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Welcome to Father Vlad's Newsletter!

Let's stay in touch for updates on events and special seasonal messages!

I will be glad to stay in touch, but if you prefer not to receive these messages, please unsubscribe below. Thank you.

Please visit www.fathervlad.com for more!

The Universe Catholic

Father Vlad latest column on The Universe Catholic Weekly:

[6th October 2023 - In life as in sport, when hopes run out, so do your chances of succeeding](#)

[15th September 2023 - Resilience is a God-given attribute](#)

[1st September 2023 - The wonderful women in sport](#)

Annual Papal Knights & Dames Mass 2023

Thursday 5th October 2023
Westminster Cathedral
Lk 10, 1-12

Thanks to our baptism, we are like the 72, sent into the world to let people know that "The kingdom of God is very near to you."

Preach, not so much by what we say, but how we are.

Ask yourself – ask your family (if you dare!)– "Do I reveal love? Do I reveal my faith – my commitment to God? Do I reveal hope?"

Given our dodgy government performance with inflation, immigration and so many negative fallout from Brexit, NHS and prison service understaffing, fruit and veg rotting as inadequate pickers available, long waiting times for operations - and outside London - for ambulances, raw sewage pouring into rivers and on beaches, police prosecuting a mere tiny proportion of rape cases and burglaries - and The Met in serious trouble – in the media, motives for hope are currently in short supply.

To help me sustain my hope, I have, balanced on my computer at Vaughan House, St Teresa of Avila's prayer – in Spanish - which says;

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things will pass away. God never changes; patience obtains all things, whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices. Amen

On that computer – bottom left hand side - I also attached a quote from Frederick Nietzsche (Hard to spell that surname!) It says, "I might believe in the Redeemer if his followers looked more redeemed."

So, let us look more redeemed, more full of joy and hope. Our society needs fewer grumps and many more Catholic Christians that, revealing hope, are evangelical – evangelising.

Those of you who know me, I know, hope this homily will be short. And it is. Here and now, your hope has been fulfilled.

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - 8th October 2023

For me, this gospel scene is about responsibility. There is a link between cause and effect. Our vocation is to bear fruit for the kingdom of God. Were we to decide not to do this, that Kingdom shall be taken from us, just like the tenants of the vineyard.

We have to try to do God's will or risk never knowing the beauty of life with God earth and then the splendour of heaven.

We pray this in the Lord's Prayer: "thy kingdom come; thy will be done – not mine! - on earth as it is in heaven."

In the morning, cleaning my teeth, I ask myself, "What does your father, dear, Yesh, want me to do today?"

Thanks to Jesus, the whole of humanity became The Chosen People – not merely the Jews who had been in the Original Testament, The Vineyard – and looked after so carefully, with the building of a wall around it, had a winepress dug in it and a watchtower built for it.

In the New Testament, God's vineyard was being opened to anyone who would submit themselves to - and commit themselves to - the Jesus, the cornerstone.

God is not a racist, nor classist, nor ageist. Status is irrelevant. It is not who you are but how you behave that matters. Behaviour – commitment to God – is what matters.

Bad Popes can go to hell. Morally sound laity - and even mere priests - can live on earth with God and end up in heaven. Thank God.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1st October 2023

As we can see, repentance can be both negative and positive.

I will do – I will not do

I will not do – I will do.

Actions speak louder than words

Quick, nearly automatic reactions, called primo-primi acts, are reflex and nearly instantaneous reactions, such as withdrawing one's hand after suffering an electric shock – or react with anger when attacked, physically, intellectually or emotionally in which the will does not have time to intervene. These are acts of a human NOT - technically/ethically human acts.

It's good to have the courage - and wisdom -to change plan in light of context. Invited to a meal, you may plan to bring a bottle of wine – until you find your host is a drying out teetotaler.

When hurt/insulted, the instinct might be to plot revenge – until you remember Mt 25, 40 "What you do to the least of mine, you do unto me."

Too tired to do morning exercise? Until I remember that my body is a gift from God and not to look after a gift is an insult to the to the giver. So, I get on with it.

