



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: Our Lady of America
Part VIII: Revisiting Saint Joseph and Fatherhood



Saint Joseph
Public Domain

Introduction

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican with a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon is still our only cradle Catholic on the team, and, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because they leave the simple jobs to me. At least that is what I think I overheard them to say. Anyway, to answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

We are also joined by special guest panelist, Donna Mae. Donna Mae is the artist who sculpted the statue of Our Lady of America which was carried at the 1993 World Youth Day at Denver, Colorado. While Donna Mae did not personally meet with Sister Mary Ephrem, she did converse with Sister via phone and mail as Donna Mae sculpted the statue and therefore, Donna Mae became part of the history associated with Our Lady of America.

Donna Mae, we are happy to have you back as a member of our panel.

Also, as promised, we are joined by Father Donald Calloway. who is a prominent Marian priest with an unmistakable zeal for the priesthood and devotion to Our Lady. He is a well-known conference speaker and author of several books on Divine Mercy and the Blessed Virgin Mary. His most recent publication is a book which Scott Hahn describes as, “...a summary of the whole of the study of St. Joseph — the wisdom of the saints, the teachings of the popes, and the reflections of theologians.”

The title of the book is Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father. It is available for purchase through the website, www.consecrationtostjoseph.org or you can also visit

www.fathercalloway.com, and at the upper right hand corner, you will see an oval that says, “Consecration to St. Joseph, Click here.” So, click there, and if technology works, it will take you where you can learn more about Father Calloway's book.

Father, we are truly excited to have you join us today!

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise and their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We pray especially today for our good shepherds. We are in such desperate need of them, and they are so few. We pray, dear Lord, that You will protect them and increase their number. We pray You will grant them the wisdom, courage, and strength, as well as the good health by which they may nourish Your flock with Your Holy Truth.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, send us an email at armoroffaithradio@gmail.com. Please include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and capture it for our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during our daily prayers.

If you haven't discovered, yet, you can listen to us on any device where you can connect to the Internet, including your smartphone. In addition to wcatradio.com/armoroffaith, we are available through a number of streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, and CastBox, among others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We would also like to ask your assistance in evangelization. By sharing the URL for our show, you can help us spread knowledge of our faith. All you need to do is share the URL, wcatradio.com/armoroffaith via email or social media and tell family and friends as well. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so we invite you to join the evangelization and help us spread the good news of the Gospel and our faith in Jesus Christ. You can also help us by selecting the follow or subscribe option associated with the service through which you listen to our show.

Current Day Commentary:

Last time, I mentioned that I would address the broader environment of what is known as our entertainment, mainstream, and social media platforms. While we must recognize the concerted and dedicated attack on the fabric of our nation, we must also note that the same forces seek the destruction of the Church Christ built upon Peter. As I have mentioned before, our salvation does not depend on whether this ideology or that is right or wrong, it depends on our understanding and living what God asks of us. We must also recognize that Catholics shall face persecution from all sides, as we seek the side of God.

So, what are we to do? As timing would have it, I discovered a card in a desk drawer with a Rosary attached to it which was sent to Sharon. You know what happens, guests come over and the quick way to clean up the pile of mail on the counter is to push it into a drawer. As I was thinking about the commentary for today, I happened to open that drawer and discovered the card. I went to ask Sharon what she intended to do with the Rosary, and then, I began to read the card, which was entitled, "Rosary Miracle Story."

The story provided a short history of Father Pavlicek who founded the Holy Rosary Crusade in response to the occupation of a portion of Austria by the communist government of Russia after World War II. I decided to look the story up and was brought to an article entitled, "The Rosary: Will You Join in Our Crusade?" And then, and then, you know what happened then? I noticed the article quoted our guest today, Father Calloway, but I will get to that in a moment. First, I want to tell the story of the Rosary Crusade.

According to accounts, Father Pavlicek was on pilgrimage to a shrine in Austria, in 1947, when he heard an interior voice which said, "*Do as I say and there will be peace.*" Following the inspiration of Our Lady, Father Pavlicek began to promote a Rosary Crusade. At first, the groups were small, but over time, those committed to praying the Rosary daily, as well as the size of the Rosary processions, began to increase to over half a million participants in 1955. The prayer intention was for for the end of communism in their country. Those who processed included the Prime Minister and other members of the Austrian government. In October, 1955, the last Soviet soldier was peacefully withdrawn from Austria. (Yank)

This is but one of many events attributed to the power of the Rosary. While others may carry weapons of the world, we must prepare ourselves with the weapons of heaven if we are to resist the evil day. (cf. Ephesians 6:13) The Rosary is such a weapon.

In her lead into recounting the story of the Rosary Crusade, the article's author referenced the following quote from Father Calloway:

Interestingly, at the beginning of the rosary's existence, many people began to wear it on the left side of their belt in order to signify that it was a spiritual sword.

