

SIN KILLS AND DESTROYS; but *the Lord upholds our lives*. Sin spills out in a dizzying array of temptation, is nearly impossible to fully clean up, and manages to find its way into every possible nook and corner of our lives. We know how sin got there – sin is evil! But seriously, it calls for God's direct intervention to fully rid ourselves of the mess and disorder – of its consequences and never-ending effects.

St. James questions, "*where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members?*" He does talk about sin – the dis-ordering of our desires and actions, and the consequences and effects of original sin. It goes everywhere, and touches everything.

It is Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin because we cannot save ourselves. Jesus Christ, who tells his disciples, who do not understand, that he will be *handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise*. Our Savior instructs us to order our desires and actions in service to one another. He, as fully divine and fully human is the direct intervention of God that we long for.

As far as we know, no one has ever died from an abundance of glitter that falls on us. The same cannot be said of sin. Sin kills and destroys; but *the Lord upholds my life*, says the psalmist. We always have a choice whether to heed the attraction toward sin, or toward Jesus. Let us pray that the grace of God we receive in Word and Sacrament may sustain us in our endeavors toward only that which is good – that our lives may reflect not the glitter of sin, but the light of the Son.

Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony

UPCOMING RETREATS:

GRIEF RECOVERY WEEKEND — Are you, or someone you love, grieving the end of a marriage from death, divorce or permanent separation? A *Beginning Experience Weekend* can help bring healing from such a loss. The next opportunity to attend a weekend is **October 12-14**, at the Griffin Center in Milwaukie, OR (near Clackamas Town Ctr.). The retreat consists of presentations by *Beginning Experience* team members, periods for private reflection, and sharing in small groups. Please contact Judith at: 503-949-4592 or judholtz@gmail.com. Website info at: <http://www.beginningexperienceoforegon.org>

OTHER INFORMATION YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW: *Beginning Experience*, a peer ministry, was created in the 1970's by Sister Josephine Stewart, with the help of the founders of *Marriage Encounter*. It is on the list approved by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Oregon team, active since 1978, provides 3 healing weekends each year. It is a peer ministry of people who have benefitted from this program and have received training to offer this opportunity to others.

RETROUVAILLE — FIND A NEW BEGINNING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE by attending a Retrouvaille retreat Rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship. Retrouvaille is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering For confidential information or to register for the **October 12-14 (2018)** weekend, go to: www.helpourmarriage.org or call 1-503-225-9191.

OCTOBER 6TH (SATURDAY)

8:00AM -- 4:00PM

OREGON STATE FAIRGROUNDS PAVILION (IN SALEM)



Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
(Congregation of Marian Fathers
of the Immaculate Conception)
Keynote Speaker

"UNPROTECTED" — #Metoo... Sexting pressure... The Hook-up culture... Teenage depression & suicide. How did the culture become so toxic for women? And how did one man foresee this all so clearly 50 years ago? From the producer of Convinced, a new documentary about Humanae Vitae, the devastating effects of the sexual revolution, and the counter-cultural movement that is rising from its ashes. To purchase tickets to this local showing, go to: <https://www.tugg.com/events/unprotected-88um> **Deadline to purchase tickets is Sept. 25!**

NATIONAL ROSARY RALLY All are invited to participate in this rally on October 7th — the *feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows*. It will be at 1:00pm — this time corresponds to the other time zones in the U.S., so all will be praying at the same time! Location is the public right-of-way at the Planned Parenthood facility (3579 Franklin Blvd). Let us seek together Our Lady's help in fighting this great battle for the very souls of our church and our nation. For more info contact Doris at: djdimpki@gmail.com or 541-520-6787.



You are invited to join other Christians across our nation for the **40 Days for Life** Fall campaign of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, from **September 26th through November 4th**. Locally, we will also have, in addition, a 40 day Vigil of peaceful prayer in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood facility (3579 Franklin Blvd). For more info, or to volunteer for the prayer Vigil, contact Eileen at 541-543-7168 or email: etmoregon@yahoo.com; website: 40DaysforLife.com/Eugene.

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

CAN YOU 'LOSE' YOUR SALVATION?

Many Christians declare: "Once saved, always saved!" By this they mean that once a person confesses faith in Jesus Christ, he is "saved" from all God's punishments for sin, including hell. No matter what that person may do for the rest of his life, he is still guaranteed a place in heaven.

Catholics — and many other Christians — reject this teaching as unbiblical. For example, there is this warning in the Book of Sirach: "Do not be so confident of forgiveness that you add sin upon sin. Do not say 'His mercy is great; my many sins he will forgive'. For mercy and anger alike are with him; his wrath comes to rest on the wicked" (Sir 5:5-6). Some might object that this passage doesn't apply to Christians; after all, Sirach is in the Old Testament, and some Protestant bibles don't even have that book in the OT. Nevertheless, the New Testament echoes this warning:

For it is impossible in the case of those who have been enlightened and tasted the heavenly gift and shared in the holy Spirit and tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to bring them to repentance again, since they are recrucifying the Son of God for themselves and holding him up to contempt (Heb 6:4-6).

At the same time, in speaking of severe trials ahead for his followers, Jesus predicts that "the love of many will grow cold. But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved" (Mt 24:12-13). Not the one who makes a one-time confession of faith, **but the one who perseveres to the end**.

We should note that "salvation" means more than just an initial experience of faith. It's a lifelong process, in this world and the next, which culminates — if we faithfully persevere — in perfect holiness and the vision of God. After the "new birth", St. Peter says, despite undergoing "various trials, ... you attain the goal of [your] faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Pt 1:3,6,9).

So we don't obtain our salvation on one day, and "lose" it on another. Instead, for a lifetime we must "work out [our] salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12).

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Rom 13:11 · 2 Thes 2:3-5 · Heb 10:26-29 · 1 Pt 1:3-5; 2:2-3 ·

& Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 95 · 169 · 620 · 776 · 780 · 830 · 980 · 1129 · 1257 · 1696 · 1811 · 1889 · 2036 · 2090-92 ·