

# Shepherds of Christ

2008 ISSUE NO. 1 A SPIRITUALITY NEWSLETTER FOR PRIESTS BY REV. JOHN J. PASQUINI

## CHIEF SHEPHERD OF THE FLOCK

*Jn. 10: 11-15*

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and runs away, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; he runs away because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep”  
(*New Jerusalem Bible, Doubleday*).



## THE BEATITUDES

*By Fr. John J. Pasquini*

The beatitudes flow from the gifts of the Spirit and dispose a person to obey these gifts (Cf. Ia IIae, q. 70, a.2). The beatitude of being “poor in spirit” promotes confidence in God and complete dependence on God (cf. Is. 61:1; Zep. 2:3). It also engenders a humble predisposition. The beatitude of being “mournful” is that beatitude which fosters recognition of God’s consolation and comfort. The beatitude of being “meek” engenders the recognition of one’s place in the kingdom of God (cf. Ps. 37:11). The beatitude of “hungering and thirsting for righteousness” promotes conformity to God’s will and a

willing submission to God’s plan of salvation for all. The beatitude of being “merciful” properly orders the virtue of justice in accordance to the “spirit” of the law as opposed to the “letter of the law.” The beatitude of being “pure of heart” is that assurance that God’s presence will always be with the pure of heart (cf. Ps. 24:4; 42:3). The beatitude of being a “peacemaker” is one that promotes peace in one’s heart and in the hearts of others. It promotes a docile, gentle spirit that is ordered to the providential plan of God. The beatitude that entails being unjustly “persecuted” is that beatitude which empowers one to seek justice at whatever cost, even at the cost to one’s life. To live the life of the beatitudes is to live the life that brings one to experience the ultimate in happiness in a world filled with trials and tribulations.

The beatitudes express the human person’s vocation as a spiritual being. They shed light on a Christian’s duties and attitudes. They sustain hope amidst a world of trials and tribulations (CCC 1717). They “proclaim the blessings and rewards already secured, however dimly, for Christ’s disciples” (Ibid.). The beatitudes express a person’s innermost desire, that person’s desire for happiness. This desire for happiness has been placed at the very core of the human person in order to draw him or her to God, the source of all happiness (Ibid., 1718). *‘We all want to live happily; in the whole human race there is no one who does not assent to this proposition, even before it is fully articulated’* (St.

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**FR. EDWARD CARTER**

Founder, Shepherds of Christ

*This newsletter is for priests and those who are interested in the spiritual life.*

## PRIESTHOOD

*By Charles De Foucauld*

### To a Friend Preparing for Ordination

“The priest... is something transcendent; through baptism he brings souls to birth, through the sacrament of penance he purifies them, through communion he gives them our Lord’s Body as He Himself did at the Last Supper, and at their death He helps them to appear before the Beloved by giving them their final forgiveness and the supreme strength... Every single day of his life, a priest does what Jesus did during his three years of ministry—He teaches men to know, love and serve their good Master. What a vocation!”



Augustine, *De moribus eccl.* 1, 3, 4: PL 32, 1312). *'How is it, then, I seek you, Lord? Since in seeking you, my God, I seek a happy life; let me seek you so that my soul may live, for my body draws life from my soul and my soul draws life from you'* (Ibid., Confessions, 10, 20: PL 32, 791). God alone satisfies.

St. Thomas Aquinas says that another word for God is "happiness." The sad reality of life is that many people today, as in all generations, have failed to recognize that God alone is happiness and that God alone satisfies. Such people, sadly, end up chasing after things that appear at first sight to bring about happiness but in the end only bring about disappointment. Some people seek to fill this innate desire for happiness with fame, power, human achievement, drugs, disordered sex, and so forth, yet they never find peace and contentment. If only people could recognize what the great saints have always recognized: That our soul will only rest in God (cf. Ps. 62:1). The beatitudes challenge and confront people. They force people to make choices regarding their eternal destiny. [cf. *Light, Happiness and Peace*, S of C Publications, 2007].

***"The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God; it is fulfilled in his vocation to divine beatitude."***

— Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1700



## TRANSFORMATION OF VALUES

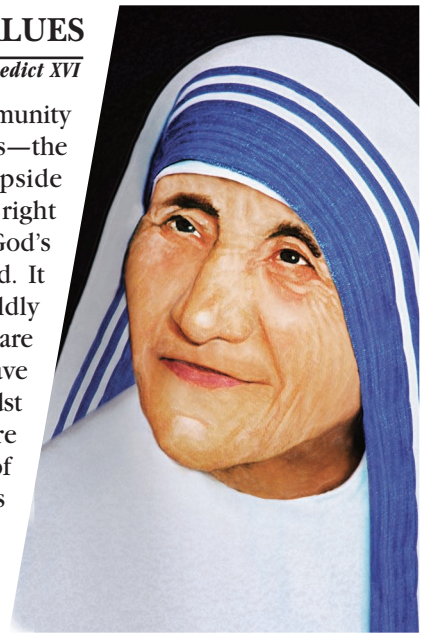
By Pope Benedict XVI

"The Beatitudes, spoken with the community of Jesus' disciples in view, are paradoxes—the standards of the world are turned upside down as soon as things are seen in the right perspective, which is to say, in terms of God's values, so different from those of the world. It is precisely those who are poor in worldly terms, those thought of as lost souls, who are the truly fortunate ones, the blessed, who have every reason to rejoice and exult in the midst of their sufferings. The Beatitudes are promises resplendent with the new image of the world and of man inaugurated by Jesus, his 'transformation of values.' ...When man begins to see and to live from God's perspective, when he is a companion of Jesus' way, then he lives by new standards, and something of the *eschaton*, of the reality to come, is already present. Jesus brings joy into the midst of affliction.

