

"... so that God may be all in all."  
(Catechism, no. 2550)

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James Baca photo courtesy Archdiocese of Los Angeles

# GRACE IN Action

LIVING CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP™

## NEW Parables

### Honor thy father; honor thyself

There were two men who frequented the same newsstand near their bus stop. Every weekday, they bought a newspaper and a cup of coffee. Over the years, they had become quiet friends. Frequently, they talked about the headlines or shared a laugh over a cartoon. Occasionally, they shared with one another things that they did not even tell their family.

One Monday morning, the first man told the second man that he had to put his father in a nursing home over the weekend. He regretted that his elderly father had become so cranky and bossy. He continued that his father used to be a kind, gentle man. In fact, they were quite close growing up. But now, his father did nothing but complain about politics and the culture, and whine about his aches and pains. He went on to detail how the old man was exhibiting signs of dementia.

The second man tried to listen with compassion and understanding.

However, he had never known his father. He thought of his childhood, when he longed to have a father — any father. He envied this man standing next to him, complaining about his dad.

After the first man had finished his rant, the second man offered a gentle reminder, "Be grateful for the time you have had with your father. I never knew mine."

And the first man first felt shame, then joy in remembering what a gift he had in his dad. And his frustration and worry were replaced with gratitude.

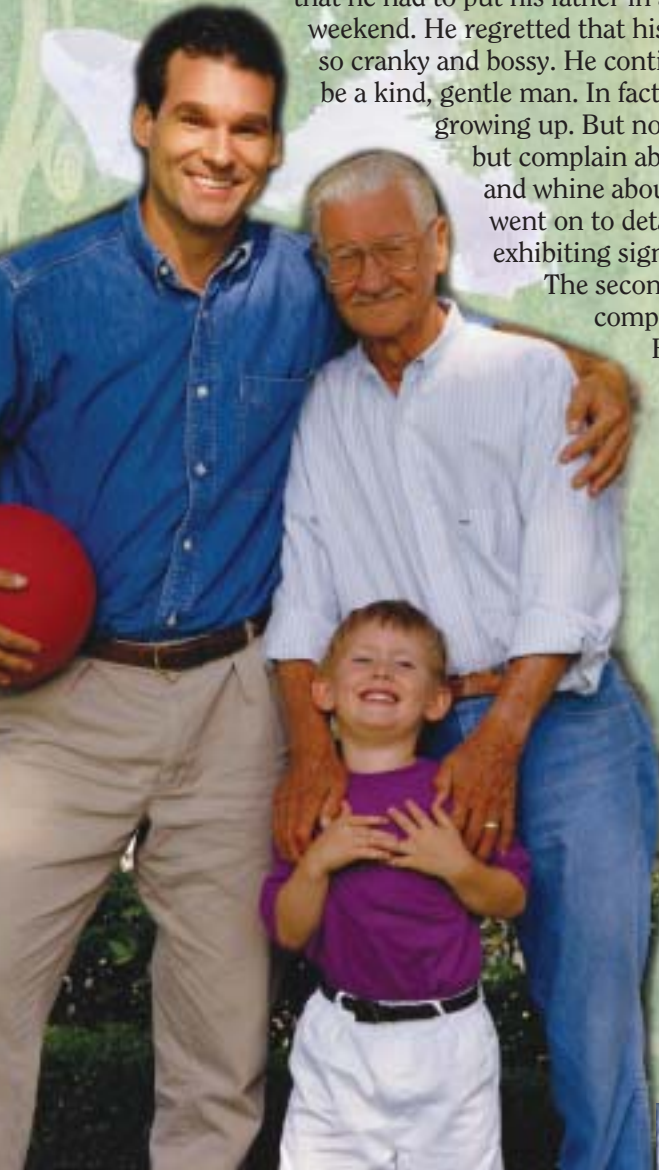


Image Ideas  
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## CELEBRATE

### June

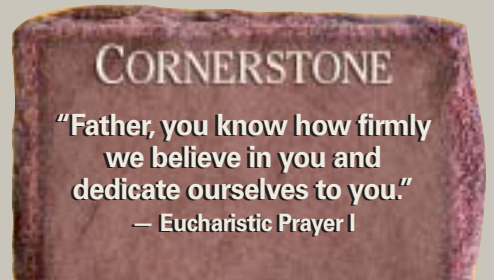


- 4 Pentecost
- 11 Holy Trinity
- 18 Father's Day
- 22 St. Thomas More
- 23 Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 29 Sts. Peter & Paul

## FAITH Fact "Wait in joyful hope"

Anxiety, in today's world, is almost epidemic. We tend to think of anxiety as a contemporary problem, but anxiety isn't just the disease *du jour*, the stuff of pharmaceutical commercials on television. Since the earliest days of the Church, Catholics have recognized the bedeviling nature of anxiety that results from a falling down of faith. St. Paul reminded us that fear is useless; what is needed is trust.

