

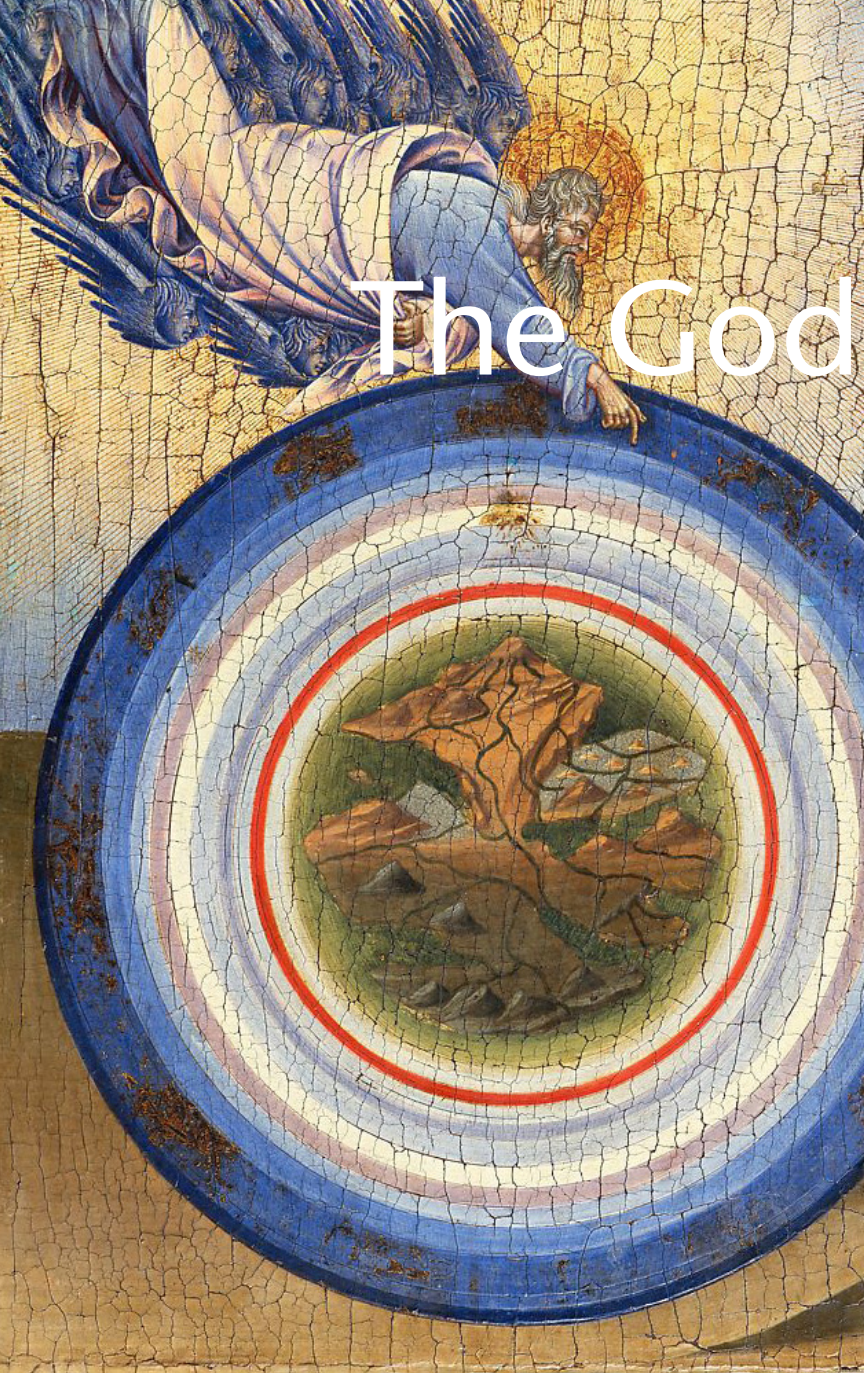
A PUBLICATION OF THE SISTERS OF LIFE / FALL 2019 ISSUE

IMPRINT



THE QUEST TO BE FREE





The God of Freedom

Our God is a God of freedom.

