



JULY 28, 2019

17th Sunday
of
Ordinary Time

Jesus Teaches About Prayer

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes,

There have been many recent recollections of the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing, achieved by astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin (of Montclair originally), and Michael Collins. The moon in 1969 was big news, a new idea, and a new ideal. I would like to reflect on the moon landing as a moment of (1) a new idea and (2) a new ideal of community.

Part 1. The Moon as a New Idea

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI observed that it is part of the journey to a new idea to pass through three stages: the magical, the metaphysical, and the scientific.

(Source: Benedict XVI, *Introduction to Christianity*, Ch. 1, "Belief in the World of Today", Sect. 4, "The Boundary of the Modern Understanding of Reality and the Place of Belief.")

Certainly, we can treat our own rituals and relationship with God or other people in this way. But, neither the persons of the Trinity nor the persons in our home can be reduced to magic, to metaphysics or to science. Yet, we may try. We may have tried it with regard to the moon. The moon has been, to us:

MAGICAL IDEA: we have gazed heavenward and wondered about the phases and sizes and visibility. An illusion?

METAPHYSICAL IDEA: some of us attribute to the moon qualities of a spiritual being or god with a small 'g'. In both the magical and metaphysical, there was recognition that the moon had its own essence.

SCIENTIFIC IDEA: the moon is an object studied via telescope and microscope. The moon's essence became a code we could break, no longer encrypted or hidden, if not immediately then someday.

Benedict XVI writes that this scientific attitude can be a limitation. That is do I care only to look at things that I can understand as physical phenomena, under a microscope, to consider things that can be grasped scientifically? Do we care to look at things that are mysterious or inner essences? Or, do we only care about the functionality, about what it can do, perform? Do we look at other people this way?

Benedict XVI's point is that our real goal in knowledge is not just to know about dimensions or distance. The ancient view or the scholastic view is that what we want to know about is "pure existence" or "pure being".

We believe in respect for others, for the unborn person, for the person who is dying, and this is based not on our understanding of dimensions or visible form but on a respect for "pure being", for existence as an end in itself. God created you for your own sake. God did not create you in order to check off the boxes of functionality.

The ultimate pure being is God, because God does not have a body or height or weight or dimensions.

Part 2. The Moon as a New Ideal

The moon landing grabbed everyone's attention, despite the great political strife and division of the era. "Pure being" is attractive. The moon landing of July 20, 1969 was an example. At that moment, what united or impressed people around the world? Was it that we had the moon all figured out? I suggest it was the mystery and idea that united us, that we had reached out of our Earth, our home to another place. This united us not only in the doing, but in the being and existence of our human community. It mattered to us to reach out beyond Earth to land on the moon.

In 1969, on July 19 and 20, 93% of people watching TV saw the moon landing. Never has there been a higher TV ratings percentage before or since. In New York City, 100% of people watched Apollo 11. No one watched anything else.

Just in case you thought – because I thought this – that the percentages were high because few people had televisions, that's not true. Nationally, in 2019, 96% of households have TV. In 1969, 95% of households had TV.

The event of the moon landing drew us together.

And, this positive event helped us to understand our nature – our being – as humanity, as sisters and brothers, as children of God.

And, sometimes it is a negative event – a catastrophe – that draws us together – 9/11/2001, Ground Zero and the World Trade Center loom so large to us.

The event or crisis reminds not that we know what to do, but who we are, the importance of community, the importance of our being, of respecting other people.

And, Holy Eucharist, the Mass reminds us that we have value because we are saved by the incarnate word and existence of Jesus: for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that all who believe in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (John 3:16)

In Christ's Peace,
Father Jim Ferry



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY 27 JULY

8:30 am Catherine Kent
5:30 pm Portia Chaves Bacal

SUNDAY 28 JULY

7:30 am People of the Parish
9:30 am Helen Filan
11:30 am Frank Ludwiczak

MONDAY 29 JULY

8:30 am Marie Stopfer

TUESDAY 30 JULY

8:30 am Marie Stopfer

WEDNESDAY 31 JULY

8:30 am Antonio & Marissa Matias
(Thanksgiving)

THURSDAY 1 AUGUST

8:30 am Catherine Kent

FRIDAY 2 AUGUST

8:30 am Sean Michael Cassels

SATURDAY 3 AUGUST

8:30 am Carol Ford (Special Intentions)
5:30 pm Charles M. McCaffrey

SUNDAY 4 AUGUST

7:30 am People of the Parish
9:30 am Joseph Catalano
(54th Anniversary)
11:30 am Pat Dandola

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY 25 JULY

10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for August 4th bulletin email: lourdesbulletin@aol.com.

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray



For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2019

WEEKLY GOAL \$ 6800
Collection: July 13-14* \$ 4063
Deficit: \$ 2737

* Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit

LITURGICAL MINISTERS— SUNDAY 4 AUGUST

Mass	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5:30 pm	Pauly Camosy	Judith Albore Emily Kunz Frank Refinski	Gina Camosy Jenie Camosy Jonathan Camosy
7:30 am	Joy Hayward	MaryEllen Chandler Patricia Saway Sr. James Soon	Paul Parada Ross Parada
9:30 am	Carol Ford	JoAnne Chiamonte Ann Pflug John Pflug Myrna Regino	Seamus Murphy Volunteer
11:30 am	Anika Fernandes	Virginia Dimapilis Michelle Gizzi Nancy Lanfrank Wendy Sheyka	Ikenna Odoemene Leslie Odoemene
11:30 am	Children's Liturgy -	Julie Nzegwu	



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vincent Aiello, Sean Bailey,
Josefina Balerdi, Suzane Ball,
Kazimiera Borchet, Darlene Cangialosi,
Teresa Carbin, Josephine Ciullo, Tom Collinson,
Jeannie Cox, Ramona De Castro, Peggy Dolan,
Pierre Ferrus, Catherine Gascoyne, Al Gebhardt,
Judy Givas, Alberta Greco, Michael Harris,
Marissa and Richard Hedstrom, Jovann Henry,
Yann Henry, Glenn Holland, Prepty Joint, Bruce
Kiefer, Tim Klein, James Leung, Rose Mateus,
Marion McConville, Mary McGuinness, Stephanie
Montano, Noreen Meyers, Liam Morley,
Florence Olabiyi, William Ollenschleger, Otilia
Ortega, Idelourdes Petion, Patrick Pierre, Mark
Quarno, Thelma Ramaglia, Amy Ricciardi, Mary
Lou Ruppel, Vincent Santucci, Jr., Heather
Scoffone, Patricia Seib, Natalie Sims, Jimmy
Tiernan, Robin Tobia, Harry Vendemia, Annalisa
Verdi, Ann Whelan, Kathy Whelan,
George Zachos.

If you wish to have a loved one prayed for,
please call the rectory at 973.325.0110.