Interestingly, during Mass, after the Lord's Prayer, the priest presents the following petition: "Protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." The Catechism of the Catholic Church also addresses anxiety: "Abandonment to the providence of the Father in heaven frees us from anxiety" (no. 2547).



## MODERN Disciple

# Catholic playwright rights cultural wrongs



When playwright Cathal (pronounced Cal)

Gallagher could not find a theater company to stage a play he had written about a Catholic cardinal, he decided to found one. Now known as the Quo Vadis Theatre Company, Gallagher's troupe has been staging Catholic dramas in the Diocese of San Jose, Calif., since 1975.

A native of Ireland and father of five, Gallagher turns to the saints for subject matter. He has written plays about St. Margaret Clitherow, Blessed Margaret of Castello and St. Oliver Plunkett.

"The lives of the saints are very inspirational," he said. "But people have the wrong idea: They think of saints as very holy people who pray, but saints are very tough people who have overcome great obstacles."

Gallagher's plays entertain



**Cathal Gallagher: "It only takes one person."**

and evangelize: "It's almost like an apostolate, though we didn't intend it that way. There certainly is a need for us to make an impact on the culture. People see terrible stuff on TV and terrible movies, lots of pornographic stuff, and they lose hope," Gallagher said.

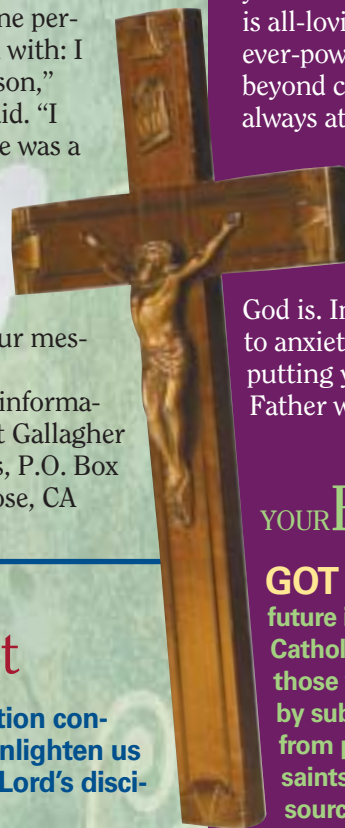
"This is a grassroots approach. We don't put on the plays in the church hall and preach to the converted. We put Catholic plays out in city theaters, right in the

middle of the culture; and the culture takes notice. We do get publicity in secular newspapers, and people who aren't religious see the plays."

Quo Vadis has official non-profit status, making donations tax deductible.

"If anybody is interested in establishing a Catholic theater company, we will help them. It's not hard. It only takes one person to begin with: I was one person," Gallagher said. "I think if there was a Quo Vadis-type theater in every city, this is a way to get our message out."

For more information, contact Gallagher at Quo Vadis, P.O. Box 9023, San Jose, CA 95157.



## TRY This God the Father knows best

Next time your anxiety meter rises, abandon your will to "the providence of the father in heaven." You can signify your surrender by reciting a simple prayer: "Thy will be done."

When you find yourself in pain — whether in body, mind or spirit — remind yourself that God the Father is all-loving, all-merciful, ever-powerful, generous beyond comprehension and always at your side. The First Person of the Holy Trinity created you, protects you, enfolds you.

Wherever you are, God is. Instead of caving in to anxiety, fear or stress, try putting your trust in the Father who knows best.

## YOUR Feedback

**GOT QUOTES?** For a future issue, we're collecting Catholic quotes. Thanks to those who have responded by submitting suggestions from prayers, Scripture, saints and other Catholic sources. If you have some Catholic words of wisdom, please share them with us. We'll share them with the entire *Grace in Action* audience: 190,000 copies strong and distributed in 47 states. Our addresses appear at left. *Thank you for reading and for writing to Grace in Action.*

**Happy Father's Day from  
Grace in Action!**

Attending a June wedding?  
Visit [www.graceinaction.org](http://www.graceinaction.org)  
for a prayer for spouses.

## SOWING Seeds

# Holy Spirit conforms stewards to Christ



**"We pray that the Holy Spirit, whose gracious action conforms us to Jesus Christ and to the Church, will enlighten us all and help us to renew our commitment as the Lord's disciples and as stewards of His bountiful gifts."**

— *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*  
U.S. Catholic bishops' stewardship pastoral

As we celebrate Pentecost — the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Catholic Church — we ask for the enlightenment that leads us to deepen our commitment. We all can and must go deeper. "Deep calls unto deep," the Psalmist wrote. An important aspect of stewardship is non-complacency: Discipleship is dynamic, not stagnant. Another important aspect of stewardship is the law of returns: God blesses those who bless His kingdom.

**What bountiful gifts from God do you steward? Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, how will you deepen your commitment to discipleship?**

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