



PEP UP.....	2
A PRAYER.....	3
TO THE YOUNG.....	4
POEM.....	5
SAINTS.....	6
LAST DROP.....	7

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## THE CASTLE AND THE HUT

Lady Gertrude lived in a magnificent castle and was very proud of her social position. One day, Mary, the daughter of a poor bricklayer came to her and said: “my father is dying and begs you to come because he has something very urgent and important to tell you.” The lady answered ironically: “Oh, indeed, it must be something really important that a poor man like your father has to tell me. Go away; run along with you, I have no time to go to your wretched hut.” A few minutes later Mary was back again and exclaimed hurriedly: “My noble lady, I beg you to come immediately. During the war your mother had hidden a case of gold and silver and had told my father to let nobody know about it. He has to reveal the secret to you on your twenty first birthday. Now father is dying and cannot wait any longer.” Lady Gertrude rushed to the hut immediately, but when she entered she was told that the poor man had just died. She almost became mad with anger and fear. She ordered that the walls of the castle be knocked down but she found nothing at all. Now she repented to have lost such a great wealth. And she realized the fact that having a proud and hardened heart does not gain one anything.

**Lesson: Jesus has gained for us the divine heritage and heaven by His death and resurrection. We should not lose it by our misbehaviour and indifference. Instead we must gain its fruits by our good deeds.**

## 3 > A PRAYER FOR YOUTH

**W**e offer you Loving Lord, the gifts and needs of youth (or name a particular youth)  
Bless them with your guiding grace as they face the challenges and opportunities of their lives  
Touch their hearts with the gentleness of your love, that they may know that they are valued and valuable beings. Send your spirit of hope to their lives, that they may believe in themselves and know that they are needed in this world. Grace them with the gift of joy that they may celebrate life through laughter and tears alike.  
Guide us as we continue to grow in our appreciation of the many gifts of young people in the ministry, opportunities we offer them, in the journey of faith we walk with them, in our shared mission as a community called to discipleship in the world.

We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

From Jambo Youth Editors

## THE PROBLEM OF HEAVEN

There is one word we can never use of the Lord. We can never say that the Lord has problems, not even in His dealing with you and me. If it were asked, "What is the nearest the Lord can come to having a problem?" the answer might very well be, "The Lord has a problem when He tells humans about heaven." Suppose a person blind from birth were to ask you to describe the colors of flowers in a garden how would you go about it? You would have a problem. Multiply that problem a hundred times, a thousand times, multiply it infinitely and you have some suspicion of the problem the Lord has. You are thinking, are you not, "Where is the problem? Heaven is a state of perfect peace and happiness and love that will last forever. There it is, as plain as ABC." But it is not that simple at all. Heaven, we say, is "a state of perfect peace." That seems easy to understand until we stop to realize that what we call "peace" turns out to be a state where we have less turmoil, less anxiety, less conflict than we usually do. We call this: "Peace" and we are thankful for it; we rejoice in the little peace we have because we are catching a glimpse of something glorious and unspeakably good that lies beyond the stars that the Church prays for in every Funeral Mass: "Eternal rest grant unto him, Oh Lord, and perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace." We do not know what peace is because the peace we have is sullied with so much that is opposite. We do not know what love is because love in this world is overshadowed by aversion, by separation, by hate. We do not know what goodness is because the goodness we know, even when it is real is contaminated with evil. We only have shadows, flickers, sparks cast out from the Furnace of love with a capital L and Truth with a capital T and Goodness with the capital G that is not something but Someone. The Lord's problem is how He can tell humans who do not know, because in the nature of things they cannot know, what the words love and goodness and truth and peace mean in themselves. Heaven will be where we see and experience these words--these realities--to be exact: this reality--in their pure state without any shadow or stain.

*Fr. Patrick J. McHugh*

**REPENT**

Your goodness leads me to repent  
Enlightenment from heaven sent  
I am feeble and sore broken  
In my heart, Your Word has spoken  
Falling short of holy judgment  
Your goodness leads me to repent  
Carnal resolve is not enough  
So deadly is the vain rebuff  
My only choice is to confess  
And trust You with my brokenness  
Your goodness leads me to repent  
With Godly sorrow I do lament  
I am an undeserving child  
Desiring to be reconciled  
To live no more in discontent  
Your goodness leads me to repent

**ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE. SEPTEMBER 17TH.**

**H**e was born at Montepulciano in Tuscany in 1542 and was an all-round 'Renaissance man': writer, poet, musician, orator. He joined the Jesuits and was ordained in 1570 at Ghent in the Low Countries. A distinguished theologian, he produced the complete synthesis of the Catholic faith called the Disputations on the Controversies of the Christian Faith. He was a man of modesty and charity: he opposed some of the more extreme pretensions of Papal power, and said so. In his dealings with Protestant theologians (including King James I of England) he always exercised charity and courtesy, even when he could not agree with them. He was a moderating influence in the case of the astronomer Galileo. Many of those in the Church who opposed Galileo's view of a heliocentric universe had their own agenda to pursue; Bellarmine realised this and acted as Galileo's unofficial protector. He urged caution in the case, but admitted that if what Galileo taught proved to be correct, then Scripture would have to be interpreted differently, as indeed it does. He died in 1621, but was not canonised until 1930, and was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1931.

## MISTAKES ARE LESSONS

When you make a mistake,  
Don't look back at it long  
Take the reason of the thing  
Into your mind and then look forward  
Mistakes are lessons of wisdom  
The past cannot be changed  
The future is in your power !! **By Jane and Monica**

There is no security in this life. There is only opportunity. **Douglas MacArthur**

If you back too much, you soon be heading that way. **John Mason**