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Roots & Wings

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*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

This beatitude refers to the yearning to love God and others, and the satisfaction and happiness of living according to God's will. When we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we are blessed by the desire to know God and to live a good and holy life. Christ promises that we will find Him and the happiness of His kingdom.

We all desire happiness, and this beatitude focuses on our spiritual appetites and steers us away from the desire for money, popularity and power. St. Augustine links this beatitude to the gift of fortitude. We need fortitude to free ourselves from loving material things so we can be free to love God more completely.

This beatitude counters the sin of sloth - indifference about God and His offer to eternal life. It is a type of spiritual death that finds no joy in God and His promise of the

Kingdom. It is easy to commit the sin of sloth by getting so caught up in material things or so busy we forget to reflect on God (Kreeft, 1992).



Matthew 5:6

We are blessed by the desire for righteousness because it leads us to God's love. To desire righteousness means to want to do the right thing or to be just. We can do this by reaching out to the poor, the lonely, and the vulnerable. Through our generosity, compassion and love toward others, we find God and His Kingdom, satisfying our hunger for true goodness and God's love.

By: Laurie Liesen

Sources:

The Ladder of the Beatitudes by Jim Forest

Back to Virtue by Peter Kreeft

Catholic Schools Week

IJP and Catholic Schools across the nation will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 29 - February 3. The theme "Catholic Schools—Faith, Academics, Service", focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught faith – not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential.

Service, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship. (www.ncea.org)

The tentative schedule is as follows:

† **Sunday, 1/29:** Representatives will speak at Masses, Scholastic Book Fair opens in library

† **Monday, 1/30:** Teacher Appreciation Day, Scholastic Book Fair open

† **Tuesday, 1/31:** PTO sponsored Assembly, Scholastic Book Fair open

† **Wednesday, 2/1:** All-School Mass, Scholastic Book Fair open

† **Thursday, 2/2:** Wax Museum, Science Fair viewing, IJP School Open House, Scholastic Book Fair open

† **Friday, 2/3:** Student Appreciation Day, PTO Fun Lunch, Free Jeans Day, Science Fair Competition, Scholastic Book Fair open

† **Saturday, 2/4:** PTO sponsored Gym Jam



NORMA L. McCORVEY

THE FORMER JANE ROE

PRESS BIOGRAPHY



Ms. Norma L. McCorvey was born September 22, 1947 in Simmesport, Louisiana. In 1969, at the age of twenty-two, Norma was introduced to two lawyers from Texas, Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee; both were looking to overturn the Texas statute which outlawed abortion. They approached a pregnant Norma McCorvey. As a result, Norma signed on the dotted line making her the plaintiff in an abortion suit against the State of Texas. This case would later evolve into the infamous Supreme Court case, *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion in this country. After over 28 years of guilt induced drug binges and various jobs in abortion clinics in an attempt to justify her involvement in the legalization of abortion, Norma McCorvey did the unthinkable. As the former “poster-girl” for abortion who, in the words of a friend, “jumped off of the poster and into the arms of Christ,” Norma truly began to live her life for herself. Norma has commented on her conversion, saying “after being Jane Roe and working in the reality of death at various abortion clinics, it began to eat away at my soul. God was my saving grace that literally saved my life.”

In 1995, Norma was baptized and gave her life to God. She literally moved next door from the abortion clinic at which she was working to the national offices of the prominent pro-life organization, Operation Rescue. Later, feeling a need to share her personal message, Norma founded Roe No More Ministry in 1997 with the mission of exposing the lie that is *Roe v. Wade*. Roe No More Ministry is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization based in Dallas, Texas that focuses primarily on achieving the goal of educating the nation about the truth behind Jane Roe.

In 1998, Miss Norma completed work on the autobiography that exposes the truth about her life in the pro-abortion camp and later, her conversion to Christ. In *Won By Love*, Miss Norma goes into great detail regarding her work in the abortion industry that ultimately led her to drugs and suicide attempts. The end to *Won By Love* is not one of defeat—but rather quite the contrary. Norma’s words in *Won By Love* embody Roe No More Ministry’s focus of love and forgiveness, since, in reality Norma experienced profound love and forgiveness.

Norma’s faith journey eventually led her home, as she describes it, to the Roman Catholic Church. In 1998, she was confirmed a Catholic by Fr. Edward Robinson, O.P. of St. Albert’s Priory in Dallas and Fr. Frank Pavone, the International Director of [Priests for Life](#). While Ms. McCorvey is unapologetically Roman Catholic, she prides herself in maintaining a non-denominational ministry.

