



## THE CONVERSION ...

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holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. (Acts 9:13-19). Acts' second telling of Paul's conversion occurs in a speech Paul gives when he is arrested in Jerusalem. Paul addresses the crowd and tells them of his conversion.

The Conversion of Paul, in spite of his attempts to completely eradicate Christianity, is seen as evidence of the power of Divine Grace, with "no fall so deep that grace cannot descend to it" and "no height so lofty

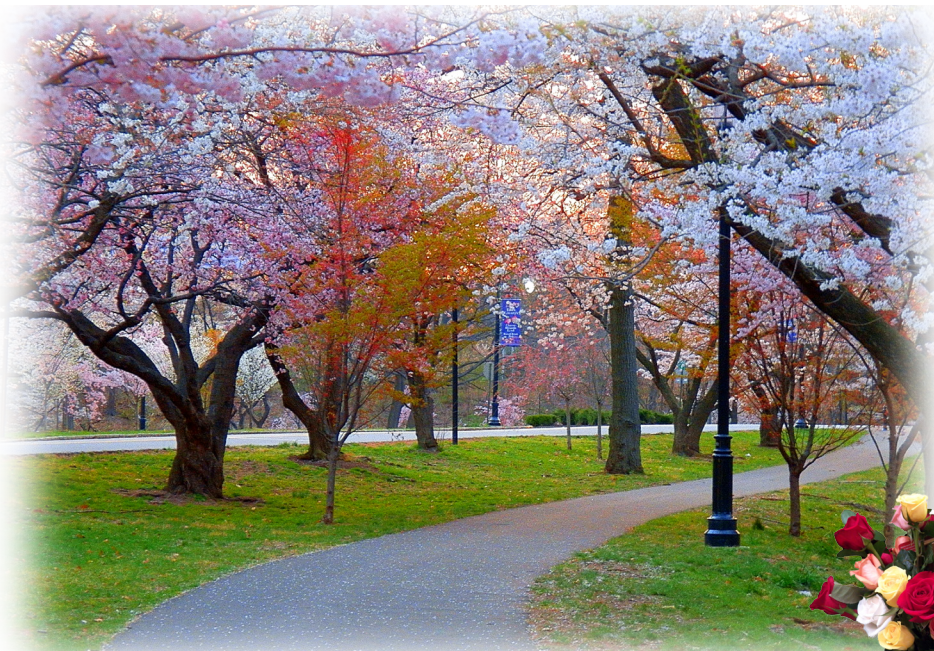
that grace cannot lift the sinner to it." It also demonstrates "God's power to use everything, even the hostile persecutor, to achieve the divine purpose." The transforming effect of Paul's conversion influenced the clear contrast he saw "between righteousness based on the law," which he had sought in his former life; and "righteousness based on the death of Christ," which he describes, for example, in the Epistle to the Galatians. I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. (Galatians 1:11-16)

What motivates a person to speak out regardless of the personal consequences? This is a question that Paul raises. It is also one

that we all ask from time to time. Why preach the gospel if it leads to ridicule, personal deprivation and hostility? For Paul it was not a matter of feeling that he was the best qualified or had superior credentials. It was, rather, a question of conviction--a conviction that constrained him to speak out, even when it was not to his advantage to do so. What was this conviction? It was not the belief that Jesus is the Christ--as we would expect of a Jew--but rather the certainty that he who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then empty [too] is our preaching; empty, too, your faith. (1 Cor 15:13-14)

### Prayer

*Risen Lord, grant that through the testimony of Paul, we will be encouraged and emboldened to proclaim our own conversion to our families, friends, colleagues and the world despite of the personal consequences that will arise. May the power of your resurrection raise us from death to life and bring us true Easter joy and abundant blessings! Amen.*



**Have a  
joyous and  
blessed  
Easter to All!**



# TRUE DOCTRINE DISPELS ARROGANCE

*From the Moral Reflections on Job by Saint Gregory the Great, pope.*

**L**isten, Job, to what I say and ponder all my words. The teaching of the arrogant has this characteristic: they do not know how to introduce their teaching humbly and they cannot convey correctly to others the things they understand correctly themselves. With their words they betray what they teach; they give the impression that they live on lofty heights from which they look down disdainfully on those whom they are teaching; they regard the latter as inferiors, to whom they do not deign to listen as they talk; indeed they scarcely deign to talk to them at all — they simply lay down the law.

To teachers of this kind the Lord through the prophet says rightly: But you will rule them with severity and with power. There is no doubt that such as are prone not to correct their subjects with quiet reasoning, but to compel them to change by rough and domineering methods, rule with severity and power.

On the contrary true doctrine all the more effectively shuns the voice of arrogance through reflection, in which it pursues the arrogant teacher himself with the arrows of its words. It ensures that the pride which it attacks in the hearts of those listening to the sacred words will not in fact be preached by arrogant conduct. For true doctrine tries both to teach by words and to demonstrate by living example—humility, which is the mother and mistress of virtues. Its goal is to express humility among the disciples of truth more by deeds than by words.