See someone who is "not one of us" and thus get tempted to look down on them – even treat them badly , until remember that every human is a child of [God and carries, deep-down, that omnipresent divine DNA.

Feel fear? Flight? Or remember your duty, responsibility – even PR image – and pass through that fear barrier and perform as a courageous person.

When tempted to not prepare my homily, I use my vanity to do my best and – perhaps – keep my reputation as an OK preacher – worth a cup of cappuccino after mass.

Father Vlad on Radio Maria

Father Vlad podcasts on Radio Maria England are available! Please follow this link to access all podcasts [Father Vlad's Radio Maria podcasts](#)

Latest writing from Father Vlad

The population of Earth is around 7.8 Billion. For most people, it is a significant figure. However, if you condensed 7.8 billion into 100 persons, and then into various percentage statistics, the resulting analysis is relatively much easier to comprehend.

Out of 100 :
11 are in Europe.
5 are in North America
9 are in South America
15 are in Africa.
60 are in Asia.

49 live in the countryside
51 live in cities

75 have mobile phones.
25 do not

30 have internet access.
70 do not have the availability to go online.

83 can read.
17 are illiterate.

33 are Christians.
22 are Muslims.
14 are Hindus.
7 are Buddhists.
12 are other religions.
12 have no religious beliefs.

26 live less than 14 years Wow!
66 died between 15 - 64 years of age.
8 are over 65 years old.

If you have your own home,
Eat full meals & drink clean water,
Have a mobile phone,
Can surf the internet, and
have gone to college,
You are in the minuscule privileged lot.
(in the less than 7% category)

Amongst 100 persons in the world, only eight live or exceed the age of 65!

If you are over 65 years old, be content & grateful. Cherish life. Grasp the moment. If you did not leave this world before the age of 64, like the 92 persons who have gone before you, you are already the blessed amongst humankind. Take good care of your health. Cherish every remaining moment. AND NOW: Pay attention all you thinkers! This is an area that is staring me in the face daily. If you think you are suffering memory loss, read on.

Anosognosia, very interesting:

In the following analysis, the French Professor Bruno Dubois, Director of the Institute of Memory and Alzheimer's Disease (IMMA) at La Pitié-Salpêtrière - Paris Hospital

addresses the subject in a rather reassuring way:

"If anyone is aware of their memory problems, they do not have Alzheimer's."

- 1. forget the names of families.
- 2. do not remember where I put some things .

It often happens in people 60 years and older that they complain that they lack memory. "The information is always in the brain, it is the "processor" that is lacking."

This is "Anosognosia" or temporary forgetfulness.

Half of people 60 and older have some symptoms that are due to age rather than disease. The most common cases are:

- forgetting the name of a person,
- going to a room in the house and not remembering why we were going there,
- a blank memory for a movie title or actor, an actress,
- a waste of time searching where we left our glasses or keys.

After 60 years most people have such a difficulty, which indicates that it is not a disease but rather a characteristic due to the passage of years .

Many people are concerned about these oversights hence the importance of the following statements:

- 1. "Those who are conscious of being forgetful have no serious problem of memory."
- 2. "Those who suffer from a memory illness or Alzheimer's, are not aware of what is happening."

Professor Bruno Dubois, Director of IMMA, reassures the majority of people concerned about their oversights:

"The more we complain about memory loss, the less likely we are to suffer from memory sickness."

We are truly blessed, So, share this with your over-55 friends, it can reassure them.

In any case, if you are over 65 and complaining about a few aches and pains, think again...

...92% of people didn't even get that opportunity.

Don't forget to buy Father Vlad's book Life Squared!

As I approached my 80th birthday, I wanted to find out what I really thought about life. Writing this book has crystallised my experiences. I now know better what I have learned and what I think.

Now, that I'm coming to the end of my life, I have finally learned how to live. Time's slippage nudged me to act on my dream of passing what I have learned on to others.

Father Vlad

[download the introduction to Life Squared](#)

To buy your copy of the book (£12.95+pp) please contact Father Vlad at: msgr.vladimir.felzmann@gmail.com or +44 (7810) 116 508



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