of faith burning in our heart.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, the Archbishop of Washington, was elevated to the College of Cardinals in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI. He is chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, chancellor of The Catholic University of America, chairman of the board of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Foundation and also of The Papal Foundation.

**Puzzle solutions**

- 1) After 35 minutes, the water is 64" deep. It will take roughly another 2 minutes to add another 32," which will be the room's full height of 96."
- 2) You have the two you took.
- 3) "Normal"
- 4) Because he's still alive

3	5	7	2	9	4	1	6	8
2	4	8	5	6	1	9	7	3
9	1	6	7	3	8	2	5	4
7	6	1	9	2	3	8	4	5
8	2	9	4	7	5	6	3	1
5	3	4	1	8	6	7	2	9
1	8	2	3	4	7	5	9	6
6	7	3	8	5	9	4	1	2
4	9	5	6	1	2	3	8	7