Accordingly, when addressing the Thessalonians, Paul is oblivious of his own eminent dignity as an apostle; he actually says: We became as little children in your midst. Similarly, the apostle Peter enjoins: Be always prepared to satisfy everybody who asks a reason for the hope which

is in you; and by adding the words, with a good conscience, speak gently and respectfully, Peter draws attention to the manner in which sacred doctrine should be taught.

When he tells his disciples: These things command and teach with all power, Paul really recommends the credibility that goes hand in hand with good behavior rather than the domineering exercise of power. When one practices first and preaches afterwards, one is really teaching with power. Doctrine loses credibility, if conscience tethers the tongue. Paul, therefore, in the saying quoted above, does not refer to the power of lofty rhetoric but to the confidence elicited by good deeds. Of the Lord, too, it is said: He taught with authority unlike the Scribes and the Pharisees. He alone in a unique and sovereign way spoke from the power of his goodness because no evil weakness led him into sin. For he had from the power of his own divine nature what he gave to us through the sinlessness of his human nature.

## Spiritual Journey

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difficult relationships it's easy to love other people when everything's going well. But when there are hurt feelings, mistrust, or clashing wills, relationships don't feel very much as though they are of God. Yet it is at just those times, that we can witness the movement of God in our lives, leading us to healing, trust, and cooperation. These can be opportunities to let go of character defects and to exercise virtues.

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## Healing Prayers

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love me and you will not forsake me because you are goodness, forgiveness and gentleness in itself. Holy Spirit, purify my heart and cleanse me of my sins so I may bring Christ's healing love to others who do not know the divine mysteries. Give me confidence to proclaim that you are the Christ, the Messiah whom God sent for salvation of the world. I pray in your name Jesus, for the greater glory of the Father. Amen.

**J**esus what ever you did while on earth you lifted to your Father for his blessings. All you did was directed to pleasing and glorifying your Father. You are asking me today that if I truly love you, how much do I come to you for your blessing. You are asking me how much time do I give myself to reflect upon my plans and decision. You are asking me if my life pleases and glorify you. Loving Jesus bless me to have my daily activities be worthy only for a King, Lord, Savior and Lover!

**L**ord Jesus, You are close to the brokenhearted, to all who are crushed in spirit, You save. You came into the world, obeying the Father's Will, in His goodness and love for sinful humanity. You deliver the just from their troubles and tribulations, we take refuge in You, dear Lord, You are our stronghold, portion and cup, we place ourselves in total surrender to Your Will for we know that Your yoke is easy and Your burden light. We come to rest at the foot of Your throne of grace in the Blessed Sacrament, as we longingly gaze at Your splendor, beauty and hiddenness, Your humble Presence radiates to our souls the profound love and abiding hope as Your faithful children journeying in this life of exile but trusting to share it eternally with You in the life to come. Jesus, You are the Living Bread who came down from heaven, strengthen us to live in Your holy Word, grant us the grace to obey and follow as we know, love and serve You. In Your Great Name, Lord Jesus with Mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe. Amen.

## Servant's Prayer

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holy will and incline our ear to your living word.

Jesus, present and alive in the Sacrament of Love, you said to your apostles; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons and strengthen the weak. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.

You are my hands, my heart, my voice and my feet.

Go forth and become fishers of men.

Offer your time, talent and treasure to those in need.

Spread my word and proclaim my Eucharistic Kingdom.

Abide in my love and remain in my word so you will have eternal life ...

Here we are O Lord, ready to do your will. Amen.



## Healing Prayers

Jesus, savior and hope of mankind; you are close to the brokenhearted. You are meek and humble of heart. You are gentle, kind, just, forgiving, reliable and truthful in your ways. You moved about Galilee proclaiming God's message of love through your wondrous deeds; through your various works of healing and conversion. Yet Lord, there were people who reviled you and resisted your true nature and divinity. They put you to the test because they wanted proof of your gentleness and tried your patience. Lord, as I contemplate on your word daily, I am reminded of your true nature and confronted by my brokenness. Forgive me Lord for acting rebellious at times. Have mercy on me a sinner. I know that you

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## Prayer Requests

**"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28)**

Lord, we lift up to you all prayer intentions of our brothers and sisters who need your healing love and presence, especially those petitions we received through <http://EucharisticLove.org>, <http://2000HailMarys.org> and individual forms submitted during our community services.

**Dear Lord,  
we thank you  
for all  
the blessings  
you showered  
upon us  
and all  
answered prayers.**

# HEALING THROUGH THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ACTIVITY	WHEN	VENUE
Healing Service with Eucharistic Celebration	Every First Monday of the month 8:00 PM	St. Bridget Church
Healing Service with Eucharistic Adoration	All other Mondays of the month 8:00 PM	St. Bridget Church
2000 Hail Mary's with Eucharistic Celebration	Frequently Scheduled (Please check website)	St. Bridget Church
Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration	Every second Saturday of the month 9:00 AM Every Monday before 2000 Hail Mary's 8:30 PM	St. Bridget Church
Catholicism Study Group	Every second Saturday of the month 11:00 AM	St. Bridget Church

[HTTP://EUCHARISTICLOVE.ORG](http://EucharisticLove.org)

[HTTP://2000HAILMARYS.ORG](http://2000HailMarys.org)

St. Bridget Church • 372 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302