

THY WILL BE DONE: $w = W$!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In line with St. Maximilian Kolbe's formula for Sainthood or Sanctity ($W + w = S$, see my column in last week's bulletin), and in response to feedback from some of you, I propose a simpler equation: $w = W$ (w is my will and W is God's will). I will be a saint; I will be holy if my greatest desire is to do God's Will, i.e. if my will becomes aligned with God's Will. This is one of the central petitions we make to God whenever we pray the "Our Father"...**THY WILL BE DONE!** We cannot be holy if we choose to follow our worldly desires or human passions. St. James reminded us last week that "*where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder...but the wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits...and the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.*" (James 3:16-18).

Whenever you pray the "Our Father," I invite you to reflect on each of the seven petitions it includes, especially the third one; "**Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.**" Ask yourself what is the meaning of "Thy will be done on earth?" Pray on how it applies to you **personally** (Lord, help me to do only Thy Will, not mine), or to **your family** (Lord, help my family, as the domestic Church, to do Thy Will only), or to **our Entire Catholic Church**, or to the whole world. Consider using that approach for each petition: e.g. the second one "*Thy Kingdom come*" can apply to you personally (Lord, be the King of my heart) ...or to your family (Lord, become the King/Head of my family) ...

With St. Maximilian Kolbe, we can apply the same Holiness Formula replacing God's Will (W) with Mary's Will (M) as he points out: "Mary is the only created person who perfectly does God's Will." Using equations, we can say: $M=W$. So, if I strive to be united with Mary (Consecration to Jesus through Mary), I can say $w = M$ and the formula for Holiness becomes: $w = M = W$

I like mathematics because it is total logic ... But enough of algebra equations ... Let's return to the central question: "How can I unite my will with Mary's will, and therefore God's Will? Meditate on Mary's "Yes" to the Angel Gabriel: "**Be it done unto me according to thy word.**" This total obedience to God's Word and His Will is a challenge for all of us. While we can strive to imitate Mary's virtues of faith, obedience, and humility, we will not be able to achieve the same level, and worse, we are all likely to fall into sinfulness (though through confession we can return to a state of grace). Again, St. James can help us: "*You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend on your passions,*" (James 4:3). My suggestion is to **ask the Holy Spirit to help find out what I need to ask from God!** Then if I ask for what is **right**, God will provide as long as my request is genuine and comes from the depth of my heart. **Come Holy Spirit, living in Mary. Come Holy and Loving Spirit. Give me a pure heart as Mary. Come Holy Spirit!**

As we continue our Journey of Faith during this Year of the Holy Spirit (ending on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019), I invite everyone to consider attending THE GIFT: A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COURSE beginning Saturday morning, October 20 or Tuesday evening, October 23 (sign-up sheet in Narthex). As presented eloquently by Fr. Conley at all Masses last week, this is a 6-week course that can change your life forever!

We are also inviting you to join Bishop Dorsonville at 5 pm next Sunday, October 7. This is a parish-wide event that can also strengthen your **Journey of Faith**. If you have not yet seen the International Pilgrim Statue, come. You will not be disappointed. Miracles have happened when praying the Rosary! It can happen to you on October 7, the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary! In this connection, I am grateful for the many of you who are now praying the Rosary on a daily basis for the healing of the victims of clergy abuse and the healing of the whole Church as we, the Body of Christ, are all affected by these grave sins of the priests and bishops. Come also and spend some time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and praying the Rosary through an all-night Prayer Vigil (Sunday evening, October 7 through Monday morning).

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain