The Bell Ringer

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS + JULY 2022

See page 3 for the latest news from the parish Respect for Life team. PLUS the June answer to Kevin's Trivia question!

Patience, a virtue adding stability to one's goodness, see more on page 4.

The Precious Blood Litany, page 5, and its impact on one family. See that on page 6

Inspiration from Popes, & Saints we honor in July, on page 8 and 9

See more info on page 10

The Precious Blood of Christ

By Pope John XXIII in 1960*

From the very outset of our pontificate, in speaking of daily devotions we have repeatedly urged the faithful (often in eager tones that frankly hinted our future design) to cherish warmly that marvellous manifestation of divine mercy toward individuals and Holy Church and the whole world redeemed and saved by Jesus Christ: we mean devotion to his Most Precious Blood.

From infancy this devotion was instilled in us within our own household. Fondly we still recall how our parents used to recite the Litany of the Most Precious Blood every day during July.

The Apostle's wholesome advice comes to mind: "Keep watch, then, over yourselves, and over God's Church, in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops; you are to be the shepherds of that flock which he won for himself at the price of his own blood."

Now among the cares of our pastoral office, . . . we are convinced that, second only to vigilance over sound doctrine, preference belongs to the proper surveillance and development of piety, in both its liturgical and private expressions. With that in mind, we judge it most timely to call our beloved children's attention to the unbreakable bond which must exist between the devotions to the Most Holy Name and Most Sacred Heart of Jesus — already so widespread among Christians — and devotion to the incarnate Word's Most Precious Blood, "shed for many, to the remission of sins." . . . The Church's wonderful advances in liturgical piety match the progress of faith itself in penetrating divine truth. Within this development it is most heart-warming to observe how often in recent centuries this Holy See has openly approved and furthered the three devotions just mentioned. From the Middle Ages, it is true, many pious persons practiced these devotions,***(Continued on page 2)***

...Precious Blood

Continued from page one

which then spread to various dioceses and religious orders and congregations. Nevertheless it remained for the Chair of Peter to pronounce them orthodox and approve them for the Church as a whole.

Suffice it to recall the spiritual favors that our predecessors from the sixteenth century on have attached to practicing devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus, which in the previous century Saint Bernardine of Siena untiringly spread throughout Italy. Approval was given first to the Office and Mass of the Most Holy Name and later to the Litany. No less striking are the benefits the popes have attached to practicing devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose rise and spread owe so much to the revelations of the Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. So highly have all the popes regarded this devotion that again and again in their official acts they have expounded its nature, defended its validity, promoted its practice. Their crowning achievement on this devotion are three splendid encyclicals.

Likewise the devotion to the Most Precious Blood, which owes its marvellous diffusion to the 19th-century Roman priest, St. Gaspar del Bufalo, has rightly merited the approval and backing of this Apostolic See. We may recall that by order of Benedict XIV the Mass and Office in honor of the divine Savior's adorable Blood were composed. And to fulfill a vow made at Gaeta Pius IX extended the feast to the whole Church. Finally, as a commemoration of the nineteenth centenary of our redemption, Pius XI of happy memory raised this feast to the rank of first-class double, so that the greater liturgical splendor would highlight the devotion and bring to men more abundant fruits of the redeeming Blood.

Following our predecessors' example we have taken further steps to promote the devotion to the Precious Blood of the unblemished Lamb, Jesus Christ. We have approved the Litany of the Precious Blood drawn up by the Sacred Congregation of Rites and through special indulgences have encouraged its public and private recitation throughout the Catholic world.

As we now approach the feast and month devoted to honoring Christ's Blood —- the price of our redemption, the pledge of salvation and life eternal — may Christians meditate on it more fervently, may they savor its fruits more frequently in sacramental communion. Let their meditations on the boundless power of the Blood be bathed in the light of sound biblical teaching and the doctrine of the Fathers and Doctors of the Church. How truly precious is this Blood is voiced in the song which the Church sings with the Angelic Doctor (sentiments wisely seconded by our predecessor Clement VI) :

Blood that but one drop of has the world to win
All the world forgiveness of its world of sin.

Unlimited is the effectiveness of the God-Man's Blood — just as unlimited as the love that impelled him to pour it out for us, first at his circumcision eight days after birth, and more profusely later on in his agony in the garden, in his scourging and crowning with thorns, in his climb to Calvary and crucifixion, and finally from out that great wide wound in his side which symbolizes the divine Blood cascading down into all the Church's sacraments. Such surpassing love suggests, nay demands, that everyone reborn in the torrents of that Blood adore it with grateful love.

The Blood of the new and eternal covenant especially deserves this worship of *latria* when it is elevated during the sacrifice of the Mass. But such worship achieves its normal fulfilment in sacramental communion with the same Blood, indissolubly united with Christ's eucharistic Body. In intimate association with the celebrant the faithful can then truly make his sentiments at communion their own: "I will take the chalice of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. . . The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ preserve my soul for everlasting life. Amen.". . . Nourished by his Body and Blood, sharing the divine strength that has sustained countless martyrs, they will stand up to the slings and arrows of each day's fortunes — even if need be to martyrdom itself for the sake of Christian virtue and the kingdom of God. +

**** Excerpts from a homily at St. Peter's in Rome, June 30, 1960, the second year of Pope John XXIII's reign.***

KEVIN'S

CORNER

June's TRIVIA question: How many angels are represented on the Main Altar with the return of the Blessed Mother and Baby Jesus painting and that of St. Joseph?

Answer: It depends! Normally, there are 14 angels in groups of threes and twos. Three on each oval frame, three to the left and right of the golden wings and cross on the back wall, and two below the outstretched arms of Jesus. BUT . . . on days when we have Adoration, three more angels are represented; two holding up the Monstrance, and [sneaky] one angel on the top of Monstrance's circular frame [granted almost invisible from the pews]. So, while the actual number is 17, we'll take 16 too, because of the barely visible one on the Monstrance. Of course, if you include the unseen guardian angels of adorers and the choirs of angels surrounding and adoring Our Lord, the number is beyond counting.

July's TRIVIA question:

There are painted images of two saints on either side of the Crucifix above the tabernacle on the main altar. Who are they and why are they portrayed? +

Respect for Life Corner

Our June event for the Parish, *Walking with Moms in Need,* was held June 25, the day following the Supreme Court decision returning the question of abortion to the states.

It featured three videos. The first was by a brilliant scientist, Alexander Tsiaris, who co-invented the MRI and developed this photography for NASA, that is now also used to watch the baby develop in the womb. Seeing conception to birth take place was amazing. [You can look it up on YouTube if you missed it.]

The other videos were from the Sisters of Life on how God summons each of us to life, how it is a gift and how important it is to convey this message to each person, especially a frightened woman in a crisis pregnancy and after birth.

Small group discussions followed on what seemed new, reflection on how our culture has changed and what we can do about it, plus ideas on becoming a stronger voice to protect life through coordinating with other groups.

Physician Assisted Suicide

Another topic for prayer and education is one on end of life. Our state of Massachusetts is again trying to pass Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS). It is being brought up for vote by July 27 and each time it comes up, it gets closer to passing.

Please pray fervently that it does not pass! And let your Representative know that you do not want this to pass! If you came to our Parish event June 25 or Faith Fostering June 27, info was available on how to contact your Representative.

Faith Fostering on June 27, featured the documentary *Fatal Flaws*, shown to educate us to the consequences of PAS in those countries and states in our country who have passed PAS. Kevin Dunn, a seasoned journalist interviewed many doctors, pro and con, and patients and their families. [The film is on YouTube if you missed the meeting.]

July Event

We will again have an all-community Parish Rosary Friday, July 15, at 7 p.m. to pray for Life, from conception to natural death, our country, the Supreme Court and our State. Please come and bring a friend to use our weapon for good, the Holy Rosary! +

The Virtue of Patience

*By Father Paul A. Duffner, O.P. from Theology for the Laity **

When we speak of this or that virtue, we are speaking not merely of this or that aspect of goodness, but of a certain stability in that regard.

For example, one can practice patience in an isolated incident or situation, but the virtue of patience indicates a habit of so acting.

. . . [T]he mature Christian has both the acquired and the infused virtue of patience. The acquired virtue of patience assists us to exercise that virtue as directed by the natural light of reason; while the infused virtue of patience enables and disposes one to exercise that virtue as directed by reason enlightened by faith.

This latter involves a whole new dimension to the practice of patience, a whole new outlook, a whole new reason for practicing patience as we will presently see.

ACQUIRED PATIENCE

The word "patience" is derived from the Latin word *pati,* which means to suffer, to endure, to bear. Already that tells us much about the nature, meaning and necessity of the virtue of patience.

Patience is one of the moral virtues that comes under the general virtue of Fortitude. . . a virtue that "strengthens the soul to sustain and overcome the difficulties and dangers that beset us in our moral lives, and keeps us from giving up when the going is hard. It brings a strength of soul that is required of every virtue."

Speaking of the virtue of patience as akin to fortitude, St. Thomas Aquinas states: "A person is said to be patient . . . because he acts in a praiseworthy manner by enduring things which hurt him here and now and is not unduly saddened by them."

Patience helps one to encounter frustrations, disappointments, contradictions, privations, sickness, hardships, etc. (all of which cause pain) without losing his serenity, without becoming irritated or despondent. It helps one not to be upset by trivial incidents however unpleasant in our daily lives and thus not lose peace of soul. It is a virtue that everyone is called upon to exercise frequently.

[In The Christian Life, by Francis Cunningham, O.P., he notes:]"If we reflect upon the number of times each day that we are confronted with situations, persons and things that displease us and make us sad, we can see how often patience is needed . . . . It is important because it prepares the way for the practice of all the other virtues. Virtuous action is usually difficult and likely to cause sorrow on the sense level. Patience, by moderating the emotion of sorrow, removes one of the serious obstacles to the practice of the other virtues. All virtues owe something to patience, and no one can long follow the path of virtue without it."

Patience is the ability to keep control over the impulse that rises suddenly when something disagreeable happens. It is not just disregard of or indifference to life's daily irritations or upsetting incidents, but a real control of self, of one's feelings and impulses.

On the contrary, impatience is the lack of self-control, and leads to other and greater faults. It can easily grow into anger, irritability, harsh words, unpleasantness towards others, etc. Many a serious quarrel starts with impatience over little annoyances or inconveniences. Fr. Walter Farrell, O.P. gives the reason for this:

"Patience is one of the humble, workaday virtues; but it is, in a real sense, the root and guardian of all virtues, not causing them, but removing obstacles to their operation. Do away with patience and the gates are open for a flood of discontent and sin."

Yet, if patience is an important virtue, and much needed in daily life, it is not an easy virtue, for it demands much watchfulness over our emotions and impulses. It is acquired by slow continual repetition of patient control - in spite of many failures. It is unfortunate, however, that many do not grasp the value of patience, for its natural fruit is calm of mind. ***(Continued on page 5)***

. . . Patience

Continued from page 4

The soul of the patient person is not at the mercy of every chance happening.

SUPERNATURAL PATIENCE

So far we have spoken of patience on the purely natural level, in order to explain what the virtue consists in. The exercise of that virtue, however, on the purely natural levelis a very difficult virtue to cultivate, since it is not easy for one without faith to see the advantages of enduring with serenity the pain and sorrow that are inseparable from the conflicts, frustrations, irritations, setbacks, sickness, etc. of human existence. The Second Vatican council emphasizes this truth: "Through Christ and in Christ light is thrown on the enigma of pain and death which overwhelms us without His Gospel to teach us." (Gaudium et Spes)

One with a strong faith in Christ and His redeeming mission, on the other hand, not only sees that our Divine Savior paid the debt of mankind by His suffering and death, but gave to suffering a redeeming value when borne in union with His. Such a one sees that every dark cloud has a silver lining.

