



CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY FOR
INCARCERATED MEN & WOMEN
FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA

The Serving Brother

FALL 2014

A message from His Excellency Stefan Soroka, Ukrainian Archbishop, Philadelphia

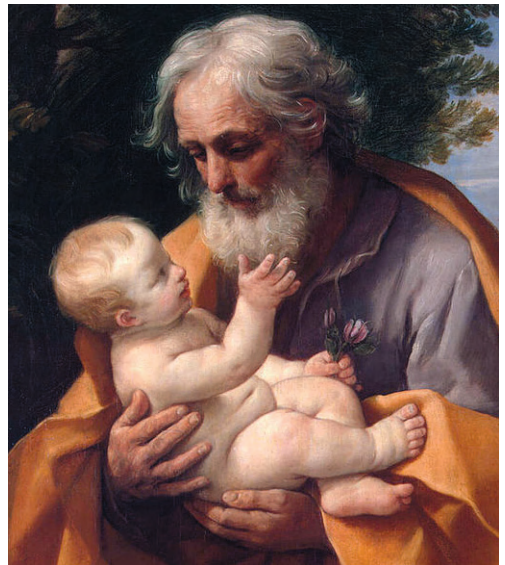
St. Joseph the Worker – A Righteous Man

On the first Monday of September in both the United States and Canada the dignity of work is honored with the Labor Day holiday.

I find myself especially grateful for my late father at this time of year. He was a laborer who worked hard and gave his best as he raised his family amidst poverty, but always with steadfast faith. He taught important fatherly values to me, by showing me a positive attitude to one's work in life and the importance of a steadfast faith journey with the Lord. He taught me to pray. He represents for me the saintly and fatherly characteristics of St. Joseph.

Joseph labored under many challenges placed before Jesus and his mother Mary. We hear a lot about Jesus and Mary, but Joseph often seems forgotten. There are few references in the Bible to Joseph, whose name means "God will increase" in Hebrew. Joseph is never quoted in any Scriptural passages. In the Gospel of John, we learn only that Jesus is referred to as the "son of Joseph" (Jn 6:41-42). And Joseph is not even mentioned in the Gospel of Mark!

Matthew alone tells about the four



Saint Joseph with the Infant Jesus, by Guido Reni, 1635

incidents where Joseph receives messages in a dream. He is told that Mary, to whom he was betrothed, was with child through the power of the Holy Spirit and that she will bear a son, and that he should marry her. (Mt 1:20-21)

After Jesus is born, an angel appears in a dream and tells Joseph to take the child and Mary to Egypt, because Herod has plans to kill Jesus. (Mt 2:13-14)

When Herod dies, an angel appears in a dream and tells Joseph to return to Israel. (Mt 2:19-20) And after another

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SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER
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OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

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Message from Father George

An example for all to follow

This edition of *The Serving Brother* is dedicated to St. Joseph, the adoptive father of Jesus. Joseph is a model of what it means to be a man, a father, a worker, and a faithful follower of God.

While he was not the biological father of Jesus, Joseph was his earthly father and he had a big impact on Jesus' early life. He protected Jesus and Mary from danger when Jesus was still a helpless baby, and King Herod was out to kill him.

Joseph must have given up a lot to take on the responsibility of being a father to Jesus and a husband to Mary. As Fr. Cyprian writes in his reflection in this edition of *The Serving Brother*, Joseph had to die to self in order to become the man God needed him to be. As followers of Jesus, we are all asked to give up being focused just on ourselves in order to be truly free to serve God and our fellow human beings.

We all have to learn how to be less self-centered. If you think about it, wouldn't you say that most of the difficulties of prison life are the result of people around you being selfish? We all need to ask ourselves if our own selfishness causes us and others around us to suffer.

We don't know a lot about Joseph, but the Gospels tell us he was a carpenter. That means he worked with his hands and he had to have some job skills. It's likely he taught Jesus his trade as Jesus was growing up. This would have included what my friends who are carpenters taught me – "measure twice and cut once." In other words, we need to pay attention to what we are doing and be conscious and focused. It reminds me also of how it was pointed out to me that God gave us two ears but only one mouth, so we should listen twice as much as we talk. That's a life skill worth practicing.

