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### The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions For This Month

#### General Intention:

That Catholic Universities may increasingly become places where, in light of the gospel, people may experience the unity of faith and reason.

#### Mission Intention:

That World Mission Day may help Christians realize that the task of proclaiming Christ is a necessary service to which the Church is called for the benefit of humanity.

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# Disciple

A monthly resource for adult Catholics of  
the Diocese of Scranton

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## Breaking Open the Word—Notes on the Sunday Gospels

### Oct. 3 (Lk. 17:5-10)

In today's Gospel Jesus urges humility among those of us who are His disciples. When we do what God asks of us, we are not to pat ourselves on the back and look for others to congratulate us. Our work is certainly important (what could be *more* important?), but none of us are able to fully repay God for His goodness to us.

### Oct. 10 (Lk. 17:11-19)

In today's Gospel we see Jesus healing 10 lepers and yet only one—who was not an Israelite, but a Samaritan—comes back to offer Him thanks and express his faith in Him. "Jesus' actions recall how Elisha cleansed a foreign leper while living in Samaria (2 Kngs. 5:1-14). At another level, He initiates the adoption of foreigners into God's covenant family as

prophesied in Isaiah 56:3-8."

### Oct. 17 (Lk. 18:1-8)

In today's Gospel we learn that we are to persevere in our prayer. We are told that he unrighteous judge finally listens to the widow's pleas because of her "continual coming." The judge is not meant to be a symbol of God. Rather, the point of the parable is that if an unjust and evil judge will reward the perseverance of a powerless widow, how much more will God come to the aid of His children when they persevere in prayer.

### Oct. 24 (Lk. 18:9-14)

In today's Gospel we have the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The word "Pharisee" literally means "the separated ones," and was originally given to them because of

their real piety, though, by Jesus' time, many of them lived lives only externally pious. In the parable the Pharisee tries to set himself apart from the tax collector by telling God of all the wonderful things he has done, while the tax collector recalls—not God's indebtedness to *him*—but his indebtedness to God. His humility justifies him.

### Oct. 31 (Lk. 19:1-10)

The incident between Jesus and Zacchaeus possesses some irony, because Zacchaeus goes to extremes to catch a glimpse of Jesus and, in the end, it turns out Jesus is looking for *him* ("I must stay at your house today"). While the crowd grumbles about him being a sinner, Zacchaeus responds to Jesus' invitation by immediately giving half his possessions to the poor. As a result "salvation has come to [his] house" (v. 9).

## Faith Foundations—Basics of Catholic Christian Belief

### The 4th Commandment:

#### "Honor Your Father and Mother"

(From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

#### What does the fourth commandment require?

It commands us to honor and respect our parents and those whom God, for our good, has vested with his authority.

#### What is the nature of the family in the plan of God?

A man and a woman united in marriage form a family together

with their children. God instituted the family and endowed it with its fundamental constitution. Marriage and the family are ordered to the good of the spouses and to the procreation and education of children. Members of the same family establish among themselves personal relationships and primary responsibilities. In Christ the family becomes the *domestic church* because it is a community of faith, of hope, and of charity. **What place does the family occupy in society?** The family is the original cell of

human society and is, therefore, prior to any recognition by public authority. Family values and principles constitute the foundation of social life. Family life is an initiation into the life of society. **What are the duties that society has toward the family?** Society, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity, has the duty to support and strengthen marriage and the family. Public authority must respect, protect and foster the true nature of marriage and the family, public

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## Faith Foundations...Continued

morality, the rights of parents, and domestic prosperity.

### **What are the duties of children toward their parents?**

Children owe respect (filial piety), gratitude, docility and obedience to their parents. In paying them respect and in fostering good relationships with their brothers and sisters, children contribute to the growth in harmony and holiness in family life in general. Adult children should give their parents material and moral support whenever they find themselves

in situations of distress, sickness, loneliness, or old age.

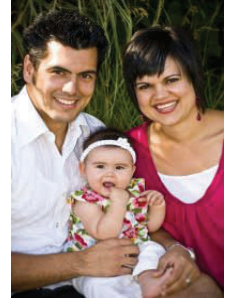
### **What are the duties of parents toward their children?**

Parents, in virtue of their participation in the fatherhood of God, have the first responsibility for the education of their children and they are the first heralds of the faith for them. They have the duty to love and respect their children as *persons* and as *children of God* and to provide, as far as is possible, for their physical and spiritual needs. They should select for

them a suitable school and help them with prudent counsel in the choice of their profession and their state of life. In particular they have the mission of educating their children in the Christian faith.

### **How are parents to educate their children in the Christian faith?**

Parents do this mainly by example, prayer, family catechesis and participation in the life of the Church.



**In Christ the family becomes the domestic church because it is a community of faith, of hope, and of charity.**

## Faith and Media—Reading and Viewing Recommendations

### **Book of the Month:**

#### ***Happy Are You Poor* by Thomas Dubay**

It's honestly been awhile since I've read a book that challenged me as much as this one. Subtitled "The Simple Life and Spiritual Freedom," Fr. Dubay, a well known writer and presenter on the spiritual life, lays out within these pages the concept of poverty outlined in Scripture and testified to in the life of the saints. He outlines the four main benefits of practicing apostolic poverty and provides a helpful section that

applies these principles to specific vocations: marriage, the religious life, and the clerical life. A book that will challenge you to the core? Yes. A book we should probably all read?

Most definitely.

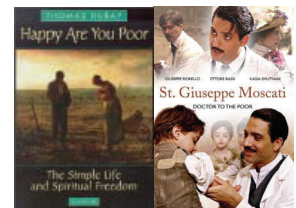
[*This book is available at most new and used book retailers.*]

### **Film of the Month:**

#### ***St. Giuseppe Moscati***

I have to admit that, before a friend loaned this movie to my family, I had never heard of St. Giuseppe. After watching the movie it is my hope that more

will learn of his incredible life. A doctor in the early 20th century, Moscati was highly regarded in his field (his research led to the discovery of insulin as a treatment for diabetes) and had a tremendous love for his patients. When Mt. Vesuvius erupted he personally evacuated a nursing home before it collapsed. He also examined poor patients in his own home for free after working a full shift at the hospital. A high quality and inspiring production. [This film is available at most video rental/retail stores and libraries]



**Left: *Happy Are You Poor* (Ignatius Press)**

**Right: *St. Giuseppe Moscati* (Ignatius Press)**

## Catholic Calendar—Upcoming Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation

### ***The Caregiver: Love with a Mission***

Presented by: Nancy Menapace

**Diocesan Center, Scranton  
October 12, Tuesday 6:00 -  
8:00 p.m.**

Caring for the well-being of someone you love—parent, spouse, another relative, or friend—is an awesome and sacred responsibility. In addition to the adjustments and difficulties one encounters in

caring for another, feelings of frustration, fatigue and even loneliness often accompany the caregiving. This presentation will assist the caregiver in dealing with these experiences, and provide ways in which the caregiver renews and revitalizes himself/herself so that the responsibility of caring for another is rewarding and fulfilling.

**Fee: \$20.00 per person**

**To register: Call:  
570.207.2213, Ext. 1107**

**“Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you...”**

**~1 Pt. 3:15**