The supernatural virtue of penance brings into play the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, as well as the infused moral virtues and the …Gifts of the Holy Spirit.+

**** Excerpted from The Rosary Light & Life - Vol 47, No 2, Mar-Apr 1994, published by the Rosary Center & Confraternity of Portland OR.***

Litany of the Most Precious Blood

Lord, have mercy, ***Lord, have mercy***
Christ, have mercy, ***Christ, have mercy***
Lord, have mercy, ***Lord, have mercy***
Jesus, hear us, ***Jesus, graciously hear us.***
God, the Father in heaven, ***have mercy on us***
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, ***have mercy on us***
God, the Holy Spirit, ***have mercy on us***
Holy Trinity, one God , ***have mercy on us***

Save us

Blood of Christ, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father
Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word of God
Blood of Christ, of the new and eternal testament
Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in the Agony
Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the Scourging
Blood of Christ, flowing forth in the Crowning with Thorns
Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross
Blood of Christ, the price of our salvation
Blood of Christ, without which there is no forgiveness
Blood of Christ, Eucharistic drink and refreshment of souls
Blood of Christ, stream of mercy
Blood of Christ, victor over demons
Blood of Christ, courage of Martyrs
Blood of Christ, strength of Confessors
Blood of Christ, bringing forth Virgins
Blood of Christ, help of those in peril
Blood of Christ, relief of the burdened
Blood of Christ, solace in sorrow
Blood of Christ, hope of the penitent
Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying
Blood of Christ, peace and tenderness of hearts
Blood of Christ, pledge of eternal life
Blood of Christ, freeing souls from purgatory
Blood of Christ, most worthy of all glory and honor

Have mercy on us, O Lord

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you have appointed your only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world, and willed to be appeased by his Blood. Grant we beg of you, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation, and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of the present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. ***Amen***.

The Precious Blood Litany *By Kelly Guest**

My husband is not Catholic. He is Pentecostal. We tease him, though, and tell him he is Catholic; he just doesn't know it yet.

After all, my hubby goes to Sunday Mass with us (most of the time). He even believes in the true Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Yet, he understands that without a union in faith, he cannot receive Communion in the Catholic Church.

Before we got married, at my request, he read *Humanae Vitae*. Living by its teaching, together we welcomed nine children into this world. That's pretty Catholic!

If the graces from going to Mass and living in faithful obedience to the Church's teaching on family planning are not enough to convert my husband, I have hope in the Blood of Christ.

You see, though most Pentecostals do not like rote prayer, my husband loves the Litany of the Precious Blood. He recognizes the power in the Blood of Jesus, and thus the power in this prayer. When illness afflicts our family, important decisions need to be made, or special intentions are awaiting answers, my husband pulls out this prayer. He finds comfort and reassurance in calling upon our family and loved ones a covering in the Blood of Christ.

I pray the Litany of the Precious Blood most days. It is as beautiful as it is powerful. If you have never prayed it, I would encourage you to do so some time during this month of July which is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. [See page 5] Contained within are so many insights on which to reflect and meditate.

If I had to choose a favorite line from the prayer, "Blood of Christ, price of our salvation" would be the one that means most to me. After naming all the ways that Jesus shed His blood for us during his Passion – in the Agony, at the scourging, in the crowning with thorns, and on the cross – the prayer declares why He underwent all this – for my salvation. Jesus paid the price of my sins with His own Blood so that I could be with Him forever in Heaven.

Can you imagine a God who leaves the perfect paradise of Heaven to come to an imperfect world to make sure you knew the way to Heaven? Now imagine this God being willing to suffer and die in your stead so that you could get there. Imagine a death so brutal it costs Him every drop of His Blood, yet He suffers it for you anyway. This is the crazy love God has for us.

In his Blood, our sins are washed away. Forgiveness is given. Without the shedding of His Blood,"there is no forgiveness." Before Jesus, the chosen people offered animal sacrifices in atonement for their sins. But the blood of animals could never take away the guilt nor bestow any graces. The sacrifice of the Lamb of God, however, takes away the sins of the world, once, for all. The Blood of Christ is a "stream of mercy" by which we are washed clean.