He loves us with abandon, with abundance. He is not constricted in His love or in His desire for our joy. And He is certainly not a critical judge, a harsh taskmaster, or a disapproving father, as some make Him out to be. Look at the torrent of goodness which flows at His Word. Look at the One who created the heavens and earth with a thought, who fills all creation with light, who took our rebellion in the garden of Eden and turned it into salvation. Look at Him who freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, who healed the sick, who cast out demons, who broke the chains of death by His Resurrection, who walked through walls and opened prison doors. This God of ours is larger than our categories. And the mystery is that He who is larger than our hearts seeks to dwell within them.

Indeed, He longs that we might have this freedom well up within us, “the glorious freedom of the children of God” (Rm 8:21) — the freedom for radical self-gift, which is the the only path to joy. In this freedom — won by the blood of Jesus — we find our peace, and instead of fear of or defensiveness from the other, we find a deep solidarity with every human person, in whom we can catch a glimpse of the infinitude of Christ Himself.

As we celebrate the gift of God’s freedom in the lives around us, from the profession of vows of our Sisters to stories of healing of body and soul, may we discover the truth of our identity and allow His love and mercy to set us free.

Know that you and your family are in our prayers.

In Christ, Our Life,

Mother Agnes Mary, SV
Mother Agnes Mary, SV

“...Freedom: the gift whereby you most resemble your Maker and are yourselves part of eternal reality.” - C.S. Lewis

**Look at the God who created the
heavens and earth with a thought,
who fills all creation with light,
who breaks the chains of death...
There is a torrent of goodness which
flows at His Word.**

Giovanni di Paolo's depiction of the Creation of the World, 1445

The above painting (detail), drawing from medieval and Renaissance cosmology, presents an image of the creation of the world. The universe is portrayed as a globe; at the center, the earth is portrayed with four surrounding concentric circles, representing the elements, the sun, and the planets. God the Father is shown surrounded by light, as He creates the earth.



ARE YOU FREE?

[Is there more to freedom than just ultimate autonomy and infinite choice?]

What does freedom mean to you?

What do you think of when you think of freedom? Maybe: getting to call your own shots, or wading in a sea of limitless options, or just doing what “feels right.” Our culture lives by the idea that we can find happiness if we can create ourselves into whatever we want, with no boundaries. But is there more to freedom than just ultimate autonomy and infinite choice?

The happiness we are looking for

Let’s be honest — having unlimited choices doesn’t necessarily make us happier. (We all know that buffet lines are secretly overwhelming, binge shopping doesn’t satisfy, and hours of video surfing leaves us feeling, well, gross.) The truth is that our ability to choose has been instilled in our being for the purpose of directing us to a true good — to God, the real source of the joy and peace we want. We’re made for love, truth, and glory — anything less than that leaves us empty, lonely, and even wounded. “Freedom exists for the sake of love” (*St. John Paul II*). Freedom is essentially about being able to choose what we’re made for. It’s our power to act or not to act — to choose to commit to love, to truth, and to the good of the other — or not.

He dreamed of you

God gave you this freedom. Even before you were created, the Father dreamed of you, His beloved son or daughter, like Him, sharing in His life, glory, and yes, even in His divinity. He created you, a unity of body and soul, in His

By Sr. Maria Frassati, SV and Sr. Marie Veritas, SV

own image and likeness, purposely and intentionally. He knows you, and He honors you. He gave you the capacity to choose between good and evil. He doesn’t make mistakes. And He doesn’t make puppets, either. He desires your free response to His love.

Choosing reality

But look — we all fall short. We’re sinners. That’s the wonder of Jesus’ self-gift on the Cross: the reality that God’s mercy is so great that He can use not just our good choices, but even our mistakes and sins to bring us to Him. The most perfect — and most human — use of our freedom is when we choose to live in this reality. We are His chosen ones, in whom He delights and in whose hearts He has written His law of truth and love. The pressure is off us to “create” or “fix” ourselves; instead, we are invited to receive the gift of God’s mercy and to live out of our deepest identity — an identity not subject to the changing tide of the culture, our own whims, or who we see ourselves to be on a bad day.

