

Life in the Spirit

Session 6: Growth

Deacon Mike Walsh

www.itinerantpreacher.org

deacon.mike@stpatrick.on.ca



Growth in the Spirit



I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me. *John 15:5*

Growth in the Spirit



Jesus the Christ is the Hub of our Life in the Spirit

Growth in the Spirit

PRAYER



***SACRAMENTS
& COMMUNITY***

SCRIPTURE

***SERVICE &
EVANGELIZATION***

Growth in the Spirit

PRAYER





Growth through Prayer

Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35





Growth through Prayer



With Clenched Fists

“The resistance to praying is like the resistance of tightly clenched fists. This image shows a tension, a desire to cling tightly to yourself, a greediness which betrays fear. (With Open Hands Pg. 26)





Growth through Prayer



With Clenched Fists

“The resistance to praying is like the resistance of tightly clenched fists. This image shows a tension, a desire to cling tightly to yourself, a greediness which betrays fear.

A story about an elderly woman brought to a psychiatric center exemplifies this attitude. She was wild, swinging at everyone so much that the doctors had to take everything away from her. But there was one small coin that she gripped in her fist and would not give up. In fact, it took two people to pry open that clenched hand. It was as though she would lose her very self along with the coin. If they deprived her of that last possession, she would have nothing more and be nothing more. That was her fear.” *(With Open Hands Pg. 26)*





Growth through Prayer



With Clenched Fists



Prayer & Silence



Prayer & Acceptance



Prayer & Hope



Prayer & Compassion



Prayer & Prophetic Criticism





Growth through Prayer

With Open Hands

In the end, a life of prayer is a life with open hands- a life where we are not ashamed of our weaknesses but realize it is more perfect for us to be led by the Other than to try to hold everything in our own hands....

There are as many ways to pray as there are moments in life.” (Pg. 123)



Growth in the Spirit



***SACRAMENTS
& COMMUNITY***



Growth through Sacraments & Community



We may define a sacrament as a visible sign instituted by Christ which effectively communicates the grace it signifies.



The heart of the sacraments is that they actually produce the grace which they signify.



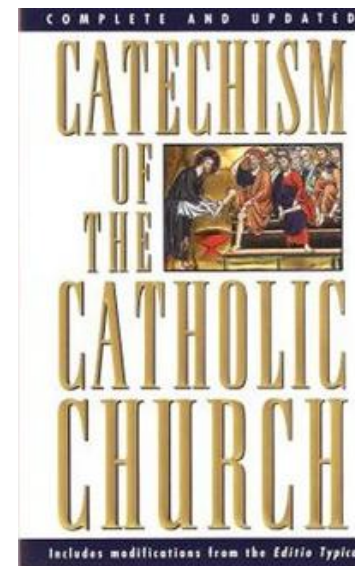
Baptism



Eucharist /Communion



Reconciliation





Growth through Sacraments & Community

Jesus & the Sacrament of Baptism

I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed (Ezekiel 36:25).



Effects of Baptism

- *Removal of Sin*
- *Supernatural Rebirth*
- *Likeness to Christ*
- *Incorporation into the Church*



Growth through Sacraments & Community

Jesus & the Sacrament of the Eucharist

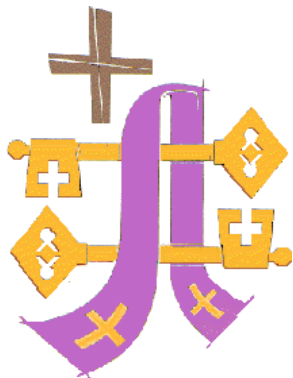


While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28).

The Church officially teaches that "Every effect which bodily food and bodily drink produce in our corporeal life, by preserving this life, increasing this life, healing this life, and satisfying this life – is also produced by this Sacrament in the spiritual life" (Council of Florence, November 22, 1439).



Growth through Sacraments & Community



“[Jesus] breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven, for those whose sins you retain, they are retained” (John 20:19-23).

By [the sacrament of reconciliation] genuine self-knowledge is increased, Christian humility grows, bad habits are corrected, spiritual neglect and tepidity are resisted, the conscience is purified, the will strengthened, a voluntary self-control is attained, and grace is increased in virtue of the sacrament itself (Pope Pius XII, The Mystical Body of Christ, 88).

Business and Closing Prayer



Ministry of Prayer Update



Ministry of Works Update



Ministry of Friendship



Inviting New Members

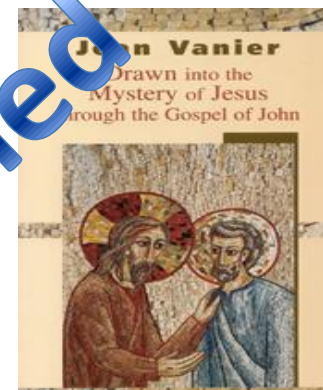


Dear God ,
In your mercy remember me and forgive me for the wrongs I've done
Set me free of my deep fears and my resentments
Melt the hard places of my heart, and
Allow me the grace to
Surrender this day to your loving care.