God does not want us to live in guilt and shame. The Blood of Jesus brings "peace and tenderness of hearts." Just as a mother lovingly makes sacrifices for her children, Jesus freely and lovingly makes this ultimate sacrifice for us. Our hearts ought to be filled with gratitude, awe, and wonder.

The Blood of Christ is "most worthy of all glory and honor." Through his Blood, we have the strength to confess our faith in the one, true God. He also promises us help when in peril, relief when burdened, and solace in sorrow. Then, at the hour of death, the Precious Blood of our Savior will be our consolation for it is the "pledge of Eternal Life."

So, whenever you receive Communion, even if it is just under the species of the bread, remember that you are consuming the Blood of Jesus. Beg him to help you avail yourself to the many graces granted to you through His Blood. The power to become a saint is contained within it. Let not a drop be wasted. +

**** Kelly Guest was blessed to be a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia for five years. There she received the many graces she draws upon today as a wife and mother of nine children. She blogs at Nun2Nine.com and CatholicMom.com. This article was printed with her permission and also appeared in Aleteia, the online newsletter.***

Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly Set for July 24, 2022

Pope Francis in declaring the date of the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, wrote: "*In old age they will still bear fruit* (Ps 92:15). These words of the Psalmist are glad tidings, a true *gospel* that we can proclaim to all on this second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. They run counter to what the world thinks about this stage of life, but also to the attitude of grim resignation shown by some of us elderly people, who harbor few expectations for the future, he continued.

"Many people are afraid of old age. They consider it a sort of disease with which any contact is best avoided. The elderly, they think, are none of their concern and should be set apart, perhaps in homes or places where they can be cared for, lest we have to deal with their problems. This is the mindset of the 'throw-away culture,' which leads us to think that we are somehow different from the poor and vulnerable in our midst, untouched by their frailties and separated from 'them' and their troubles. The Scriptures see things differently. A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance."

A papal suggestion: "I ask you to make this Day known in your parishes and communities; to seek out those elderly persons who feel most alone, at home or in residences where they live. Let us make sure that no one feels alone on this day. Expecting a visit can transform those days when we think we have nothing to look forward to; from an initial encounter, a new friendship can emerge. Visiting the elderly who live alone is a work of mercy in our time!" Any suggestions and/or volunteers? +

USCCB Offers Newsletters, Videos and Looks for Prayer Partners

The National Eucharistic Revival which was kicked off at our diocese and our parish on Sunday, June 19th with Mass and proessions is an opportunity to become involved personally and as a parishioner. Go to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website at https://www.eucharisticrevival.org to see all the possibilities open to the laity. +

US bishops welcome Supreme Court recent decision on tuition aid to religious schools

The chairmen of the USCCB's Committee for Religious Liberty and Committee on Catholic Education, Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York and Bishop Thomas Daly of Spokane, welcomed Carson v. Makin, the Supreme Court decision that struck down a Maine education law that provided for tuition reimbursement for non-sectarian private schools — but not religious schools

According to the chairmen: "The Court has again affirmed that states cannot exclude religious schools from generally-available public benefits based on their religious affiliation or exercise. In our pluralistic society, it is vital that all people of faith be able to participate in publicly available programs and so to contribute to the common good." The bishops added it was fitting that this concerned a program in Maine, the state that James G. Blaine was Senator of in 1875 when he worked for the passage of the Blaine Amendment – a cynically anti-Catholic measure to amend the Constitution to ensure that no public aid be provided to 'sectarian' schools. His effort was narrowly defeated, but Blaine Amendments were then adopted by 37 states., although only about a dozen remain.+

Words of WISDOM

The Popes on the Precious Blood of Jesus

"Christ did not respond to evil with evil but with goodness, with his infinite love. The Blood of Christ is the pledge of God's faithful love for humanity. Every human being, even in conditions of extreme moral wretchedness can say, fixing his eyes on the wounds of the Crucified One: 'God has not abandoned me, he loves me, he has given his life for me,' and thus rediscover hope. May the Virgin Mary, who at the foot of the Cross together with the Apostle John received the testament of Jesus' Blood, help us to rediscover the inestimable richness of this grace and to feel deep and everlasting gratitude for it." **— Pope Benedict XVI**

"Since the beginnings of Christianity, the mystery of the Blood of Christ has fascinated many people . . . because they understood in the light of faith that the Blood of Christ is the source of salvation for the world. God chose the sign of blood, because no other sign is so eloquent to express the supreme love of life given for others."