...In his messengers Christ himself still suffers, still hangs on the Cross. And yet he is risen, irrevocably risen. Although Jesus' messenger in this world is still living the story of Jesus' suffering, the splendor of the Resurrection shines through, and it brings a joy, a 'blessedness,' greater than the happiness he could formerly have experienced on worldly paths. It is only now that he realizes what real 'happiness' what true 'blessedness' is, and, in so doing, notices the paltriness of what by conventional standards must be considered satisfaction and happiness.

[The] Beatitudes express the meaning of discipleship. They become more concrete and real the more completely the disciple dedicates himself...completely to following the Lord. [The] Christological character of the Beatitudes [is expressed in the disciple] bound to the mystery of Christ. His life is immersed in communion with Christ: 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me' (Gal. 2:20). The Beatitudes are the transportation of Cross and Resurrection into discipleship. But they apply to the disciple because they were first paradigmatically lived by Christ himself....

The Beatitudes display the mystery of Christ himself, and they call us into communion with him. But precisely because of their hidden Christological character, the Beatitudes are also a road map for the Church, which recognizes in them the model of what she herself should be. They are directions for discipleship, directions that concern every individual, even though—according to the variety of callings—they do so differently for each person." [Jesus of Nazareth, New York: Doubleday, 2007, 71-74].



***"[The Beatitudes] are the real high road of life; it is only on the way of love, whose paths are described in the Sermon on the Mount, that the richness of life and the greatness of man's calling are opened."***

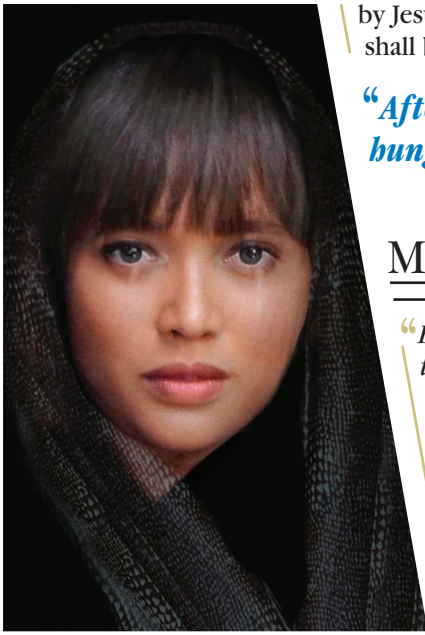
—His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

## POOR IN SPIRIT

By St. Angela of Foligno

"O Jesus, our book of life and our salvation, Your first companion on earth was extreme, continual, perfect poverty. You, the Almighty, the Lord of all things, willed absolute poverty in order that we might unite love and poverty as one. You became poor in everything; poor in material things, poor in Your own will, poor in spirit, beyond anything that we can possibly imagine, infinitely poor, because Your love for us was infinite. You were poor like those who possess nothing, who do not even ask for what they need. You were poor in possessions, in friends, in power and human wisdom, poor in reputation for sanctity, in worldly honors, poor in everything that exists.... But, oh, shame and sorrow! Today, O Lord, this poverty of spirit which You taught and exalted so highly, is rejected and fled from by almost all men, and even those who preach it and glorify it by their words, in reality, they deny it in will, desire, and actions.... O Lord, if I cannot strip myself materially of all earthly things, at least permit me, I beseech You, to become detached at least in spirit, and not only once only, but every day and every moment. Oh! truly blessed is such a poor one, for the kingdom of heaven is his!" [cf. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, *Divine Intimacy*, (Rockford: Tan, Inc., 1996), 899-900].





by Jesus; 'Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.' [Ibid., 928f].

**"After I have wept...I begin to hunger and thirst for justice."**

—St. Ambrose

## MEEK

By St. Augustine

**"Blessed are the meek for they shall possess the land.** [Who are the meek? They are] those who do not resist the will of God: they are the meek.... They who when things go well with them, give praise to God; and when things go ill, do not speak ill of God. For their good works, they give the glory to God; for their sins, they blame themselves. *They shall possess the land.* What land but the land of which the psalmist says: 'Thou art my hope, my portion in the land of the living (Ps. Cxli. 6).'" [cf. *On the Eight Sentences of the Beatitudes*, (San Francisco: Ignatius, 2000), 472].

