



*They wrapped him in swaddling clothes
and laid him in a manger*

5 Sundays
only until
Christmas...



WHO
DO
YOU
SAY
THAT
I AM
?

Matthew 16:15 by Karl Marxhausen

A CHRISTIAN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

In the light of the Gospel you have a right

1. To be loved unconditionally
2. To love as best you can
3. To be introduced—personally—to God
4. To know that any experience of unconditional love is an experience of God
5. To know the full name of unconditional love: Jesus Christ
6. To know the whole story of salvation history (*The story*)
7. To belong to a faith community (*Our story*)
8. To share your discoveries and experiences with others (*My story*)
9. To accept God's offer of an ongoing relationship (Faith)
10. To learn how to conduct a dialogue within that relationship (Prayer)
11. To know the many possible moral options available before choosing
12. To ask questions about faith and life
13. To choose, as the proper use of free will
14. To be forgiven at any time
15. To be told why you were baptized
16. To be happy in this life and in the next
17. To live forever

—Fr. Don Kimball

Presented at the Youth Leadership Conference in Dublin, Ireland, in August 1985. Sponsored by the Irish Christian Brothers, commemorating the International Year of Youth.

Frustrated, Depressed?

No trials should frustrate or destroy us, even if "the sun will be darkened, the moon will not shed its light, and stars will fall out of the skies." We will discover at these moments a depth of consecration to God, an insight into reality and a bonding in love with others. Such we find in the stories about the prophet Daniel.

Even when taken by surprise with sudden sickness, financial loss, unemployment, death in the family, serious disappointment with children, probing questions about the Church, we are prepared.

..Carroll Stuhlmüller, C.P.



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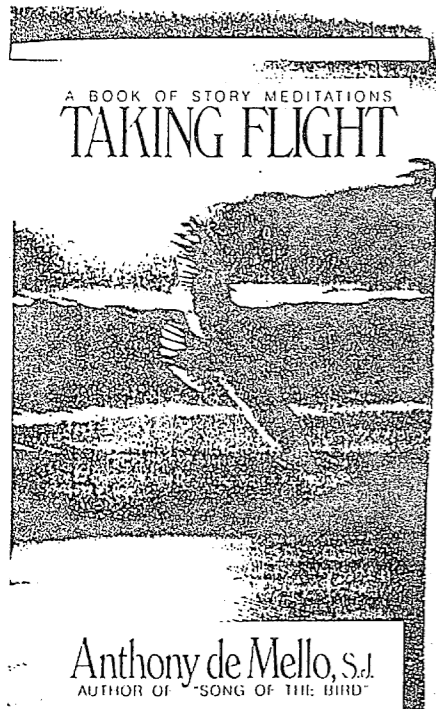
Thirty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
November 13, 1988

O God, you are my hope!

"Fig trees don't
tell lies!"

Religious Graphics Ltd.

SERIOUSLY, MY SPIRITUAL
LIFE CAN BE FUN-TRY THIS...



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A disciple very much wanted to renounce the world, but he claimed that his family loved him too much to let him go.

"Love?" said his Guru. "That isn't love at all. Listen . . ." And he revealed a yogic secret to the disciple whereby he could simulate the state of death. The next day the man was dead to all outward appearances and the house rang with the cries and wailing of his family.

The Guru then showed up and told the weeping family that he had the power to bring the man back to life if someone could be found to die in his place. Any volunteers?

To the "corpse's" astonishment, every member of the family began to bring forth reasons why it was necessary to keep their own lives. His wife summed up the sentiments of all with the words, "There's really no need for anyone to take his place. We'll manage without him."

Three grown-ups were having morning coffee in the kitchen while the children played on the floor. The conversation turned to what each would do if danger threatened, and each of the grown-ups said that the first thing they would do was save the children.

Suddenly the safety valve of the pressure cooker burst, creating an explosion of steam in the room. Within seconds everyone was out of the kitchen—except for the kids playing on the floor.

At the funeral of a very wealthy man, a stranger was seen mourning and weeping as loudly as the others.

The officiating priest walked up to him and asked, "Are you, perhaps, a relative of the deceased?"

"No."

"Then why are you crying?"

"That's why."

All grief—no matter what the occasion—is for the self.

When a factory was burning down, the aged owner of the building was there weeping aloud at his loss.

"Dad, what are you weeping for?" said his son, "Have you forgotten that we sold the factory four days ago?"

That instantly stopped the old man's tears.

A saleswoman sold a brightly colored pair of trousers to a lad who seemed delighted with his purchase.

The next day he was back to say he wanted to return the trousers. His reason, "My girlfriend does not like them."

A week later he was back again, all smiles and wanting to buy the trousers. "Has your girl changed her mind?" asked the saleswoman.

"Nope," said the young fellow. "I've changed the girl."

When Brother Bruno was at prayer one night he was disturbed by the croaking of a bullfrog. All his attempts to disregard the sound were unsuccessful so he shouted from his window, "Quiet! I'm at my prayers."

Now Brother Bruno was a saint so his command was instantly obeyed. Every living creature held its voice so as to create a silence that would be favorable to prayer.

But now another sound intruded on Bruno's worship—an inner voice that said, "Maybe God is as pleased with the croaking of that frog as with the chanting of your psalms." "What can please the ears of God in the croak of a frog?" was Bruno's scornful rejoinder. But the voice refused to give up. "Why would you think God invented the sound?"

Bruno decided to find out why. He leaned out of his window and gave the order, "Sing!" The bullfrog's measured croaking filled the air to the ludicrous accompaniment of all the frogs in the vicinity. And as Bruno attended to the sound, their voices ceased to jar for he discovered that, if he stopped resisting them, they actually enriched the silence of the night.

With that discovery Bruno's heart became harmonious with the universe and, for the first time in his life, he understood what it means to pray.

Book Review! !

Anthony de Mello, S.J.,
Taking Flight: A Book of Story Meditations
Doubleday, 1988, 216 pp. \$14.95

Anthony de Mello, retreat master and spiritual director from India, will live on in his popular stories and meditations. This book, prepared shortly before his untimely death last year, includes 250 deeply spiritual and profoundly human stories from a variety of cultures and religions,

De Mello has assembled a wonderful collection of tales about prayer, awareness, religion, grace, the saints, the self, love and truth. They can make you laugh heartily and cry with sincere empathy. They can at the same time entertain and move the human heart; they bring out the best in the human spirit. As he says: "If you listen carefully to a story you will never be the same again." With a master's touch, de Mello tells the kind of tale which can "worm its way into your heart and break down barriers to the divine."

Other books are being compiled of Father de Mello's vast collection of stories. We can look forward to them with joyful anticipation.

-- Rev. David E. Schlaver, C.S.C.

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