— Pope Francis

"Just as Moses made the Old Testament sacred with the blood of calves, so too Christ the Lord took the New Testament, of which He is the Mediator, and made it sacred through His own blood, in instituting the mystery of the Eucharist."

— Pope Paul VI

"The sign of 'blood poured out,' as an expression of life given in bloodshed as a witness to supreme love, is an act of divine condescension to our human condition. God chose the sign of blood because no other sign suggests a person's total involvement so eloquently.

"This mystery of self-giving has its source in the heavenly Father's salvific will and its fulfilment in the filial obedience of Jesus, true God and true Man, through the work of the Holy Spirit. Thus the history of our salvation bears the mark and indelible seal of Trinitarian love."

— Pope John Paul II

Pope's July Prayer Intention: The Elderly

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

Prayer for the Holy Father

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Pope Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father. . .

Words of WISDOM

Quotations from Saints Celebrated During the month of July

"We have seen Indians in immense numbers, and all those on this coast of the Pacific contrive to make a good subsistence on various seeds, and by fishing."

— St. Junipero Serra

"We manifest our love for God
in our observance of His commandments
and in our readiness to obey,
even His smallest decree."

— St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria

"Almighty God, give me wisdom to perceive You, intelligence to understand You, diligence to seek You, patience to wait for You, eyes to behold You, a heart to meditate upon You and life to proclaim You, through the power of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

— **Benedict of Nursia**

"My dear souls, let us recognise, I pray you, Christ's infinite charity towards us
in the institution of this Sacrament of the Eucharist. In order that our love be a spiritual love, He wills a new heart, a new love, a new spirit for us. It is not with a carnal heart but with a spiritual one, that Christ has loved us with a gratuitous love, a supreme and most ardent love, by way of pure grace and charity. Ah! One needs to love Him back with one's whole, whole, whole, living, living, living and true, true, true heart!!"

— St. Lawrence of Brindisi

"In all your deeds and words you should look upon this Jesus as your model. Do so whether you area walking or keeping silence, or speaking, whether you are alone or with others. He is perfect, and thus you will be not only irreprehensible, but praiseworthy."

— **St. Bonaventure**

"think well. Speak well. Do well. These three things, through the mercy of God, will make a man go to Heaven."

— St. Camillus de Lellis

"For the one who does not practice mercy will have his judgment without mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. Of what benefit is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but he does not have works?"

— St. James

"Each of us is called to be both a sacrifice to God and His priest. Do not forfeit what divine authority confers on you. Put on the garment of holiness, gird yourself with the belt of chastity. Let Christ be your helmet,
let the cross on your forehead be your unfailing protection. Your breastplate should be the knowledge of God that He Himself has given you. Keep burning continually the sweet smelling incense of prayer. Take up the sword of the Spirit. Let your heart be an altar.
Then, with full confidence in God, present your body for sacrifice. God desires not death but faith; God thirsts not for blood but for self-surrender; God is appeased not by slaughter but by the offering of your free will."

— St. John Chrysologus

The Month of July 2022

Focus: The Precious Blood of Jesus

To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must comprehend the gravity of sin, the awfulness of offending God, because it took the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin. Pope Clement I said: "Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious It is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world."

Pope's Prayer Intention: For the Elderly

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

The Virtue: Patience

Patience, says St. Thomas, is a virtue attached to the virtue of fortitude, which hinders one from departing from right reason illumined by faith by yielding to difficulties and to sadness. It bears the evils of life with equanimity of soul.