I remember going with my own father when I was about 6 or 7 years old to help him in his second job as a janitor cleaning offices after work hours. He taught me early on that any honest work has value and dignity and that no matter how humble the job, we should always do our best to do it well. I have never forgotten this lesson. Joseph the carpenter no doubt taught Jesus

Mass readings

WEEK	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
Sept 1-7	1 Cor 2:1-5 Lk 4:16-30	1 Cor 2:10b-16 Lk 4:31-37	1 Cor 3:1-9 Lk 4:38-44 St Gregory the Great	1 Cor 3:18-23 Lk 5:1-11	1 Cor 4:1-5 Lk 5:33-39	1 Cor 4:6b-15 Lk 6:1-5	Ez 33:7-9 Rom 13:8-10 Mt 18:15-20
Sept 8-14	Rom 8:28-30 Mt 1:1-23 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	1 Cor 6:1-11 Lk 6:12-19 St Peter Claver	1 Cor 7:25-31 Lk 6:20-26	1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13 Lk 6:27-38	1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27 Lk 6:39-42 Most Holy Name of Mary	1 Cor 10:14-22 Lk 6:43-49 St John Chrysostom	Nm 21:4b-9 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sept 15-21	1 Cor 11:17-26, 33 (443) Jn 19:25-27 Our Lady of Sorrows	1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Lk 7:11-17 Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	1 Cor 12:31–13:13 Lk 7:31-35 St Robert Bellarmine	1 Cor 15:1-11 Lk 7:36-50	1 Cor 15:12-20 Lk 8:1-3 St Januarius	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-15 [1]	Is 55:6-9 Phil 1:20c-24, 27a Mt 20:1-16a
Sept 22-28	Prv 3:27-34 Lk 8:16-18	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13 Lk 8:19-21 St Pius of Pietrelcina	Prv 30:5-9 Lk 9:1-6 St Jerome	Ecc 1:2-11 Lk 9:7-9 The Holy Guardian Angels	Ecc 3:1-11 Lk 9:18-22 Sts Cosmas & Damian	Ecc 11:9–12:8 Lk 9:43b-45 St Vincent de Paul	Ez 18:25-28 Phil 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32
Sept 29-Oct 5	Rv 12:7-12a Jn 1:47-51 [2]	Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23 Lk 9:51-56 St Jerome	Jb 9:1-12, 14-16 Lk 9:57-62 St Thérèse of the Child Jesus	Jb 19:21-27 Mt 18:1-5, 10 The Holy Guardian Angels	Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 Lk 10:13-16	Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 Lk 10:17-24 St Francis of Assisi	Is 5:1-7 Phil 4:6-9 Mt 21:33-43
Oct 6-12	Gal 1:6-12 Lk 10:25-37 [3]	Gal 1:13-24 Lk 10:38-42 Our Lady of the Rosary	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14 Lk 11:1-4	Gal 3:1-5 Lk 11:5-13 St John Leonardi, [4]	Gal 3:7-14 Lk 11:15-26	Gal 3:22-29 Lk 11:27-28	Is 25:6-10a Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 Mt 22:1-14
Oct 13-19	Gal 4:22-24, 26, 27, 31-5:1 Lk 11:29-32	Gal 5:1-6 Lk 11:37-41 St Callistus I	Gal 5:18-25 Lk 11:42-46 St Teresa of Jesus	Eph 1:1-10 Lk 11:47-54 St Hedwig, [5]	Eph 1:11-14 Lk 12:1-7 St Ignatius of Antioch	2 Tm 4:10-17b Lk 10:1-9 St Luke	Is 45:1, 4-6 1 Thes 1:1-5b Mt 22:15-21
Oct 20-26	Eph 2:1-10 Lk 12:13-21 St Paul of the Cross	Eph 2:12-22 Lk 12:35-38	Eph 3:2-12 Lk 12:39-48	Eph 3:14-21 Lk 12:49-53 St John of Capistrano	Eph 4:1-6 Lk 12:54-59 St Anthony Mary Claret	Eph 4:7-16 Lk 13:1-9	Ex 22:20-26 1 Thes 1:5c-10 Mt 22:34-40
Oct 27-Nov 2	Eph 4:32–5:8 Mt 13:31-35	Eph 2:19-22 Lk 6:12-16 Sts Simon & Jude	Eph 6:1-9 Lk 13:22-30	Eph 6:10-20 Lk 13:31-35	Phil 1:1-11 Lk 14:1-6	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 1 Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12a All Saints	Wis 3:1-9 Rom 5:5-11 Jn 6:37-40 All Souls' Day
Nov 3-9	Phil 2:1-4 Lk 14:12-14 St Martin de Porres	Phil 2:5-11 Lk 14:15-24 St Charles Borromeo	Phil 2:12-18 Lk 14:25-33	Phil 3:3-8a Lk 15:1-10	Phil 3:17–4:1 Lk 16:1-8	Phil 4:10-19 Lk 16:9-15	Ez 47:1-2, 8-12 1 Cor 3:9c-17 Jn 6:37-40 [6]
Nov 10-16	Ti 1:1-9 Lk 17:1-6 St Leo the Great	Ti 2:1-8, 11-14 Lk 17:7-10 St Martin of Tours	Ti 3:1-7 Lk 17:11-19 St Josaphat	Phlm 7-20 Lk 17:20-25 St Francis Xavier Cabrini	2 Jn 4-9 Lk 17:26-37	3 Jn 5-8 Lk 18:1-8 St Albert the Great	Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1Thes 5:1-6 Mt 25:14-30
Nov 17-23	Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5 Lk 18:35-43 St Elizabeth of Hungary	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22 Lk 19:1-10 St Rose Philippine Duchesne	Rv 4:1-11 Lk 19:11-28	Rv 5:1-10 Lk 19:41-44	Rv 10:8-11 Lk 19:45-48 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Rv 11:4-12 Lk 20:27-40 St Cecilia	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 1 Cor 15:20-28 Mt 25:31-46 [7]
Nov 24-30	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5 Lk 21:1-4 [8]	Rv 14:14-19 Lk 21:5-11 St Francis Xavier Cabrini	Rv 15:1-4 Lk 21:12-19	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a Lk 21:20-28	Rv 20:1, 4, 11–21:2 Lk 21:29-33	Rv 22:1-7 Lk 21:34-36	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37