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom"



Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus



"Jesus not only committed himself to healing people and doing works of justice . He offered his love, trust and friendship to each person, revealing to each one...how beautiful and valuable each one was and how each one was loved by God. " *Jean Vanier*

The Friends of Dismas Vision

To build a community of hope by enabling people of faith to get involved in creative and healing ministry to persons touched by crime.



Introduction

Growth in the Spirit

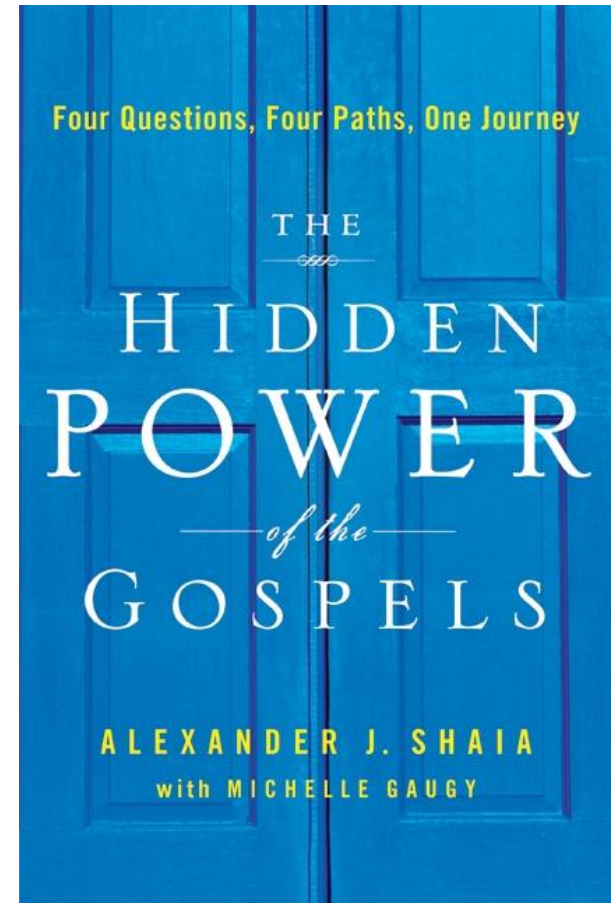
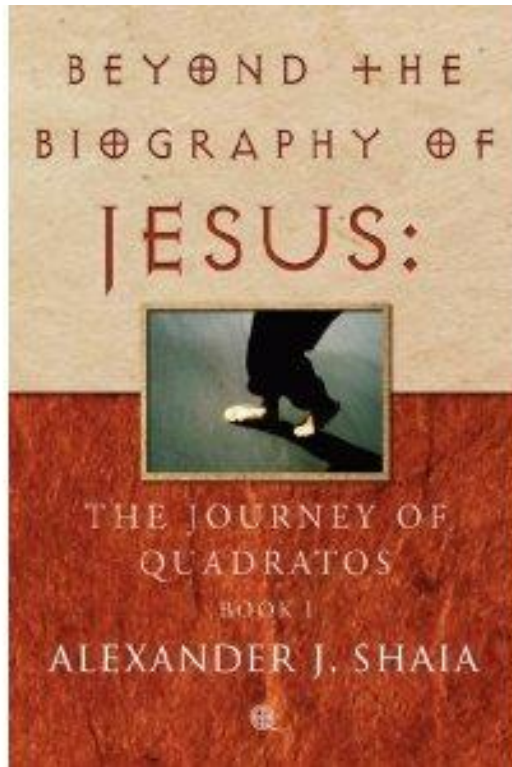


SCRIPTURE

Beyond the Biography of Jesus

The Journey of Quadratos

Dr. Alexander Shaia



<http://www.quadratos.com/quadratos/>

Four Paths on the Journey to Transformation

3-Joy



- The Path: The Glorious Garden
- Requires: Faith
- A Role Model: Thomas Merton
- John: Exalted Prologue

Lessons: Creation beyond time
Unity for all

4-Service



- The Path: Mature in Service
- Requires: Compassion & Love
- A Role Model: Mother Antonia
- Luke: Good Samaritan
Prodigal Son

Lessons: Generous Forgiveness
Compassion

2-Suffering



- The Path: Cross the Stormy Sea
- Requires: Inner Strength & Hope
- A Role Model: Victor Frankl
- Mark: Storm at Sea

Lessons: We are not alone
Keep Going

1-Change



- The Path: Climbing the Mountain
- Requires: Trust & Courage
- A Role Model: Mother Teresa
- Matthew: The Beatitudes

Lessons: Standards
Goals

Growth in the Spirit

***SERVICE &
EVANGELIZATION***



Growth through Service and Evangelization

Paul to Timothy:



“Be an example for believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith and purity... watch yourself and watch your teaching. Keep on doing these things, because if you do, you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