Of course, we know the sword from Ephesians 6:17, which tells us the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. This symbology of carrying the Rosary reflects the power of the Rosary as the basic weapon of the Christian soldier in the face of evil. Our Lady told Saint Dominic that the Angelic Psalter is the weapon the Trinity wants to use to reform the world. (Montfort, 15) We

must never underestimate the power of the Rosary and what heaven will unleash for the faithful when the Rosary is prayed faithfully and with devotion.

Just as the faithful have come together to form an army of prayer warriors who lift their petitions for heaven's help in decades and centuries past, we are once more at such a time. With the political chaos and incivility rampantly increasing in our day, we must not cede the ground to the evil one, rather, we must shine the Light (with a capitol "L") which extinguishes the darkness. Can we imagine a Rosary procession of a half-million people in America?

In each parish and neighborhood, it begins with someone who asks of those who surround them, "Will you join me to pray the Rosary with the intention of peace and the healing of our nation?" Indeed, the spiritual battle may rage for years, just as it did for eight years in Austria, but as prayer families, groups, and processions swell with hearts of love, we must trust the will of God shall be done. The question we face is whether we are prepared to join the army of Christ's prayer soldiers and are we trained and prepared to take up the Rosary as our basic weapon against the tactics of the devil? (cf. Ephesians 6:11)

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Saints - Part III:

Welcome back to the journey to Sainthood.

Last time we read from the USCCB the history of becoming a saint as well as the first step of modern requirements. Today let us continue this study by following the next steps required for sainthood.

Stage II – Beatification

For the beatification of a Venerable, a miracle attributed to his intercession, verified after his death, is necessary. The required miracle must be proven through the appropriate canonical investigation, following a procedure analogous to that for heroic virtues. This investigation too is concluded with the appropriate decree. Once the decree on the miracle is promulgated the pope grants the beatification, which is the concession of limited public veneration – usually only in the diocese, hierarchy, region, or religious community in which the Blessed lived. With beatification the candidate receives the title of Blessed. For a martyr, no miracle is required. Thus when the pope approves the position declaring that the person was martyred for the faith, the title Blessed is granted to the martyr at that time.

Stage III – Canonization

For canonization another miracle is needed for both Blessed martyrs and Blessed who lived a virtuous life, attributed to the intercession of the Blessed and having occurred after his or her beatification. The methods for affirming the miracle are the same as those followed for beatification. Canonization allows for the public veneration of the Saint by the Universal Church. With canonization, the Blessed acquires the title of Saint.

All Christians are called to be saints. Saints are persons in heaven (officially canonized or not), who lived heroically virtuous lives, offered their life for others, or were martyred for the faith, and who are worthy of imitation. (USCCB)

We started off with an understanding of what a saint is. A saint is a person of noble character who did the work of and for our Lord. And now we are concluding with how one becomes a saint. Remember me asking you to look for people in your life who you believe to be a hero? I am willing to bet that if you could not think of anyone before, you can now. We may not always recognize the heroes when they cross our paths, but we will figure it out later.

The Catholic Church says Saints are heroes; heroes who dedicated their lives to serving God and living in holiness. The job of heroes is to spread God's plan of salvation for all. Saintly persons have also become heroes because they refused to deny the faith and died in the wake of this denial.

Saints are heroes who teach us how we are to live our lives. By their examples, we might learn to live more spiritual and satisfying lives within our faith communities. Saints teach us that it is not what we have in this world, but what we leave behind that counts. Our days are numbered and we all need to find ways of improving the land we live in, the faith families we are involved with, and our own spiritual health and well being.

The saints have paved the way for us to find our way to Jesus Christ. Every saint had a biography that told a fascinating story. Every saint was a human person who walked upon this earth just like we do. Almost every saint lived in times and places we can only read about these days. I say, "almost" as today we do have saints of which we may have personally known or been acquainted with. For our family, we can claim to have been in the presence of Saint John Paul II on several occasions, and we also knew Mother Angelica well. Mother is not yet a declared saint, but the works are in motion to make this happen. The one thing that ties all the saints together is their love for God and their devotion to Him and the children of His creation. I cannot tell you how many saints there are in the Catholic Church, I don't believe that anyone can. In 1988, a first publication was put out by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, called, "*Index ac Satus Causarum.*" (Index of the Causes of Saints) Since then, other publications have been put out with up dated lists. This Index tells of all the cases for sainthood that have been presented to the Congregation since it was instituted.

Next time we will begin to learn about some of the people who have obtained the title of Saint.

Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.

If you would like to learn more about , we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 155.

Discussion:

As we ended our last discussion, I mentioned that it is cliché to point out that our youth are our future, but it is also a point of truth. I also pointed out that the evil one is well aware of this, and we must expect he will send his minions to target the innocence of our children, to confuse our youth, and seduce them to all the flaws of the world.