The result?

Peace. Hope. Joy. The more we choose the good (God), and the more we let His Divine Mercy transform us from one glory to the next, the freer — and happier — we become.

Prayer challenge: Ask Jesus: Who am I? How do You see me? How are You loving me right now? Where are You inviting me to freedom in my life?

FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION

It's never too late to be set free. Never.

Overcoming my Dark Secret

with *Marriana Leach*

Marriana, you have a powerful testimony of healing from addiction. Can you tell us a little of your story?

Marriana: When I was little girl, I was ridiculously introverted. My best friends were books, and that's how I liked it. I remember the first time I stumbled upon one of those pathetic "romance" novels. I was eleven years old and, though I'd heard about the birds and the bees, I was not ready for the explicit content I found in what I thought was a love story. I remember being surprised by the graphic scenes. I re-read them a few times, out of curiosity more than anything else, but then I put the book down. It was so poorly written, I didn't want to keep reading. I didn't even know the term at the time, but that was my first exposure to pornography. As I got older, life got harder.

What happened?

Marriana: My daddy was once my superhero, but by the time I was in middle school, he had become distant. Eventually distance turned into emotional and physical abuse. The bruises healed, but the heartbreak stayed. I remember sobbing be-

cause I didn't understand what I'd done to make him hate me. Why wasn't I good enough anymore? What did I do wrong? I became desperate for his approval in general. I realize now that I was looking for someone to rescue me, to cherish me, to see a beauty in me worth protecting. I was desperate for authentically masculine love.

You had deep desires to love and be loved, authentically. How did you try to fill that gap?

Marriana: Middle school provided a crash course in over-sexualized language. I was shy and innocent, and guys in my class would tell me dirty jokes just to watch me blush. Not too long after that, I came across another one of those novels, and this time the scenes stuck with me. I was already spending hours imagining different ways I might escape from the chaos at home, and "love" stories became another means of running away. Little did I know there was actually a physical, neurochemical dependency forming in my brain, just as though I'd been smoking crack.

What did pornography do to you?

Marriana: Pornography is a drug, and like any other addict, I spiraled. Before long, I'd graduated from reading trashy novels to watching hardcore videos. I tried to stop, but I always went back, and I hated myself for it. I stopped believing I would ever be free. I stopped hoping.

Would you say that pornography affected your identity as a woman?

Marriana: I remember hearing several chastity talks throughout my high school career. The women's sessions were always about beauty, body image, modesty, and dating. The guys would be in the next room over, being offered encouragement, resources, and accountability to help them get rid of their lust addictions. No one ever acknowledged that women could struggle, too. Never. I felt so alone. I felt as though I was struggling with something I didn't have a right to struggle with. People always joked about how "pure" and "innocent" I was. They said I was beautiful, but I was convinced if they ever found out my secret, they'd be disgusted. I felt so dirty. My body image and self-worth plummeted, and I grasped for control in dieting. I tried to believe it when people told me I was beautiful, but I was never convinced. The porn crippled my ability to love and be loved. My addiction wounded my femininity.

Looking back on your experience, how you do understand your feminine identity and desire for love?

Marriana: I now know that, as a woman, beauty is intrinsic to who I am. Despite what *Cosmo* may think, it's not something that can be painted on or photo-shopped out. Beauty is literally written into my feminine soul, and it's intertwined with my desire to be radically loved. That's why the porn was killing me. Every single time I tried to escape into a fantasy, I was yearning for someone to want me, to cherish me, to be captivated by me. I was desperately yearning to be loved. The thing is, lust is a counterfeit. It promised to fulfill my desires, but it always left me empty. It's like drinking salt water when you're dying of thirst. No matter how many times I went back, no matter how much farther I was willing to go in search of the high, it could never satisfy me. I was made for greater things. I was made for love.

How were you able to break free of your addiction?

Marriana: Despite my dark secret, I was actively learning about and promoting chastity. I felt like a total hypocrite, but there was a truth about the chastity message that made me feel alive, so I kept coming back. The more I learned, the more I wanted it. As I formed relationships with like-minded people, I encountered men who truly loved me for who I was, not for how I looked or what I could do. The respect with which they treated me communicated that I was someone precious, and I began to believe in my beauty again. I met women I could trust, and I was able to open up about my struggle. They didn't think I was disgusting; if anything,

they loved me more, and they told me so. To this day, they encourage me and offer me the accountability I need. Love has changed my life. I've also learned one crucial piece of truth: I was never alone.

You've experienced the power of love in breaking down walls of shame, fear, and sin. What would you say to those who are struggling with an addiction to pornography?

Marriana: No one has ever done so much that they can't start over. We are human, and we make mistakes. But we can always be made new. We can always be set free. If you are reading this and you feel chained by lust and the shame it brings, please, let these words sink in. It is never too late. You are not alone. There is hope. I encourage you – no, I beg you – reach out. Ask for help, and let love light up your darkness.

How do you approach life, now that you have experienced freedom?

Marriana: Sometimes people ask me what it's like to not struggle anymore. Then I laugh. I've learned a few things on this crazy journey, and one of them is that freedom isn't about crossing a finish line and never looking back. Freedom is the race. Freedom is choosing authentic love right now, in this moment. Freedom is knowing I am beautiful with my imperfections. It's saying even if I fall in the future, I swear, I will get up again. I will never, ever stop fighting. Freedom is choosing to believe I am not the sum of my failures; it's rejecting shame. Freedom is vulnerability and honesty. It's in giving and receiving authentic, selfless love.

The culture promised me that lust could satisfy my desires, but it turns out that my desires are too great for lust. Now I know love, and I know freedom, and I know what it is to be fully alive, and I am forever changed. I look forward to the day when the rest of our culture can say the same.



After graduating from Franciscan University, Marriana traveled for a year and spoke to thousands of young people across the U.S. about purity and authenticity. She is a friend of our community.

Pornography: "Just one look" can quickly lead to addiction. Take courage – you are not alone in this struggle, and restoring purity is possible. Through accountability, eliminating triggers, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you can break the bonds of pornography and receive true healing.

Testimonies and practical guidance in breaking free:

covenanteyes.com
integrityrestored.com
fightthenewdrug.org
theporneffect.com

Finding freedom through *the vows*



On August 6, 2019, three of our Sisters – Sr. Mary Margaret Hope, SV, Sr. Josephine Rose, SV, and Sr. Faith Marie, SV (here with Mother Agnes Mary, SV) – made their definitive commitment to the Lord of Life by professing their final vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life.



On August 4, 2019, eleven of our novices made their first vows as Sisters of Life.
(back row L-R) Sr. Martha Maria Guadalupe, SV; Sr. Mary Catherine, SV; Sr. Madeleine Agnes, SV
(middle row L-R) Sr. Cora Caeli, SV; Sr. Luca Benedict, SV; Sr. Tirzah Mariae, SV; Sr. Desirae Purissima, SV
(front row L-R) Sr. Lumen Glorae, SV; Sr. Charity, SV; Sr. Gloria Maria, SV; Sr. Juliana Faustina, SV

A Sweet Gift from the Father

by Sr. Josephine Rose, SV

In college, I was confronted by two different world views: either God existed and my life was a gift from Him, or God didn't exist and my actions didn't matter. I saw the emptiness that some of my friends were experiencing, and, as I came to know the truth of God as Father, I longed to tell everyone how good they were, how deeply loved they were, and that their life was a gift. It was around that time that the thought of a religious vocation first crossed my mind. I had the witness of faithful friends and priests. When I saw that they could find joy and fulfillment in giving themselves completely to the Lord, a desire was sparked in my heart.

I first met the Sisters of Life during my junior year. They visited our Newman Center for the weekend, and I remember being struck by their joy. But there were fears, hesitations, and places in my heart that were not free. As I learned to listen to His voice, He began to speak light and truth into these places, cast out the fears, and open my heart to receive the gift of my vocation. Two years later, I attended a retreat with the Sisters. There, I felt I had found the Lord's resting place, my home, and He was inviting me to stay with Him.

