

## Mini Lesson # 2!

Good Morning Everyone!

Hopefully between schoolwork and chores around the house from Mom and Dad are keeping you busy! For a chance to take a break... here are a few things to ponder about today:

### Questions to consider as a family:

1. What have you done over this past week that you're THANKFUL for?
  - a. So many people/social media are focused on the negatives of this event that most have not stopped to think of the positives...ex: time you get to spend with family, denied by so many that have lost loved ones. As you reside in your homes so close to your parents, brothers and sisters, you may get annoyed with each other quickly. I challenge you, take a second, go into your room alone and think about what your life would be like if you didn't have them anymore? When you think of your daily "problems/struggles" it helps to put them in perspective.
2. What have you done over this past week to bring yourself closer to God?
  - a. I know you may have schoolwork, parents may be working from home, housework piles up, being in close proximity tensions raise. Instead of getting things accomplished, it's so much easier to just sit and watch TV, go online, read a book, do ANYTHING other than pray or think about Him.
  - b. Set goals as a family during this time.
    - i. Say a morning prayer together.
    - ii. Say a rosary each week (even if it's split up over days)
    - iii. Learn about a new saint
    - iv. Make a prayer list for those you're going to pray for each day/week
    - v. Go through your closets and rooms, collect clothes you don't wear anymore to donate to the needy. Do this with your food as well if you can.
    - vi. GET CREATIVE! This is a very short list of possibilities!

### Questions to consider as a teen:

1. Vocation...AAHHHHHHHHH!!! When you hear that word, you might already be tuned out, done with reading, I'm not going to be a sister or nun or priest, this lesson doesn't pertain to me.
  - a. DID YOU KNOW...**being married is a Vocation, staying single is a Vocation?**  
Your vocation is how you are called by God to serve Him and live a more Christ-like life. We are not all called to religious life, nor are we all called to be married.

2. When you think of a Priest, do you think of someone who has done drugs, abused alcohol, been with multiple women? Do you think of someone who is angry, mad at God, hated the church? Do you think of someone who is engaged to be married to a beautiful woman? Do you think of someone broken, who feels unloved and unwanted?

I challenge you to watch this short video about the lives of 2 incredible men and their path to the priesthood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTw5xg37QF0>

3. As a daughter of a King, do you think it would be wonderful to serve God as a sister or nun, yet you know in your heart you want a family and children? Listen to the short vocation story of Sr. Bethany Madonna. Her words are incredible!

- a. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x\\_l4R9s\\_szA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_l4R9s_szA)

**Amid worsening conditions related to the global coronavirus outbreak, Pope Francis urged Catholics to unite spiritually to pray the rosary simultaneously on the Feast of St. Joseph.**

<https://angelusnews.com/news/vatican/pope-urges-catholics-to-unite-spiritually-in-praying-rosary-thursday/?fbclid=IwAR1FqIPUSPPPzFdfowktWX3CGyjQof-qXxk7vOo4lzl821tb7aqc3vKnNUs>

**SAINT OF THE DAY – St. Augustine of Hippo**

St. Augustine of Hippo is the patron of brewers because of his conversion from a former life of loose living, which included parties, entertainment, and worldly ambitions. His complete turnaround and conversion has been an inspiration to many who struggle with a particular vice or habit they long to break.

This famous son of St. Monica was born in Africa and spent many years of his life in wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his pride darkened his mind so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine Truth anymore. Through the prayers of his holy mother and the marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion. Yet he did not become a Christian then, because he thought he could never live a pure life. One day, however, he heard about two men who had suddenly been converted on reading the life of St. Antony, and he felt terrible ashamed of himself. "What are we doing?" he cried to his friend Alipius. "Unlearned people are taking Heaven by force, while we, with all our knowledge, are so cowardly that we keep rolling around in the mud of our sins!"

Full of bitter sorrow, Augustine flung himself out into the garden and cried out to God, "How long more, O Lord? Why does not this hour put an end to my sins?" Just then he heard a child singing, "Take up and read!" Thinking that God intended him to hear those words, he picked up the book of the Letters of St. Paul, and read the first passage his gaze fell on. It was just what Augustine needed, for in it, St. Paul says to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus. That did it! From then on, Augustine began a new life.

He was baptized, became a priest, a bishop, a famous Catholic writer, Founder of religious orders, and one of the greatest saints that ever lived. He became very devout and charitable, too. On the wall of his room he had the following sentence written in large letters: "Here we do not speak evil of anyone." St. Augustine overcame strong heresies, practiced great poverty and supported the poor, preached very often and prayed with great fervor right up until his death. "Too late have I loved You!" he once cried to God, but with his holy life he certainly made up for the sins he committed before his conversion. His feast day is August 28th.