**"What a great and praiseworthy exchange: to leave the things of time for those of eternity, to choose the things of heaven for the goods of earth, to receive the hundred-fold in place of one, and to possess a blessed eternal life."**

—St. Clare of Assisi

**"A soul enkindled with love is a gentle, meek, humble, and patient soul."**

—St. John of the Cross

## HUNGER AND THIRST

By Fr. Thomas Merton

**"Every baptized Christian is obliged by his baptismal promises to renounce sin and to give himself completely, without compromise, to Christ, in order that he may fulfill his vocation, save his soul, enter into the mystery of God, and there find himself perfectly 'in the light of Christ.' As St. Paul reminds us (1 Cor. 6:19), we are 'not our own.' We belong entirely to Christ. His Spirit has taken possession of us at baptism. We are the Temples of the Holy Spirit. Our thoughts, our actions, our desires, are by rights more his than our own. But we have to struggle to ensure that God always receives from us what we owe him by right. If we do not labor to overcome our natural weakness, our disordered and selfish passions, what belongs to God in us will be withdrawn from the sanctifying power of his love and will be corrupted by selfishness, blinded by irrational desires, hardened by pride, and will eventually plunge us into the abyss of...sin. Sin is the refusal of the spiritual life, the rejection of the inner order and peace that come from our union with the divine will. In a word, sin is the refusal of God's will and his love. It is not only a refusal to 'do' this or that thing willed by God, or a determination to do what he forbids. It is more radically a refusal to be what we are, a rejection of our mysterious,**

contingent, spiritual reality hidden in the very mystery of God. Sin is our refusal to be what we were created to be—sons of God, images of God. Ultimately sin, while seeming to be an assertion of freedom, is a flight from the freedom and the responsibility of divine sonship. Every Christian is therefore called to sanctity and union with Christ." [Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for holiness, for righteousness!]. [*Life of Holiness*, (New York: Doubleday, 1963), 12].

**"This hunger [for righteousness] is not for bodily food; this thirst is not for any earthly drink. It is a longing to be blessed with righteousness, and, by penetrating a secret of all mysteries, to be filled with the Lord himself."**

—St. Leo the Great

## MERCIFUL

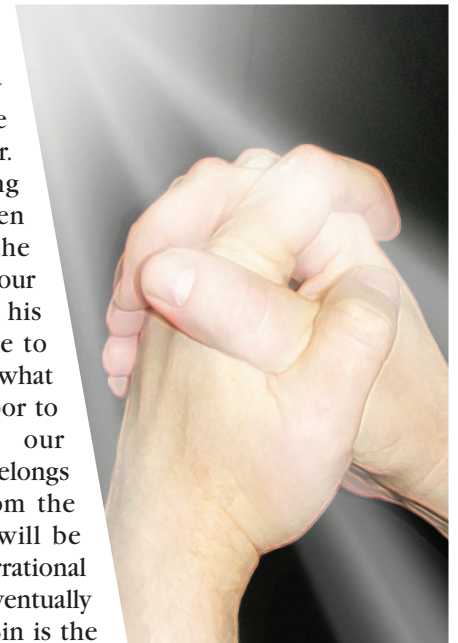
By St. Bernard of Clairvaux

**"O Lord, I run to You because You are so good and merciful and because I know that You did not despise the poor nor hate the sinner. You did not reject the thief who confessed his sins, nor the weeping Magdalen, nor the supplicant Canaanite woman, nor the woman taken in adultery, nor the tax collector sitting at his counter, nor the publican who implored Your mercy, nor the Apostle**

## TO MOURN

By Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen

**"The Beatitude: 'Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted' corresponds to the gift of knowledge. Blessed are they who, thoroughly enlightened by the Holy Spirit as to the nothingness of creatures, weep for the time they have spent seeking them, and mourn over the energy and affection they have wasted on the vanities of the world. These are the burning tears of St. Augustine who, in his *Confessions*, continually laments: 'Late have I loved Thee, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved Thee.... Thou were with me, but I was not with Thee; creatures kept me far from Thee.' These are the tears of the penitent Magdalen, and of St. Peter weeping over his fall; blessed tears, cleansing souls from sin and disposing them for friendship with God. These are the tears of souls determined to seek God in preference to all creatures, but who still, because of their frailty, have to reproach themselves daily for some weakness, some slight return to futile earthly satisfactions. The gift of knowledge does not permit us to close our eyes to our infidelities, however slight, but it makes us hate them and weep for them with tears of compunction.... When a soul has reached the point where it prefers blessed tears shed at the foot of the Cross to the joys of earth, it can hope in the beatitude promised**



who denied You, nor even those who crucified You. I am drawn by the perfume of Your graces. I have inhaled the fragrance of Your mercy and I come to You to be strengthened by it. Blessed is the man who, following Your example, has a heart filled with compassion for the unfortunate. Blessed is he who is merciful and quick to help those who are in need, he who remembers that it is more blessed to give than to receive, who is quick to forgive and slow to anger, who never takes revenge, but in all circumstances considers the needs of others as though they were his own. O Lord, pour into my soul the dew of Your mercy; fill my heart with charity that I may know how to be all things to all.... Teach me to distil the sweet perfume of mercy, which is composed of the needs of the poor, the anguish of the oppressed, that anxieties of the afflicted, the failures of sinners, and finally, all the pains of those who suffer, even if they be my enemies.... O Lord, grant that I may pour out this perfume, not only on Your head and Your feet, but on Your whole body, which is the Church, so that it will lessen the sorrows of all Your suffering members.” [cf. *Divine Intimacy*, 921].