1 Timothy 4:12,16

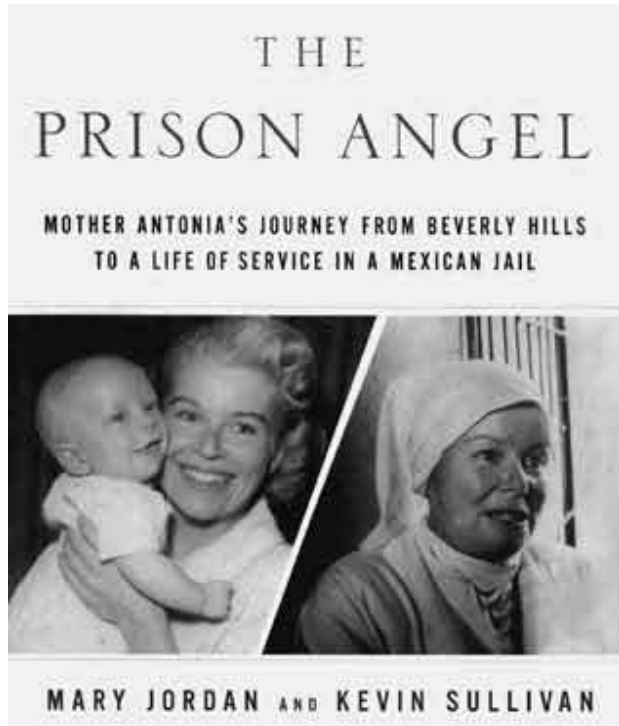
Growth through Service and Evangelization

The Story of Mary Clark



- *Born 1926 to Joseph Clarke and Kathleen Mary Clarke*
- *Mother dies when Mary is 3 years old*
- *Grew up in Beverly Hills California next to Carry Grant*
- *First child died 3 days after birth from brain damage*
- *Mother of 7 other children*
- *Twice married and divorced*
- *Successful businesswoman having inherited the family business*
- *Active in a number of local charities including delivering supplies to a prison in Mexico*

Growth through Service and Evangelization



Mary Clark becomes Mother Antonia

- *Wanted to change her life/ Sold business*
- *No Religious Order would take a 50 year old twice divorced woman as a novice*
- *1977 she donned a Habit and moved to the toughest prison in Tijuana called La Mesa*

In 30 + years she says "I have never experienced on day of depression...never felt hopeless."

Path 4: Service- Mother Antonia

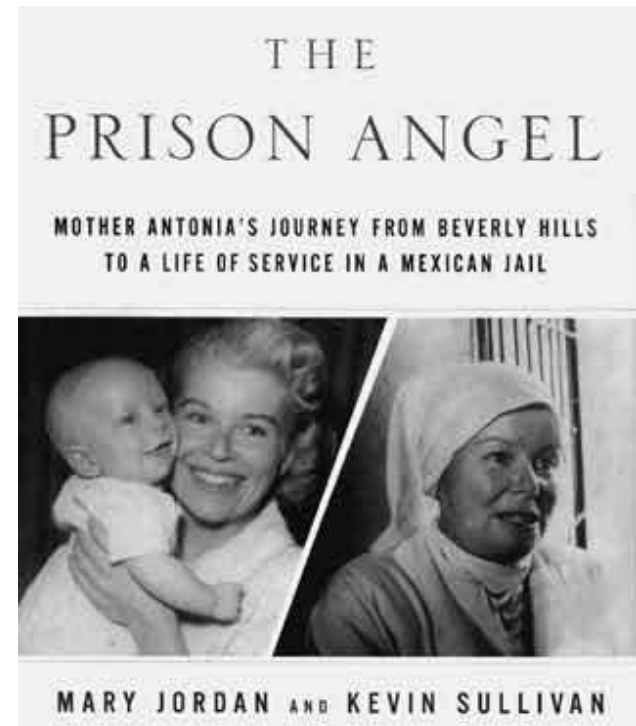


Mary Clarke's astonishing transformation from an affluent life in Beverly Hills to an inspiring ministry of caring for -- and living with -- the poorest prisoners in one of Mexico's most dangerous jails.

"Frank a transsexual yells to Mother Antonia... "Mamá! Mamá! Mamá!" , embracing her as if hugging his own mother. Mother Antonia says that nobody has a tougher life, in the prison or outside, than the transexual.

"You love the unlovable," says Frank, a prisoner who is waiting for her at the heavy mesh door of her cell, which is only a few steps away from the holding cell for the newcomers.

"I love the people whom other people think are unlovable," she says."



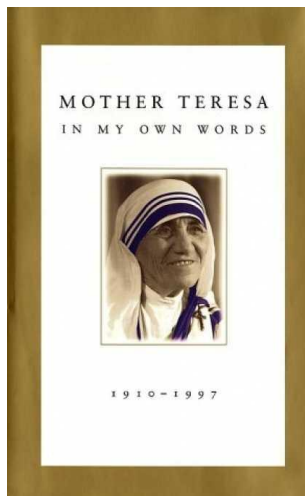
Growth through Service and Evangelization



Luke 5:12-13

While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy....

Jesus reached out his hand **and touched the man**. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.



"**Let us touch** the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work." Mother Teresa

Growth in the Spirit

PRAYER



***SACRAMENTS
& COMMUNITY***

SCRIPTURE

***SERVICE &
EVANGELIZATION***

Life in the Spirit

Session 6: Growth

Deacon Mike Walsh

www.itinerantpreacher.org

deacon.mike@stpatrick.on.ca

