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

#### General Intention:

That the Church may offer new generations, through the believable proclamation of the Gospel, ever-new reasons of life and hope.

#### Mission Intention:

That missionaries, with the proclamation of the Gospel and their witness of life, may bring Christ to all those who do not yet know Him.

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# Disciple

A monthly resource for adult Catholics of  
the Diocese of Scranton

Volume 4, Issue 4

April 2011

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

### Apr. 3 (Jn. 9:1-41)

In today's Gospel we hear about the healing of a man born blind. As one scholar points out, this miracle "recalls the miracle of Elisha in 2 Kings 5:10-14. Elisha commanded Naaman the Syrian to 'go and wash' in the Jordan River to be restored to health. The pool of Siloam was a rock-hewn reservoir in the southern district of ancient Jerusalem which served as a water supply for the city. The editorial comment that Siloam means "sent" suggests that the pool is a symbol of Jesus, the source of living water (4:10) and the One sent by His Father (9:4; 12:44). Its contents are symbolic of the Spirit, who is the living water poured out by Christ (7:38-39) and the One who is sent by the Father and the Son (14:26; 15:26). The miracle anticipates Baptism, where we are washed

in washed (9:7) in water, anointed (9:6) with oil, and enlightened with grace and truth (9:5)."

### Apr. 10 (Jn. 11:1-45)

In today's Gospel we hear about the raising of Lazarus. An ancient biblical commentary allegorically interprets the passage in this way, "Four days in the tomb signify the four stages of spiritual death. Original sin is the first death of the human race; violation of the natural law is the second; violation of the written Law of Moses is the third; and despising the gospel of grace is the fourth. A preview of man's resurrection from this fourfold death is seen as Christ brings Lazarus to life after his four-day entombment."

### Apr. 17 (Mt. 26:14-27)

In today's Gospel St. Matthew

highlights three aspects of the Eucharist: 1. The bread and wine are identified by Jesus as His Body and Blood (vv. 26-28); 2. Jesus links the Eucharist with the sacrifice He is to make on the cross (v.28); 3. The Eucharist is a true form of communion with Christ because of His presence in the sacrament (see 1 Cor. 10:16).

### Apr. 24 (Jn. 20:1-9)

In today's Gospel we have the account of Jesus' resurrection. A detail we often overlook that dismisses any theory that Jesus' body was stolen: the presence of the linen burial clothes. In Jesus' time grave robbers would have taken the expensive linen garments themselves, while leaving the body behind—not the other way around. Besides, if the body was the primary target, they would not have taken the time to neatly fold the garments.

## Faith Foundations—Basics of Catholic Christian Belief

### Sacred Scripture

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

The following is a brief overview of Catholic belief about Scripture.

### Why Does Sacred Scripture teach the truth?

"Because God Himself is the author of Sacred Scripture. For this reason it is said to be inspired and to teach without error those truths which are necessary for our salvation. The Holy Spirit inspired the human

authors who wrote what He wanted to teach us. The Christian faith, however, is not a 'religion of the Book,' but of the Word of God—not a written and mute word, but incarnate and living' (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)."

### How is Sacred Scripture to be read?

"Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted with the help of the Holy Spirit and under the guidance of the Magisterium of the Church according to three criteria: 1. It must be read with

attention to the content and unity of the whole of Scripture; 2. It must be read within the living Tradition of the Church; 3. It must be read with attention to the analogy of faith, that is, the inner harmony which exists among the truths of the faith themselves."

### What is the importance of the Old Testament for Christians?

"Christians venerate the Old Testament as the true word of God. All of the books of the

(continued on next page)

## Faith Foundations...Continued

Old Testament are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value. They bear witness to the divine pedagogy of God's saving love. They are written, above all, to prepare for the coming of Christ the Savior of the universe."

### **What importance does the New Testament have for Christians?**

"The New Testament, whose central object is Jesus Christ, conveys to us the ultimate truth of divine Revelation. Within the New Testament the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the heart of all the Scriptures because they

are the principle witness to the life and teaching of Jesus. As such, they hold a unique place in the Church."

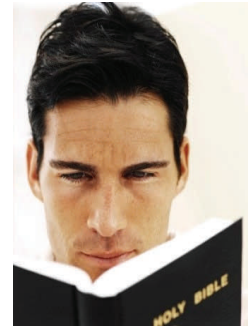
### **What is the unity that exists between the Old and the New Testaments?**

"Scripture is one insofar as the Word of God is one. God's plan of salvation is one, and the divine inspiration of both Testaments is one. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other."

### **What role does Sacred Scripture play in the life of the**

### **Church?**

Sacred Scripture gives support and vigor to the life of the Church. For the children of the Church, it is a confirmation of the faith, food for the soul and the fount of the spiritual life. Sacred Scripture is the soul of the theology and of pastoral preaching. The Psalmist says that it is 'a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (Ps. 119:105). The Church, therefore, exhorts all to read Sacred Scripture frequently because 'ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ' (St. Jerome).



**"For the children of the Church [Scripture] is a confirmation of the faith, food for the soul and the fount of spiritual knowledge."**

## Faith and Media—Reading and Viewing Recommendations

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

#### **Padre Pio Under Investigation by Francesco Castelli**

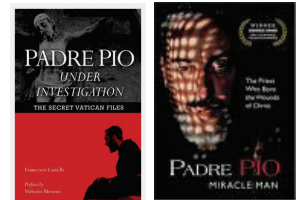
St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) has a huge following. One could make a pretty good argument that he is the most popular saint of our times (or at least in the top 3) and yet many people are not aware of the fact that he came under suspicion in his early years at San Giovanni Rotondo. This new book sheds light on the apostolic visitation of Bishop Raffaello Carlo Rossi, which took place in 1921 at the request of

the Holy Office. Rome had received many conflicting reports on Pio—some praising him, some condemning him—thus Rossi is sent to do a thorough inquiry into the matter. In this book we have, for the first time, an inside look at what took place during that visit—including the actual transcripts of the interviews with Padre Pio and those who lived with him. A fascinating book, even for those who have read a lot on Padre Pio.

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

#### **Padre Pio: Miracle Man**

This Italian film on the life of Padre Pio is a good compliment to the events related in the new book, since it begins with Padre Pio being investigated (though this investigation is a movie construct—it does not represent the actual historical investigation. For example, in the movie the investigation takes place much later and the visiting priest is antagonistic). In my opinion this is the best of the Italian saint films released by Ignatius Press thus far. The quality of the performances is high and makes the viewer actually *want* to be a saint.



**Left: Padre Pio Under Investigation (Ignatius Press)**

**Right: Padre Pio: Miracle Man (Ignatius Press)**

## Catholic Calendar—Upcoming Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation

### **Free University of Notre Dame Courses**

Notre Dame OpenCourseWare is a resource that allows you to engage in independent study at home for free. The homepage for the project provides you with a list of numerous courses in various fields—including theology and philosophy—from which to choose.

If you are interested in any of the courses, you simply click on the course title and then the syllabus, reading schedule, lecture notes, and homework assignments appear for your use (the courses listed are actual Notre Dame courses that have been offered in the classroom in the past, but are now made available to the general public at no cost).

There are no college credits connected with these courses, but it is a great opportunity to continue in your mission as a lifelong learner.

The homepage for the courses can be found at: <http://ocw.nd.edu/>

**"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**