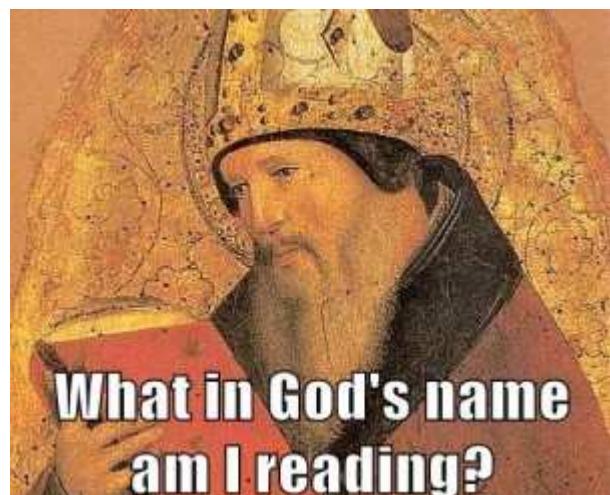


MAY: YOU ARE WHAT YOU READ

"Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing well, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil." – 1 Peter 3:13-17

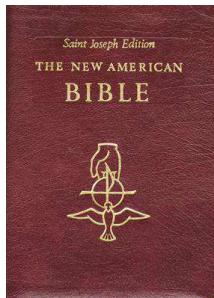


APologetics
NOT
Apologies

Recently I've witnessed persons who know, love and seek to spread their faith being treated rather harshly. At times it's been me who was treated harshly and granted, it's tough to be gentle, but we must. It causes me to reflect upon the passage from St. Peter, our first Pope. St Peter admonishes us to have no fear, to put our strength in Jesus, and "**Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope**".

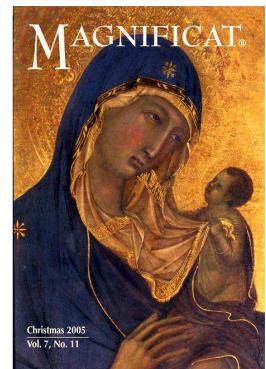
And what glorious hope we have!

As any young athlete learns, working out makes you stronger and practicing a specific routine, such as tennis, can improve your game. Practicing to improve your tennis won't necessarily make you better at running or swimming so we really need to focus on what outcome we want. And so it is with our faith. When St Peter tells us to "**always be ready**", he's telling us to practice a specific routine regularly and with an eye to the outcome. Our desired outcome should be our faith in God and eternity in heaven.

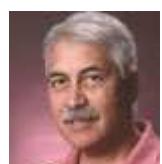


Practice? That's easy and it doesn't cost much. Read your Bible or the writings of the saints. Attend Mass and go to confession regularly and take part in a ministry. Spend an hour or two each week in the Blessed Sacrament chapel; that's a great time to read your Bible and the catechism. I just loaded the Baltimore Catechism on my Nook; I love the clarity and brevity of the lessons. Learn a new prayer or verse each month. In my youth I built my body; in my maturity I want to build my spirit.

A great tool for spiritual growth is the Magnificat. The Magnificat allows you to enter into the daily prayer of the Church with morning, daily and evening prayers and readings. It includes the daily Mass readings, the writings of the saints and meditations. This will help even the beginner to dive more deeply into the vast ocean that is our faith.



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The May business meeting is on Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00pm. The Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, May 10th at 5:45pm. The Respect Life Rosary resumes after the 5:45 Mass; please go! Don't forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually.

Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in law enforcement and the military. Pray that politicians have a conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all, pray that Holy Mother Church around the world can withstand the buffets of her enemies. Pray for our priests and for our Holy Father Pope Francis.