While discerning a religious name, I was growing in devotion to St. Joseph. In prayer, Jesus showed me how spiritual fatherhood had helped foster my faith and vocation. The name "Josephine" is a continual reminder that I am a daughter of the Father. "Rose" reminds me that I am a gift from the Father to the Son.

Our hearts search for a place to belong, a place where we can give our love. Ultimately it's a place to be who we truly are. Through my vocation, I have found the freedom to live in the truth that I am His daughter and that He has called me to love in a way that only I can. My deepest identity is found in Him.





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CZEST

ABOUT THE BLACK MADONNA

Legend has it that St. Luke the Evangelist painted this image of Our Lady and the infant Jesus upon the kitchen tabletop of the Holy Family. Over the centuries, the image passed through many hands, at one point being seized and badly damaged by raiders; yet, attempts at restoration could not hide the two slash marks across the Virgin's face. The image was eventually transferred to a Polish monastery, and in 1656, after the miraculous defeat of a Swedish invasion, the Black Madonna of Częstochowa was crowned queen of Poland. A source of deep national piety and enthusiasm, Our Lady of Częstochowa was considered such a threat to the communists that, in 1966, the image was placed under house arrest!

TRANSPARENCY WITH JESUS

By Sr. Maris Stella, SV

Jesus, Truth Himself (cf. *Jn* 14:6), says, "the truth will make you free" (*Jn* 8:32). Truth may demand great things of us, but through these challenges we can taste the depths of God's love that governs all things in our lives, down to the smallest details. With every challenge to live beyond what is convenient or comfortable comes a grace, a gift, and a promise of God's presence. He invites us to face, with Him, the sufferings in our lives, to go ahead and ask the hard questions, and to integrate His love into our own personal history. Truth is a creative power which brings new life and joy. It has a strength, laced with a lightness, that makes us free.

"Truth never changes. Telling the truth with courage is a way leading directly to freedom. It cannot be destroyed by any decision or legal act. A man who tells the truth is a free man." - Blessed Jerzy Popielusko



IT HAPPENED IN

CZESTOCHOWA

Through the scars of His Mother I found meaning in my pain.

Amelia is a student who joined us on our pilgrimage to Poland with college students. She shared with us the experience of finding the truth of her identity there.*

I was wounded and broken. I didn't know how to accept or make sense of the suffering in my life. Darkness and despair overwhelmed me; I didn't believe my life was valuable anymore, or even worth living.

I'd been on many retreats, but nothing like this pilgrimage has so drastically changed my life. At the beginning of the trip, I felt so far from Jesus. I had a hard time praying; all I could feel was the weight of my sin and brokenness. When we arrived at Czestochowa, I saw how all the people flocked to our Mother's protection. When I looked up at her face, I was moved by her scars. I got the sense that she was trying to tell me that these are her wounds of love, the wounds of her children, my wound, and that she is not ashamed to wear my wound, because it is a wound of love. I can embrace the truth that I have these scars, but they are not an obstacle for God. In fact, He radiates His love there.

I could relate to this wounded Mother. It opened my heart, and I went to confession. I began to see my suffering differently. I was able to see myself reflected in Our Lady of Czestochowa and in the history of Poland as a whole. I realized that everyone has crosses, but their suffering is not without meaning. Love finds meaning in suffering. Something in me shifted. I began to believe that maybe that was true for me too.

When I returned from Poland, I started to believe in my identity as a daughter of God. I found a sense of purpose again on the pilgrimage. I felt known and loved in a way I hadn't experienced before. For the first time, I know that my life is a gift.

** Name changed for anonymity.*

THE SACRAMENT OF FREEDOM: **CONFESSION**

By Sr. Mary Margaret Hope, SV

There are no limits on God's mercy. The Sacrament of Reconciliation delivers actual graces to break the bondage of sin and to help us fight against it going forward. Every time we hear those words of the priest, "I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," we return to the purity of our baptism. The life of the Trinity is restored within us, and we claim our true identity as beloved children of God, destined for eternal life in heaven. We are set free to love as we were made to love. We are not defined by past failures. Our future is now in the hands of grace.

