

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2018

Demonic Possession or Mental Illness?

Recognizing the difference between a person who is possessed and a person struggling with a mental illness or other infirmity is a vital part of the ministry of exorcism, according to a long-time exorcist and priest. Father Cipriano de Meo, who has been an exorcist since 1952, told CNA's Italian agency ACI Stampa that typically, a person is not possessed but is struggling with some other illness.

The key to telling the difference, he said, is through discernment in prayer on the part of the exorcist and the possessed – and in the potentially possessed person's reaction to the exorcist himself and the prayers being said. The exorcist will typically say “(a) prolonged prayer to the point where if the Adversary is present, there's a reaction,” he said. “A possessed person has various general attitudes towards an exorcist, who is seen by the Adversary as an enemy ready to fight him.” Fr. de Meo described the unsettling reaction that a possessed person usually has, detailing a common response to the exorcist's prayer. “There's no lack of frightening facial expressions, threatening words or gestures and other things,” he said, “but especially blasphemies against God and Our Lady.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between demonic activity and mental illness. From paragraph 1673: “Exorcism is directed at the expulsion of demons or to the liberation from demonic possession through the spiritual authority which Jesus entrusted to his Church. Illness, especially psychological illness, is a very different matter; treating this is the concern of medical science. Therefore, before an exorcism is performed, it is important to ascertain that one is dealing with the presence of the Evil One, and not an illness.”

In April of 2015, the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy and the Sacerdos Institute hosted a seminar at Rome's Regina Apostolorum University, specifically aimed at training priests and lay people in spotting the differences between psychological problems and demonic possession. The conference included interventions from a wide range of experts in the field of exorcism, including practicing exorcists, medical professionals, psychologists, lawyers, and theologians. Fr. de Meo also emphasized that not all cases of possession are going to look the same, which is why it is so important for exorcists to go through rigorous training. “It's up to the priest serving in this ministry to know how to deal with the case, by the will of God, with love and humility,” he said.

“For this reason, with my bishop's authorization, for 13 years, I've led a school for exorcists. I've tried to especially prepare those who are beginning this ministry,” he said. However, even though cases of demonic possession are not as common as cases of psychological illness, most people are too unaware and unfamiliar with spiritual realities, he said. ... Father de Meo said that people often turn to “the chatter of magicians and illusionists” for answers, rather than “the weapons the Lord has put at our disposal.” While people often seek radical answers or signs, the best defense against demonic possession is a simple and sacramental life of prayer, the priest said. “It's absolutely fundamental to get rid of sin and live in the grace of God,” he said. ...

The Catechism offers further guidance on how to avoid demonic activity: anything that involves recourse to Satan or demons, or that attempts to conjure the dead or reveal future events, is to be rejected. From CCC paragraph 2116: “Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone.”

As for the exorcists themselves, it is important to remain humble and to remember that their power comes from Christ, Father de Meo added. “Regarding spiritual preparation, humility and the conviction that we exorcists aren't the ones who are going to cast out the demon that's fighting Christ. We're called to fight on behalf of Christ.”

Catholic News Agency, March 17, 2016

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday: 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday: *Saint John Bosco, Priest (Memorial)*
 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13
Friday: *The Presentation of the Lord (Feast)*
 Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 2:22-40
Saturday: 1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34
Sunday: Job 7:1-4, 6-7; Mark 1:29-39

This Week's Program Schedule

Monday, January 29

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Bible Study	Lounge
6:00PM	Adoration/Reconciliation	Church

Tuesday, January 30

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, January 31

1:00PM	Mass @ CSUS Bizini Hall, Rm 245	
4:00-5:00PM	1 st Session CRE	Church
5:15-6:30PM	2 nd Session CRE	Church
6:45-8:00PM	3 rd Session CRE	Church

Thursday, February 1

Friday, February 2

4:30PM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, February 3

6:15AM	That Man Is You!	Church
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

Sunday, February 4

9:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	Children's Liturgy	Conf. Rm
10:00AM	Hospitality	Lobby
6:00PM	Mass	Church

Something for our Children!

Can you unscramble the following words from today's Gospel?

BBHATAS	RBSEICS	NNLUCAE
IITRPS	LOYH	EBYO

Answers on the next page→

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Give back to the Lord a sacrifice, a share of what the Lord has so generously given to you.

Last Sunday's Offertory: \$ 6,513.15
 Catholic Missions Appeal: \$ 1,635.51

Thank you and God bless you!

MASS INTENTIONS

5:00PM	Saturday, January 27	Pacita Cisneros†
9:00AM	Sunday, January 28	Vincenzo Tamagna†
6:00PM	Sunday, January 28	All Saints Community
8:00AM	Monday, January 29	Laurion Cabral†
8:00AM	Tuesday, January 30	William Khamis†

NEW BISHOP OF STOCKTON: We are pleased to announce that Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Myron Cotta on January 23, 2018 to succeed Bishop Stephen Blaire as Bishop of Stockton. Bishop Cotta served as Vicar General in the Diocese of Fresno where he was a priest and most recently served as Auxiliary Bishop in the Diocese of Sacramento. Bishop Cotta will be installed as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Stockton on March 15, 2018. Until that date Bishop Blaire will serve as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese.