**“There are always souls to enlighten... tears to dry, disappointments to console, sick to encourage, children and youngsters to guide. There is, there ever shall be, people to love and to save in Christ’s name. This is your vocation; it ought to make you happy....”**

—Pope John Paul II



## PEACEMAKERS

By St. Leo the Great

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. This blessedness, dearly beloved, does not derive from any casual agreement or from any and every kind of harmony, but it pertains to what the Apostle says: *Be at peace before the Lord*, and the words of the prophet: *Those who*

## PURE OF HEART

By St. Gregory of Nyssa

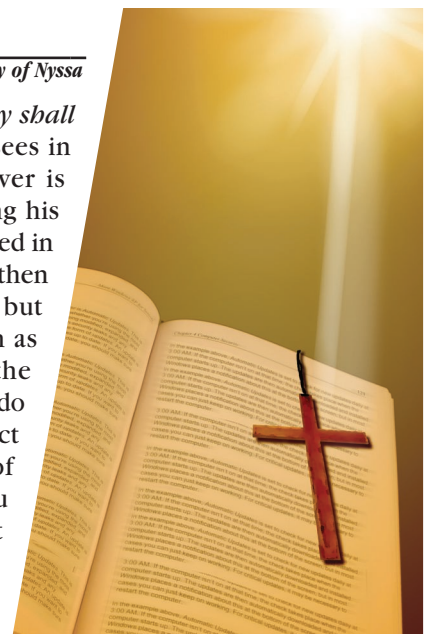
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Whoever looks at himself sees in himself what he desires. And whoever is pure in heart is blessed because, seeing his own purity, he sees the archetype reflected in the image. If you see the sun in a mirror then you are not looking directly at the sky, but still you are seeing the sun just as much as someone who looks directly at it. In the same way, the Lord is saying, although you do not have the strength to withstand the direct sight of the great and inaccessible light of God, if you look within yourselves once you have returned to the grace of the image that was placed in you from the beginning, you will find in yourselves all that you seek.

God is pure, free from all weakness and passion, separated from all evil. If these things are all true of you then God is within you. If your thought is kept pure from evil habits, free from passion and weakness, separated from all stain, you are blessed because your vision is sharp and clear. You are able to see what is invisible to filth and through the purity of your heart you have a clear vision of blessedness. What is that vision? It is purity, sanctity, simplicity, and other reflections of the brightness of the divine nature. It is the sight of God.”

[cf. [www.crossroadsinitiative.com/libray](http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/libray)].

**“The blessedness of seeing God is justly promised to the pure of heart. For the eye that is unclean would not be able to see the brightness of the true light, and what would be happiness to clear minds would be a torment to those that are defiled. Therefore, let the mists of all the filth of wickedness cease, so that the soul’s gaze may feast serenely upon the great vision of God.”**

—St. Leo the Great

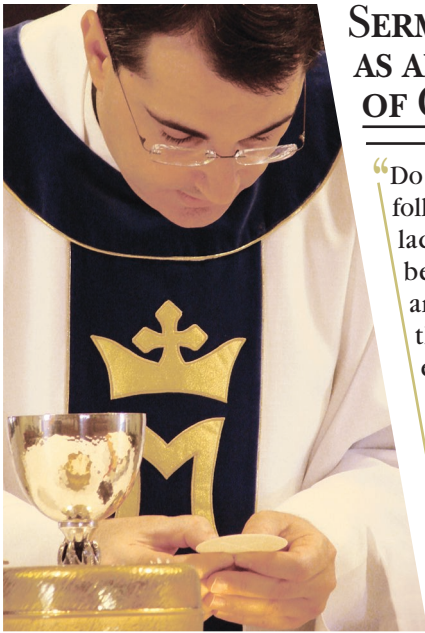


**love your law shall enjoy abundant peace; for them it is no stumbling block.** Even the most intimate bonds of friendship and the closest affinity of minds cannot truly lay claim to this peace if they are not in agreement with the will of God. Alliances based on evil desires, covenants of crime and pacts of vice—all lie outside the scope of this peace. Love of the world cannot be reconciled with love of God, and the man who does not separate himself from the children of this generation cannot join the company of the sons of God. But those who keep God ever in their hearts, and are anxious to preserve “the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,” never dissent from the eternal law as they speak the prayer of faith. *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* These then are the peacemakers; they are bound together in holy harmony and are rightly given the heavenly title of sons of God, co-heirs with Christ. And this is the reward they will receive for their love of God and neighbor: when their struggle with all temptation is finally over, there will be no further adversities to suffer or scandal to fear; but they will rest in the peace of God undisturbed, through our Lord who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.” [Sermo, 95, 8-9; PL 54, 465-466].