Resources for greater freedom

Unbound: *A Practical Guide to Deliverance*
by Neil Lozano

Be Healed: *A Guide to Encountering the Powerful Love of Jesus in Your Life* by Bob Schuchts

The Discernment of Spirits:
An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living
by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V.

Interior Freedom by Fr. Jacques Philippe



iStock / Lokapnoto

NEW IN HIM

Entering into the light

Freedom in knowing I am His beloved daughter — always and forever



LILY'S STORY

The bravest move I ever made is when I called the Sisters of Life for the first time. It was one of the best days of my life. Since that day, almost five years ago, it has been a wonderful journey.

I grew up in a loving religious environment. But when I moved to New York, life moved so fast, and I wasn't myself. I got into an unhealthy relationship, but I still decided to get married to him. I should have known or seen it coming, but for the next twenty years, I was abused by my husband; he blamed me for everything. I got pregnant twice, and both times, he brought me to the abortion clinic.

Coming from a Catholic background, I knew I had made a huge mistake and committed a grave sin. I didn't know how to fix it, and so I lived my life just existing. I identified myself with all the sin and abuse because I thought I deserved it. I went to Church, but I didn't want to get too involved because I thought I was a hypocrite. I told myself I was unforgivable.

I did everything I could to save our marriage, but finally, after more than twenty years of total darkness, I had to leave. One day on my way to work, I stopped into a church, and I saw a bulletin announcement for healing after abortion. It took me a few months before I had the courage to call. I was so scared, but the Sister on the phone was very kind and invited me to the Day of Prayer and Healing.

It was a huge turning point in my life. I realized I was not alone and that God could actually forgive me. On the Day of Prayer and Healing, I was invited to name my children. I cried for days after, both in pain and happiness, that I finally could have

a relationship with my children. Now on holidays, instead of feeling depressed I feel joy. I have my children with me.

For twenty years, my heart was covered with a big rock. I had been in a tomb, in darkness. The rock has been plucked out of my heart, and it has become a place of grace. The heaviness that was in my heart has been replaced with joy. On one retreat, I felt like God said to me, "I am making you into a new person." It made me want to live my life differently. I never dreamed I would be in the position I am in now.

I would love to announce to the world what God has done for me. People tell me I look so different ... I know it's God's grace. They see the joy in me. I am beginning to see and believe that God uses all things for good, even my mistakes. My identity is not my mistakes or weaknesses. I offer them to Him; He is transforming them and making me more like Himself.

My desire now is for holiness. I know that God will satisfy our desires for holiness, and bring us to the heights of sanctity. I don't deserve it, but I know that God will bring me to that place. I am waiting for Him to tell me what is next. And I tell Him, "I am Yours!" I know I am not perfect, but He is making me perfect. He is making me into a new person. I know that I am a daughter of God.

I felt like God said to me, "I am making you into a new person."

* Name changed for anonymity.



Saying goodbye to our

"We were not created to lead drab, narrow, or constricted lives, but to live in the wide-open spaces. We find confinement unbearable, simply because we were created in the image of God, and we have within us an unquenchable need for the absolute and the infinite."

- Fr. Jacques Philippe

FREEDOM FROM: Shame

The guilt of our doing something bad becomes the lie of "I am bad".



FREEDOM FROM: Unforgiveness

The world urges us to hold grudges, which just perpetuates the cycle of pain.



FREEDOM FROM: Social Media and Electronics

The frenzy to stay updated with photos and posts can prevent us from actually living. Though connected to more people online, our relationships might actually be more superficial.



FREEDOM FOR: Peace

Lies cannot survive when exposed to the light. Share your story with someone you trust. Reclaim the truth that Jesus came not to condemn but to save, and that you are a child of God with incredible dignity and worth.

(cf. Jn 3:17; Rm 8: 14-17)



FREEDOM FOR: Healing

Forgiving another can seem impossible, but Christ has given us the capacity to love as He does. By acknowledging how you were hurt, choosing forgiveness, asking for the grace to see the other as a beloved child of God, and offering a prayer for them, you can open a door to healing in your heart.