2018 BMA CAMPAIGN BEGINS THIS WEEKEND: The theme of this year's campaign is "As One, Giving Glory to God." Our Building Fund will receive 100% of all funds that exceed our parish goal for the Bishops Ministry Appeal. Thank you and God bless you for your continuing generosity.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH FRY will take place on the Lenten Fridays of February 16, March 2 and March 16. Tickets will be sold after all masses. Meals are \$11.00 and include fish, cabbage crunch salad, baked potato, dinner roll and dessert. Thank you and God bless our Knights of Columbus.

SACRED HEART WOMEN'S SCRIPTURE STUDY is offering a Lenten study of Bishop Robert Barron's video, "Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Lively Virtues" for seven Thursdays beginning February 8 from 1:00-2:30pm. They will meet in St. Cecelia's room, 1301 Cooper Street. Register at the Sacred Heart parish office and pick up your handout. There is no book with this series. For more information, call Peggy at 209-620-0672.

2018-2019 SCHOLARSHIPS: All Saints is offering scholarships to church members who are attending or planning to attend any university, community college, or trade school. In addition, any student, regardless of religious affiliation, who is attending or planning to attend CSU Stanislaus is eligible to apply for a scholarship. Application forms are available in the office and will be due on **Monday, April 16, 2018.**

Please note: If you would like to offer a scholarship in your family's name or in the name of a loved one who has passed away, please contact the church office.

This week's helpers include ...

Altar Linens ~ Elaine Sullivan

Thank you and God bless you for your unselfish service!

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS: SABBATH, SCRIBES, UNCLEAN, SPIRIT, HOLY, OBEY. How did you do?

TIPS FOR TITHING

Our gift to God is a sacrifice. To give in a sacrificial way means that our giving comes from the heart. Jesus sacrificed his entire life for us and His gift was His very life. We are to return a portion of our time, talent, and treasure so the work of Jesus can continue on earth. *What return can I make to the Lord for all the blessings He has poured out on me?*

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Please pray for our sick community members and friends:

Gustavo Delgadillo	Socorro Aguilar	Ed H
Peggy Howard	Rita Yonan	Taylor Holt
Sarah Anderson	Linda Seymour	Stephen...
Jim Perdomo	Flynn Hillman	Janet Fiorini
Taurino & Concepcion Lopez	Keith Bentley	Shelly...
Infant Rosie	Jack B. Shaw	Karen ...
Cynthia Basco	Jackie Ferreira	Thelma Tamis
David Rodriguez	David & Linda Back	Sharon...
Patti & Tom Scott	Charlie W.	Ed Rocha
David & Paula Baca	Catherine Harris	William Jackson
Joanne Mattos	Isabel Rodriguez	Edward Lytle
Bishop Stephen Blaire	Pat B.	Kevin Downs
Bernard & Ann Pannella	Katarina Renenger	Raul Campusano
Maritza Dominguez	Cecilia Renenger	Brian Diehl
June Zuniga	Mike Baer	Jeanne Neu

Your special prayers for these and others suffering from illness are gratefully appreciated. Thank you and God bless you!

Notify the office if you have anyone you would like to place on our list of persons in need of prayer due to illness. So that space will always be available for your loved ones, names will be kept on our list for three months. (However, your prayer requests can be renewed.)

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CRE)

Faith Formation, Monday, February 5: Parents and sponsors who are in need of *faith formation* hours should plan to attend. Adoration and Reconciliation will be at 6:00PM followed by Deacon Lane's talk about the Eucharist at 7:00PM. There will be sign-in sheets available for all parents and sponsors attending.

RCIA

Any adult wishing to embrace the Catholic faith or any Catholic wishing to be confirmed should contact Michael Fuller by calling the church office at 669-0473.

SAVE THE DATE: All Saints next parish pilgrimage will take place on Wednesday, July 25, 2018. More details will be coming at a later date.

MINISTRY DAY: Ministry Day will be held on March 3 at St. Mary's High School in Stockton. Early registration ends on February 2 and is \$35. The cost will be \$40 after February 2 and at the door. A boxed lunch is available for \$3 with early registration only. Registration booklets are available in the lobby or online at stocktondiocese.org. Call Leticia at 466-0636 for more information.

A Moment with Max

"The more powerful and courageous a soul becomes with the help of God's grace, the greater the cross God places on its shoulders, so that it might mirror as closely as possible the image of the Crucified in its own life."

- St. Maximilian Kolbe

MAXIMILIAN 
SAINT OF AUSCHWITZ

Live Theatrical Drama Coming
Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m.
All Saints University Parish
StMaxDrama.com