**“The peacemakers are called blessed who first make peace within their own heart, and then between their dissident brothers.”**

— St. Jerome





## SERMON ON THE MOUNT AS AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

By James Cardinal Francis Stafford

“Do I turn from pride, envy, and ambition and follow Jesus’ way of humility..... Have I been lacking in poverty of spirit and thus have been unable to hallow the name of God among men? Have I placed my happiness in the possession of external goods? Have I encouraged those in doubt and error to follow what is true and good? Have I been lacking in the meekness which prays that God’s kingdom come and that I not resist him? Have I lacked the tears to mourn over the knowledge that the fulfillment of God’s will on earth must be accomplished within the conflict between body and spirit, between heaven and earth, as I am forced to say, ‘I see another law in my members, warring against the law in my mind’?

Have I been lacking in the hunger and thirst for justice so that I and others, especially the poor, have not been supported and sustained by being given their daily bread?

Have I been lacking in mercy whereby I forgive the injuries of others?

Have I been lacking in purity of heart thereby surrendering to the temptation which creates duplicity of heart? Have I sought affective satisfaction in evil acts or thoughts with myself or with others and thus lost the simplicity of a heart fixed solely on God?

Have I been lacking in the willingness to be a peacemaker whereby others might have called me a child of God?

Have I received the good things from God’s bounty with a deep sense of gratitude and accepted with patience the evil that comes to me?

Have I been lacking in the practice of justice which regulates my relationship with others and has as its end the establishment of peace? In my work and civic and political responsibilities have I acknowledged that the perfection of all the beatitudes is found in the acceptance of persecution for the sake of the Kingdom of God?

Have I followed the precepts of the new justice that Jesus mentions after the beatitudes, his precepts on fasting, prayer and forgiveness?”

[Vatican Archives, Saint Peter’s Basilica, Holy Tuesday, April 11, 2006].

## HUNGER AND THIRST

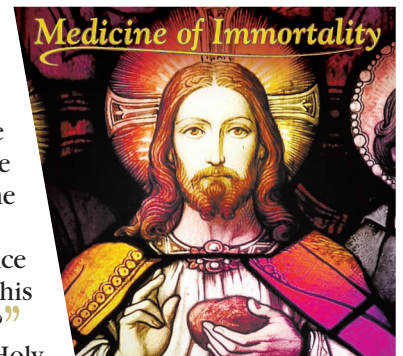
By Rita Ring and Fr. John J. Pasquini

We were created for God, for the Eucharistic Lord. We have this thirsting, this hunger, this craving to be one with God. Like steel to a magnet we are attracted to God, for who is not attracted to the beautiful and the good. Love drives one to seek union, to spending time with another. Love drives me to the Eucharist and fills my soul with life. He lives in me and I seek to be with my beloved. Like in the desert my soul thirsts, my soul hungers. In my hunger and thirst for him, in response to his hunger and thirst for me, I enter into the mystery of God. That which is alive in me, pulls me deeper into the mystery operating and working within me. In the Eucharist I experience complete self-giving! In life we seek to be possessed by God, and yet he so humbled himself to allow us to possess him in the Eucharist!

## MEDICINE OF IMMORTALITY

Here are some quotes for Fr. John J. Pasquini’s book *Medicine of Immortality*. This book can be ordered from Shepherds of Christ Ministries.

“Fr. John Pasquini’s *Medicine of Immortality* is a wonderful source of inspiration for priests, and all who read it, to gain a deeper appreciation of the healing power of the Eucharist. His clear, succinct presentation of the Mass offers a pastorally insightful explanation of the mystery we believe, we celebrate and which we are called to live out in our lives. The prayers and meditations compiled in his book offer opportunities for spiritual reflection which will



## PERSECUTION

By Thomas a Kempis

“Jesus has many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few cross-bearers. Many desire His consolation, but few His tribulations. Many will sit down with Him at table, but few will share His fast. All desire to rejoice with Him, but few will suffer for Him. Many will follow Him to the breaking of the bread, but few will drink the bitter cup of His Passion. Many revere His miracles, but few follow the shame of His cross. Many love Jesus when all goes well with them, and praise Him when He does them a favor.... Why are you afraid to take up your cross, since it is the only way to the kingdom of heaven? In the cross is salvation and life; in the cross is defense against our enemies. Through the cross heavenly sweetness is poured into our souls, our minds are strengthened and we experience spiritual joy. In the cross is the height of virtue and the perfection of all sanctity. Without the cross there is no salvation for our souls, nor hope of life eternal. Take your cross, then, and follow Jesus, and you will go into everlasting life. Remember that Jesus has gone before you bearing His cross and has given His life for you upon the cross, so that you may bear your own cross and long to die on it for love of Him. For if you die with Him, you will also live with Him; and if you have shared His suffering, you will also share His glory.” (*Imitation of Christ*, Bk. 2, 11:1; 2, 12:2).

**“In tribulation, immediately draw near to God with trust, and you will receive strength, enlightenment, and instruction.”**

— St. John of the Cross

**“The Beatitudes express the meaning of discipleship.”**

— Pope Benedict XVI



assist the reader in growth toward a deeper understanding of the mystery of the Eucharist.”

Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua,  
Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia

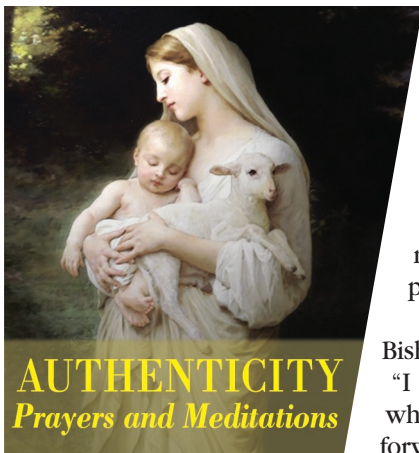
“In *Medicine of Immortality*, Father John Pasquini offers his readers the richness of Catholic devotional prayer, the wisdom of the Fathers and, most of all, the fruits of his own prayer and meditation before the Blessed Sacrament. I recommend this book to all who wish to grow in their love for the Lord, who sustains the life of His Church through the precious gift of His Body and Blood.”

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.,  
Archbishop of Chicago

“The work of Father John Pasquini in writing the book *Medicine of Immortality* is evidence of his own great love for Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and of his determination to teach what Christ has taught and the Church has reiterated since her beginning.”

The Most Reverend Fabian W. Bruskewitz,  
Bishop of Lincoln, Nebraska,  
author of *The Catholic Church:  
Jesus Christ Present in the World.*

“The Apostolic Exhortation of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, is a great gift to the Church presenting a true compendium on the sublime Sacrament of the Eucharist. In accord with the spirit of Eucharistic reverence which the Pope’s words inspire, Father Pasquini’s work, *Medicine of Immortality*, is a reflection of the writer’s personal devotion to this Sacrament of Sacraments. By sharing his compilation of prayers and



## OTHER GREAT BOOKS PUBLISHED UNDER SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST

The book of prayers *Authenticity* by Fr. John J. Pasquini is to help one grow ever deeper in the Unitive life.

Apostolic Nuncio - Archbishop - Philippines  
“With *Authenticity*, much is gained in prayer, and much is accomplished through prayer. More especially if prayer is directed in behalf of the Church.”

Monsignor - Malaysia

“I found the book, *Authenticity*, of Fr. Pasquini really good and thought to get copies for some of our priests. May I place an order of 20 copies of this book.”

Bishop - Argentina

“I received for the second time your letter. The first time it was accompanied with the yellow book *Authenticity*, which I read during the last month of September (with prayers and meditations). I found it very convenient for priests. It did me a lot of good, thanks God.”

Bishop - Arlington - USA

“I thank you for the copy of *Authenticity*, which was written by Fr. John J. Pasquini. I look forward to using this book of Prayer and I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending it to me.”

Bishop - Ethiopia

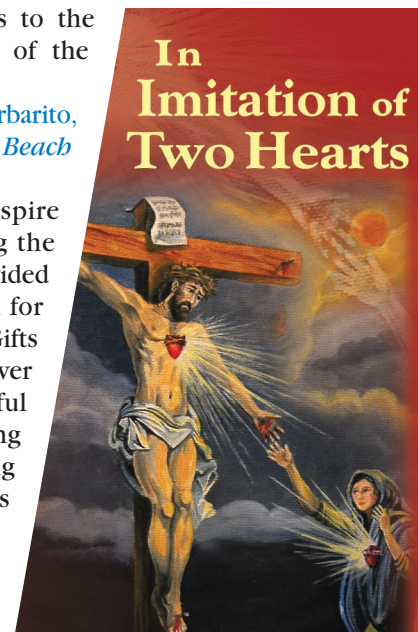
“The book entitled, *Authenticity, Prayers and Meditations* by Fr. John J. Pasquini is an invaluable source of inspiration for all circumstances of life.”

meditations, Father Pasquini speaks to the mystery that the awesome depths of the Eucharist are unfathomable.”

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito,  
Bishop of Palm Beach

“I pray that Fr. Pasquini's book will inspire great devotion to the Eucharist among the faithful on a very wide scale. He has provided us with all the resources we need both for correct understanding of this greatest of Gifts and for fervent devotion. I will remain forever grateful to him for this truly wonderful priestly and apostolic work. In pointing people directly to the source of all healing and immortality, he is just doing what priests do best: witness Christ!”

Rev. Fr. Thomas J. Euteneuer, Exorcist,  
President, Human Life International,  
EWTN Contributor & Columnist



Monsignor - Apostolic Nuncio - Taiwan

“I wish to thank you for forwarding this good book, *Authenticity*, which will help the priests and others to have an intimate communion with the Blessed Trinity.”

Bishop - South Africa

“I received your book *Authenticity* with prayers and meditations for all circumstances in our spiritual lives. Thank you sincerely for trying to make people devout. I also thank your society for distributing these books for use by those who try and live spiritual lives.”

*In Imitation of Two Hearts - Prayers for Consolation, Renewal and Peace in Times of Suffering* Fr. John J. Pasquini leads a suffering soul to the gentle Hearts of Jesus and Mary. In these most loving Hearts - the prayers by Fr. John Pasquini - help the person suffering to know more deeply the pascal mystery of death/resurrection.

President of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care - Cardinal - Vatican City

“Your publication, *In Imitation of Two Hearts*, will be well used by Pastors to bring consolation to the suffering Brothers and Sisters, I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you my sentiments of high esteem.”