FREEDOM FOR: True Friendship

Try fasting from electronics. Go for a walk with a friend and talk from the heart, soak in the unhindered beauty of a sunset, or find a quiet space to read Scripture.

and HELLO to the

drab, constricted spaces

by Sr. Fidelity Grace, SV

FREEDOM FROM:

Money and Possessions

Restless shopping for the “next best thing” is an unending cycle that leaves us empty and unsatisfied. After all, what we own, owns us.



FREEDOM FROM: Sin

Anger, greed, lust, sloth, envy, pride, gluttony — they’re the plague of every human heart.



FREEDOM FROM:

Fear and anxiety

Fear distorts the past, erodes the present, and lies about the future. It’s the great paralyzer.



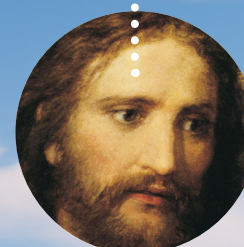
FREEDOM FOR: Gratitude

You can’t buy happiness or take stuff with you when you die. Next time you are inclined to shop for something you really don’t need, thank God for what you do have and give to someone in need, instead.



FREEDOM FOR: Love

There is nothing that gives Jesus more joy than freeing us from our sins. Let them go. Give them to Him in the Sacrament of Confession, and let Him fill you with His love.



FREEDOM FOR: Trust

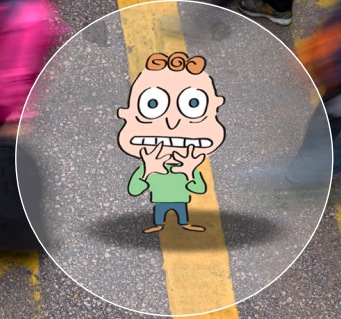
Next time you feel fear or anxiety creeping in, try praying: “Jesus, I trust in You.”

WIDE OPEN PLACES

Where do I go with my

ANXIETY?

By Sr. Fidelity Grace, SV and Sr. Marie Veritas, SV



Work deadlines, sticky relationships, doctor's test results, a looming exam ... daily stresses so often stoke the hum of uncertainty, self-doubt, and inadequacy deep within us. The plague of anxiety seems to affect us all in different ways.

Anxiety: what's the cause?

Restless striving.

Anxiety occurs when restless striving (even sub-consciously) to earn our worth, to prove that we are loveable, to be "the best," hits up against the painful awareness of our deficiencies – that what we have will never be enough.

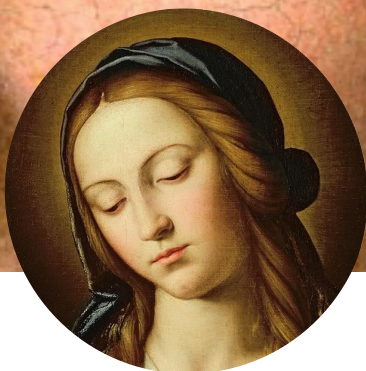
What's the remedy?

It's all about handing it over.

Another name for it is surrender. In the Christian life, surrender is the ultimate victory. Surrender does not mean we passively permit injustice, or relinquish all our dreams and accept a mediocre existence. Rather, it is embracing the truth of our being. We are not the Creator; we are creatures. We cannot control the universe, but we can choose how we respond to the universe and to the God who holds the universe in His hands. We can be perpetually discouraged by our own deficiencies, forever wishing we were someone else, or we can receive ourselves as God does – weaknesses and all – and ask the limitless God to fill us with Himself.



FINDING PEACE / *The vision of the saints*



Calling on Mary's help

Our Lady is the expert in surrender. She knew herself to be little, poor, and humble — a simple Galilean maid. She certainly didn't understand the whole plan of the Incarnation. But she trusted God. With her free consent to God's proposal, "I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to Your word." (Lk 1:38), she allowed God to make her His Mother, the Queen of the Universe, the Mother of the Church, and the one who crushes the head of the serpent. We can ask her for help in giving God permission in our lives.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly to you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother; to you do we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer us. Amen.