To our listeners who are parents, one of the greatest challenges a parent faces is the defense of the innocence of their children while we work to provide for, educate, train, and prepare them for their role as adults. With all of the onslaught of the political, educational, media, and technological institutions working to capture the attention of our children and values groom them with the messages of the evil one, we must remain close to our children and help them see and recognize the evil which is after the ruin of their soul. It is no easy task, but it starts with a request for God's grace and blessing in performance of the parental vocation.

To our listeners who are currently engaged in non-parental vocations, your encouragement and support is also required. As we discern our talents and the purpose to which our Heavenly Father desires they shall be put, we must remember to ask our Lord in prayer how we may be of assistance towards educating and encouraging our youth to assume their role to help spread the Gospel and perform the actions of Divine Charity which God desires of us.

Today, we are going to turn our discussion back to Saint Joseph and fatherhood. As I mentioned during the open to today's show, we are very fortunate to have an expert on the subject to speak with us today.

(Question 1: As we mentioned during episode 152, we do not see a lot in scripture about Saint Joseph. Father, why should we look to Saint Joseph as an example to families, especially for fathers?)

(Question 2: Father, the title of your new book is: Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father. Can you explain for our listener's what is consecration and why should we consider consecration to Saint Joseph?)

(Question 3: For those who have already consecrated themselves in devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus or the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the question may arise, is another consecration overkill? Father, why would they want to also consecrate themselves to the Pure Heart of Joseph?)

(Question 4: We often chose to have a relationship with a saint based on a connection we have with the life of the saint. We see some inspiration through them as to how they dealt with tribulations and lived as examples of faith. Obviously, Saint Joseph would be a good choice for those preparing for or engaged in the vocation of fatherhood, but not everyone is called to that vocation. Father, why would those outside the vocation of fatherhood consider consecration to Saint Joseph?)

(Question 5: As we look to books about our faith, we look to learn and grow. Father, how does your book inform us and lead us?)

(Question 6: Father, we already mentioned your websites during the open to today's show, but just as a reminder for our listeners, where can we learn more about and order a copy of your book?)

Quotes:

– *Saint Alphonsus Liguori*

We should, indeed, honor St. Joseph, since the Son of God Himself was graciously pleased to honor him by calling him father. The Holy Scriptures speak of him as the father of Jesus. "His father and mother were marveling at the things spoken -concerning Him" (Luke 2:33). Mary also used this name: "in sorrow thy father and I have been seeking thee" (Luke 2:48). If, then, the King of Kings was pleased to raise Joseph to so high a dignity, it is right and obligatory on our part to endeavor to honor him as much as we can.

– *Saint Teresa of Avila*

To other Saints Our Lord seems to have given power to succor us in some special necessity—but to this glorious Saint, I know by experience, He has given the power to help us in all. Our Lord would have us understand that as He was subject to St. Joseph on earth—for St. Joseph, bearing the title of father and being His guardian, could command Him—so now in Heaven Our Lord grants all his petitions. I have asked others to recommend themselves to St. Joseph, and they, too, know the same thing by experience.

– *Saint Alphonsus Liguori*

God, because of the great love He bears us, and His great desire to see us saved, has given us among other means of salvation the practice of devotion to the saints. It is His will that they, who are His friends, should intercede for us, and by their merits and prayers obtain graces for us which we ourselves do not deserve. But everyone must know that, after the Mother of God, St. Joseph is, of all the saints, the one dearest to God. He has, therefore, great power with Him and can obtain graces for His devout clients...

Final Thoughts:

Fatherhood is not an easy task. For those who assume the vocation, we often do not receive a lot of training in such a central and important role to raising a child. We often look to our fathers as the example of how we might raise our children. If we had a good father, we have a good example from which to work. If not, well, we might learn from their mistakes, if we perceive them, but we may also find there are things we must both learn and unlearn. For each of us, this is an individual case. The question remains, what type of father will we be for our children?

As fathers, we must reflect on our role and the meaning of that role to our children and what will come from them as they take their place within their generation. We should look to the example of the Holy Family and we must seek to learn the fullness of the ways of our Heavenly Father. To assist us, our Heavenly Father has sent His saints to teach us by the example of their lives, and the saint who is at the top of that list for fatherhood is Saint Joseph.

For our listeners who are not in the vocation of fatherhood, Saint Joseph may still provide us with the example of love and the meaning and blessings of purity. We might also look to Saint Joseph to help us know how we may assist and encourage those who are in the vocation of fatherhood. We barely touched the tip of the iceberg today, but if you would like to explore more, we highly recommend Father Calloway's book, because it not only calls us to learn, but it also calls us to action. Our faith means nothing without action and devotion enables us to focus both our understanding and action; in other words, how we lead our lives.

Wrap Up: Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we turn our discussion to the Divine Indwelling.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: Our Lady of America – Part IX: Divine Indwelling

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