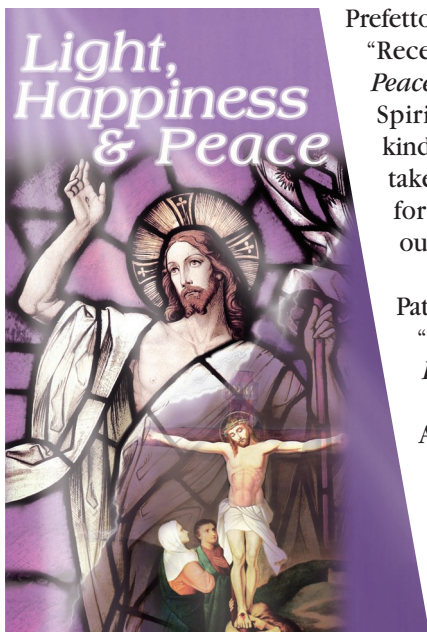
Apostolic Nuncio - Belgium

“Many thanks for your kind letter with the useful information and for the consoling book, *In Imitation of Two Hearts*.”

Monsignor - Uganda

“Thank you for the powerful book of prayer published by Fr. John J. Pasquini *In Imitation of Two Hearts*.”





Prefetto - Vatican City

“Received the copy of *Light, Happiness and Peace*, *Journeying Through Traditional Catholic Spirituality*, by Fr. John J. Pasquini, that you kindly sent to me for the Vatican library. I gladly take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the books and for your kind attention to our Institution.”

Patriarch of Egypt

“Many thanks for the rich and precious book *Light, Happiness and Peace*.”

Archbishop - Uganda

“With many thanks, I acknowledge receipt of the special book *Light, Happiness and Peace*, on the spiritual life by Fr. John Pasquini. Your wonderful work to spread devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary is commendable.”

Archbishop - Sri Lanka

“I am very grateful to you for sending me the special book on the Spiritual life, *Light, Happiness and Peace* by Fr. John Pasquini - which was a sequel to the *Authenticity* book you sent me last August. I am pleased to note that the focus in both those works is on the power of the Eucharist and on devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.”

## HOW TO BECOME A SHEPHERD OF CHRIST ASSOCIATE

The Shepherds of Christ has prayer chapters all over the world praying for the priests, the Church and the world. These prayers that Father Carter compiled in the summer of 1994 began this worldwide network of prayer. Currently the prayers are in six languages with the Church's *Imprimatur*. Fr. Carter had the approval of his Jesuit provincial for this movement, writing the Newsletter every 2 months for 6 1/2 years. After his death, and with his direction, we in the Shepherds of Christ circulated the *Priestly Newsletter Book II* to 95,000 priests with other writings. We have prayed daily for the priests, the Church, and the world since 1994. Associates are called to join prayer Chapters and help us circulate this newsletter centered on spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart and helping to renew the Church through greater holiness. Fr. John J. Pasquini is a tremendous gift on this 14th anniversary year of the newsletter. Form a Prayer Chapter & order a Prayer Manual.

Sacrament in the Tabernacle. They pray for the following intentions: 1) For the spread of the devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary culminating in the reign of the Sacred Heart and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart. 2) For the Pope. 3) For all bishops of the world. 4) For all priests. 5) For all sisters and brothers in religious life. 6) For all members of the Shepherds of Christ Movement, and for the spread of this movement to the world. 7) For all members of the Catholic Church. 8) For all members of the human family. 9) For all souls in purgatory.

This movement, *Apostles of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus*, was began with Fr. Carter. Please inquire. Shepherds of Christ Ministries P.O. Box 627, China, Indiana 47250 USA or info@sofc.org

Titles to the sections of the newsletter have been given by Fr. John Pasquini.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Fr. John J. Pasquini is a columnist, author of more than a dozen books, guest speaker, lecturer on topics of systematic, moral and spiritual theology, a retreat leader, and a parish priest in the Diocese of Palm Beach, Florida. He feels blessed to serve the Shepherds of Christ as the editor of their newsletter. The newsletter is dedicated to renewal, fraternity, and the building of the Kingdom of God. It is a spirituality newsletter particularly dedicated to priests, religious, and all interested in the spiritual life. Comments and insights are always welcome.

***“I give my heart to Jesus and Mary with you in love.”***

— Shepherds of Christ



Archbishop - USA

“I wish to express my gratitude to you for your kindness in sending me a copy of a special gift of prayers from the book: *In Imitation of Two Hearts* by Fr. John J. Pasquini. I will look at these very carefully and I thank you for them.”

Bishop - USA

“I thank you for the copy of *In Imitation of Two Hearts*, which was written by Fr. John J. Pasquini. I look forward to using this book of prayers and I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending it to me.”

Cardinal - Japan

“Thank you for your kind gift of Christmas season *In Imitation of Two Hearts*. Hope this small book will reach to many people in this time of suffering.”