Servant of God Dolindo Ruotolo
(1882-1970)

Servant of God Dolindo Ruotolo embodied a spirit of surrender and became God's instrument of healing and rebirth within the Church. Besides writing copious volumes of theology, this "scribe of the Holy Spirit" taught the world how to embrace the Cross. Fr. Dolindo was known for kissing the sores of the beggar, prescribing prayers as remedies to the sick (many of whom were miraculously cured), and receiving the wounds of Christ in the stigmata. He said, "I am totally poor. My strength is my prayer. My leader is the will of God, which I let take me by the hand. My security over the uneven path is the heavenly Mother Mary."

Meditation of Fr. Dolindo:

Jesus to the soul:

Why are you upset and agitated?

Leave your cares to Me, and all will be fine....

Abandonment means to shut the eyes of your soul in peace, moving your thoughts away from your troubles, and, instead of thinking about your worries and pain, let Me take over your troubles. Simply say: "Jesus, You take over."... A thousand prayers do not equal only one act of abandonment; don't ever forget it. There is no better novena than this: O Jesus, I abandon myself to You! Jesus, You take over.

Prayer: O Jesus, I abandon myself to You!
Jesus, You take over.

Imprimatur + Vincenzo Pelvi, Auxiliary Bishop of Naples, Italy July 25, 2006



St. Thérèse of Lisieux
(1873-1897)

St. Thérèse of Lisieux spoke often about being little before God and confidently casting ourselves into His merciful love, as a child would throw himself trustingly into the arms of a tender and merciful father. A simple French Carmelite nun who has been heralded as "the greatest saint of modern times" (Pope St. Pius X), St. Thérèse astonished the world with her Little Way of Spiritual Childhood — a way of trust, love, and entire self-surrender.

Thoughts of St. Thérèse:

"I am not always faithful, but I am never discouraged; I leave myself wholly in the arms of our Divine Lord. He teaches me to draw profit from all — both good and ill that He finds in me (cf. St. John of the Cross). He teaches me to speculate in the Bank of Love, or rather it is He who acts for me without telling me how He goes to work — that is His affair and not mine. My part is complete surrender, reserving nothing to myself, not even the gratification of knowing how my credit stands with the Bank."

THE SISTERS OF LIFE
Annunciation Motherhouse
38 Montebello Road
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"Pay attention! Your life is not an endless series of open doors! Listen to your heart! Do not stay on the surface, but go to the heart of things! And when the time is right, have the courage to decide! The Lord is waiting for you to put your freedom in His good hands." - St. John Paul II



OUR NEW NOVICES:

*(Back row L-R) Sr. Noelle Marie Bethlehem, Sr. Elena Marie, Sr. Maria Annunciata
(Front row L-R) Sr. Mariae Eucharistia Joy, Sr. Eden Marie, Sr. Rose Patrick O'Connor*

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Annunciation Motherhouse

(Generalate, Novitiate)
38 Montebello Road, Suffern, NY 10901
845/357-3547
Vocations call: 845/357-0258

Heart of Jesus Convent

125 Lafayette Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901
845/547-2630

St. Frances de Chantal Convent

(Postulant House, Evangelization)
198 Hollywood Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465
718/863-2264

New York Mission to Pregnant Women

20 Cardinal Hayes Place, New York, NY 10007
Pregnancy help call: 212/737-0221
Toll free: 877/777-1277
Co-workers of Life call: 646/882-1087

Visitation Convent

320 East 66th Street, New York, NY 10065

Philadelphia Mission to Pregnant Women

St. Malachy's Convent
1413 North 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122
267/831-3100

Toronto Mission

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Pregnancy help call: 416/463-2722

St. Joseph's Convent

172 Leslie Street, Toronto, ON M4M 3C7 Canada

St. Paul the Apostle Convent

(Hope & Healing After Abortion)
586 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705
914/968-8094
Toll free: 866/575-0075
hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org

Villa Maria Guadalupe

(Retreat House)
159 Sky Meadow Drive, Stamford, CT 06903
203/329-1492

Sacred Heart of Jesus Convent

212/397-1396

St. Clare's Convent and Eucharistic Chapel

3900 13th Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20017
202/635-0931

St. Mary Magdalene Convent

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