Roe No More Ministry, as Norma has built it, is “dedicated to spreading the truth: to know things as they are;” Norma now speaks the truth, and she has dedicated her whole life to spreading the truth as she lived it, including both her involvement in *Roe v. Wade* and what she saw in various abortion clinics. Since Roe No More’s inception in 1997, Miss Norma has traveled to three countries and over 40 states sharing her story with church congregations, civic organizations, university students, clergy, and rallies. Norma has appeared on various major television news shows including NBC, ABC, CBS, *Larry King Live*, and FOX’s *Hannity and Colmes*, in addition to testifying before various Congressional committees.

Besides Norma’s unparalleled support of crisis pregnancy solutions, Norma has devoted much time participating in The Justice Foundation’s Operation Outcry, which is dedicated to documenting the stories of post-abortive women in an attempt to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the court case Norma fought for so hard so many years ago. Norma’s answer to those that criticize her new conviction for the right to life of the unborn: “I’m being true to myself and that is all that matters to me and God.”

<http://roenomore.org/press/2003bio.pdf>

Beatitudes Prayer

Heavenly Father, we open our hearts to hear your word today as you speak through your son Jesus giving the Sermon on the Mount — The Beatitudes. Teach us the 8 character traits needed to demonstrate a faithful obedience to you that comes from the heart...

Jesus said...

1. You are blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and His rule.
2. You are blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.
3. You are blessed when you're content with just who you are — no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.
4. You are blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat!
5. You are blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-ful', you find yourselves cared for.
6. You are blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God through the outside world.
7. You are blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.
8. You are blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

Hold us accountable this year to each and everyone of these, Father. We ask this in Jesus' name, AMEN.

BOOKS FOR THOSE THAT HUNGER AND THIRST

For Adults:

***The Dialog* by St. Catherine of Sienna, translated by Susanne Noffke, O.P.**

***Dorothy Day: A Biography* by William D. Miller**

***The Preaching of Chrysostom*, ed. By Jaroslav Pelikan**

Spirituality of the Beatitudes: Matthew's Challenge

for First World Christians by Michael H. Crosby, O.F.M.

For Children:

***Armageddon Summer* by Jane Yolen**

***Cheating Lessons: A Novel* by Nan Willard Cappel**

***A Fine White Dust* by Claire Rudolf Murphy**

***The Great Blue Yonder* by Alex Shearer**

***The Last Safe Place on Earth* by Richard Peck**

***Leaving Fishers* by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

***Ordinary Miracles* by Stephanie S. Tolan**

***Other Bells for Us to Ring* by Robert Cormier**

***Preacher's Boy* by Katherine Paterson**

***The Return* by Sonia Levitin**

***Send Me Down a Miracle* by Han Nolan**

***The Singing Mountain* by Sonia Levitin**

***Slot Machine* by Chris Lynch**

***The Tent: A Parable in One Sitting* by Gary Paulsen**

***What Child is This?: A Christmas Story* by Caroline B.**

Cooney

***When Kambia Elaine Flew in from Neptune* by Lori Aurelia Williams**



Those who want to do right more than anything else are happy. God will fully satisfy them.

~Matthew 5:6



Prayer for the Dignity of Human Life

Lord and giver of all life,
help us to value each person, created in love by you.

In your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity and value of all human life, born and unborn.

We ask this through



A Prayer for Our School

God, our Father and Creator, be with us in our school.

Help us to treasure your gift of life and treat one another with care.

Let us always remember that we are all created in your image.

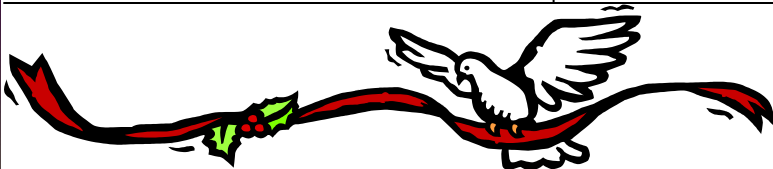
Come, Lord Jesus, and be with us in our school.

Guide our teachers,
guide our parents,
and lead our students
to recognize you in all people.

Come, Holy Spirit, and be with us in our school.

Give us a vision for the future,
and the determination for shaping a faith-filled future.

Amen.



The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.



“There are two lasting bequests
we can hope to give our children.

One is roots,
the other wings.”

Hodding Carter II