The purple book *Light, Happiness and Peace* by Fr. John J. Pasquini is a gift and a very strong companion to the prayers *Authenticity* a book of prayers by Fr. John. This book *Light, Happiness and Peace* is a journey into the spiritual life — an awakening of deeper life IN HIM. Here are some of the comments we received from bishops and cardinals about the book.

Cardinal - Pontifical Council for Culture - Vatican City

“I am sure that this book, *Light, Happiness and Peace* through a discussion on traditional Catholic Spirituality will contribute in bringing back prayer into the mainstream of life.”

Bishop - India

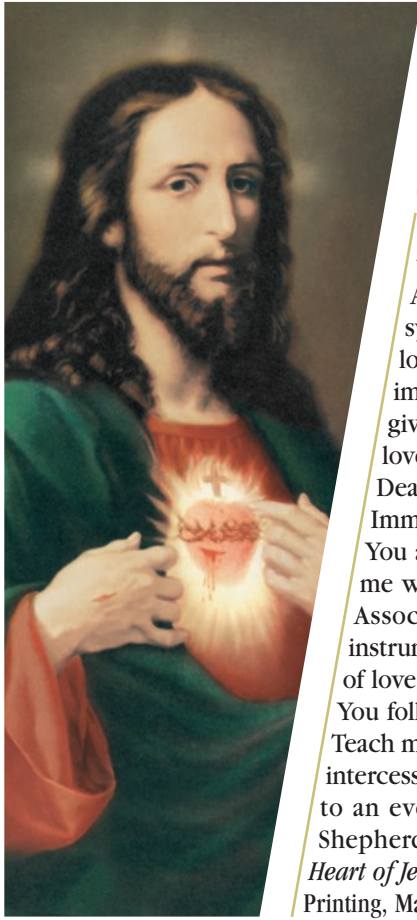
“Thank you for the book *Light, Happiness and Peace*. The thoughts presented by Fr. John J. Pasquini are very inspiring and will help me in my prayers and talks and sermons to the people.”

## A EUCHARISTIC HEART

The Shepherds of Christ have people dedicated to spending two hours weekly before the Blessed

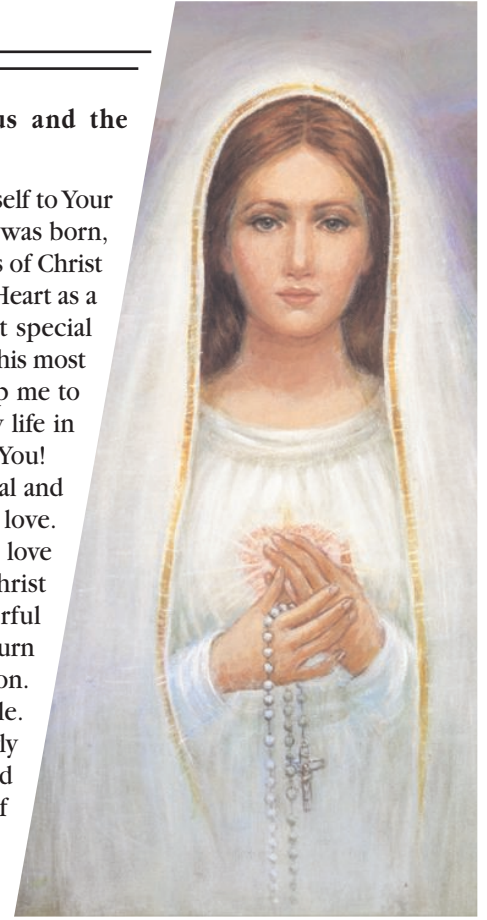


## ACT OF CONSECRATION



### Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

“Lord Jesus, Chief Shepherd of the flock, I consecrate myself to Your most Sacred Heart. From Your pierced Heart the Church was born, the Church You have called me, as a member of Shepherds of Christ Associates, to serve in a most special way. You reveal Your Heart as a symbol of Your love in all its aspects, including Your most special love for me, whom You have chosen as Your companion in this most important work. Help me to always love You in return. Help me to give myself entirely to You. Help me always to pour out my life in love of God and neighbor! Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in You! Dear Blessed Virgin Mary, I consecrate myself to your maternal and Immaculate Heart, this heart which is symbol of your life of love. You are the Mother of my Savior. You are also my Mother. You love me with a most special love as a member of Shepherds of Christ Associates, a movement created by your Son as a powerful instrument for the renewal of the Church and the world. In a return of love, I give myself entirely to your motherly love and protection. You followed Jesus perfectly. You are His first and perfect disciple. Teach me to imitate you in the putting on of Christ. Be my motherly intercessor so that, through your Immaculate Heart, I may be guided to an ever closer union with the pierced Heart of Jesus, Chief Shepherd of the flock” (Rita Ring, *Mass Book: A Journey Into the Heart of Jesus*, El Paso, Texas: [Shepherds of Christ Publications, Second Printing, May 2000], pp. 204f).



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Shepherds of Christ Ministries  
P.O. Box 627, China, Indiana 47250 USA  
Telephone (international) 812-273-8405  
Telephone (toll free USA) 1-888-211-3041  
Fax 812-273-3182  
Internet [www.sofc.org](http://www.sofc.org)  
Email [info@sofc.org](mailto:info@sofc.org)

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