

F&S (Fun and Serious)

†††JMJ††† **Dust the cobwebs out of your gray matter and solve this brainteaser if you can** †††JMJ†††

Is it true that there is one place in England where the King or Queen can never go? [The answer will be provided in a later F&S production.] Answers to question in F&S=1-2: *crypt, gypsy, lymph, pygmy, sylph, tryst, myrrh* [Now, surely everybody got at least one of the seven words correct! We just read about *myrrh* in the Holy Gospel two days ago.]

†††JMJ††† **Scriptural quiz** †††JMJ†††

Was Noe's great grandfather still living or already dead when the great flood began? [The answer will be provided in a later F&S production.] Answer to F&S=1-2: *Noe's grandfather, Mathusala, lived 969 years – the oldest recorded age of anyone in the Bible. He died the same year that the flood began. I do not know if he died before the flood began or in the floodwaters.*

†††JMJ††† **Liturgy quiz** †††JMJ†††

How old was St. Paul, the first hermit (whose feast is kept on January 15) when he died? [The answer will be provided in a later F&S production.] Answer to F&S=1-2: *The feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is kept on the first Sunday of the year; but if this Sunday falls on January 1, or 6th, or 7th, the feast is kept on January 2.*

NOTE: you may receive a Catholic calendar and some information concerning the rubrics by requesting it from Patrick Henry; JMJ@JMJsites.com

†††JMJ††† **Humor for today** †††JMJ†††

A man decided to try skydiving. The instructor was telling the class that the main chute should be deployed at 500 feet. If that didn't work be sure to open the backup chute by 400 feet. One student asked "How long do you have if neither chute works before you land?" The instructor replied, "The rest of your life."

†††JMJ†††

Growing old is inevitable; growing up is optional.

†††JMJ††† **Short meditation for today** †††JMJ†††

The mystery of the Incarnation is the miracle of miracles. In becoming man, the more the Word has humbled Himself, the more has He shown His divine goodness. In the Incarnation we may say God has become one of us. – *Saint Bernard.*

St. Peter of Alcantara, hearing on Christmas-day the words sung in the Gospel, "*In principio erat Verbum,*" was inflamed with most ardent love and filled with transports of admiration unbounded.

Saint Augustine in his *Confessions* declares that he never ceased to reflect upon the goodness of God in His grandwork of the redemption of man. In the heart of St. Mary Magdalene of Pazzi was found engraven these words: "And the Word was made flesh."

Let us not forget, says St. Bernard, that it is for sake of our love that God loves us. Let us not forget how ancient, how disinterested, how tender, how strong, how generous, is the love of Jesus for us. He has not ceased to love us, miserable sinners though we be.

Prayer

O my Savior, I am grieved because so few will receive Thee, Who hast come for all, and so many Christians, having received Thee, have again rejected Thee. I too have been guilty of this perfidy. Pardon, my Jesus. Come into my heart; enkindle there the fire of Thy love; never permit it to become extinguished.

†††JMJ††† **Today's reflection from the Imitation of Christ** †††JMJ†††

O Lord God, patience, as I precede, is very necessary for me, for this life is exposed to many adversities. For, notwithstanding all I can do to live in peace, my life cannot be without war and sorrow.

So it is, son; but I would not have thee seek for such peace as to be without temptations or meet with no adversities. But even then to think that thou hast found peace when thou shalt be exercised with divers tribulations and tried in many adversities. If thou shalt say thou art not able to suffer so much, how then wilt thou endure the fire of purgatory? Of two evils one ought always to choose the less.

†††JMJ††† **A Scripture quote for today** †††JMJ†††

Go and diligently inquire after the child. (*It would be well if each of us did what the wicked King Herod told the wise men to do.*)

†††JMJ††† **This is Serious** †††JMJ†††

Thus did Saint Augustine designate the thought of eternity: “The Great Thought” – *Magna Cogitatio*. It was this thought that induced so many solitaries to retire into deserts; so many Religious, even kings and queens, to shut themselves up in cloisters; and so many Martyrs to sacrifice their lives in the mist of torments, in order to acquire a happy eternity in Heaven, and to avoid a miserable eternity in hell. The Blessed John of Ávila converted a certain lady with these two words: “Reflect,” said he to her, “on these two words: *Ever* and *Never*.” A certain monk went down into a grave that he might meditate continually on Eternity, and constantly repeated, “O Eternity! Eternity!”

How frequently, my God, have I deserved the eternity of hell! Oh, that I had never offended Thee! Grant me sorrow for my sins; have compassion on me.

The same Blessed John of Ávila says, that he who believes in eternity and becomes not a Saint should be confined as one deranged. When we shall have arrived at eternity there will be no question of residing in a house more or less commodious, or more or less airy: the question will be of our dwelling in a palace overflowing with delights, or in a gulf of endless torments. And for how long a time? Not for 40 or 50 years, but forever, as long as God shall be God. The Saints to obtain salvation, thought it little to give their whole life to prayer, penance, and the practice of good works. And what do we do for the same end?

O my God! How many years of my life are already past; already death is near at hand, and what have I hitherto done for Thee? Give me light, and strength, to devote the remainder of my days to Thy service. Too much, alas! Have I offended Thee; I desire henceforth to love Thee.

Hear another important meditation about Eternity and other subjects at:

SPIRITUAL RETREAT. Order No. 92. This tape contains some excellent thoughts on the important subjects of Eternity, Death, Judgment, Mortal Sin, the ingratitude of those who commit sin, and other subjects. Imprimatur 1885. One Tape read by PH.

T1S1 <http://www.jmjsite.com/a/92/92t1s1.mp3>

T1S2 <http://www.jmjsite.com/a/92/92t1s2.mp3>

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You are invited and encouraged to share this information with others. Thank you for visiting <http://www.JMJsite.com>; and please tell others about this website. I pray that you will live in such a way that the Good God will always constantly Bless you while He keeps you from all sin. May Jesus, Mary, and Saint Joseph obtain for you every grace you need.

My prayer for everyone; and especially for those on my email list: “May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph grant you and yours all of the Joys, Graces, and Blessings necessary to live and die in the state of Sanctifying grace in perfect Uniformity with God’s Most Holy Will. May you know the truth and live and die in the True Church having obtained that degree of holiness it is God’s Will you obtain.”

I will pray an extra 15-decade Rosary every Sunday and Holyday throughout the year for those who are on my email list.

Thank you for all of your prayers, penances, and sacrifices for me.

Patrick Henry

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