Note: **Solemnities** in red, **Feast days** in gold and **Memorials** in green in celebration of the saint/event shown. **[1] Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang & Companions, Martyrs [2] Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels [3] St Bruno & Bl. Marie Rose Durocher [4] St Denis & Companions, Martyrs [5] St Margaret Mary Alacoque [6] Dedication of the Lateran Basilica [7] Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe [8] St Andrew Dũng-Lạc & Companions, Martyrs**

about the dignity and value of honest and dedicated work.

Jesus chose working men to be his first followers. He knew that faith is what saves us, but work is what puts food on the table.

As we go about our daily work, whatever it is, let's strive to do our best.

It doesn't matter if you are the President of the United States or the person in charge of cleaning the bathrooms, at the end of the day, it's not what we do that matters so much as how hard we have tried to do our work well.

Let's let St. Joseph be our example and guide.

continued from front page

warning in a dream, Joseph takes Mary and Jesus and settles in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. (Mt 2:22)

We also learn that Joseph was a carpenter, since Jesus is referred to as “the carpenter’s son.”(Mt 13:55) Mark also tells us Jesus was a carpenter. (Mk 6:3)

The last reference to Joseph, though not by name, is in Luke 2:41-42, when Jesus reached the age of 12. His parents went with him to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Passover. After this event, there are no further references to Joseph in Scripture. He is not present at any event during the time of the public ministry of Jesus. From his absence in the pages of the Gospels, church tradition holds that both Mary and Jesus were present at his death and burial. How fortunate each of us would be to have Mary and Jesus with us at the hour of our death!

We do know that from Christianity’s earliest days this humble man Joseph has been honored as a saint of the church. In the Roman Catholic Church, his feast day has been celebrated on March 19th since the 9th century. Pope Pius IX in 1870 proclaimed St. Joseph as the universal guardian of the church, just as he was the guardian and protector of Jesus and His mother Mary. And after the rise of communism and socialist May Day celebrations, in 1955 Pope Pius XII called him St. Joseph the Worker and named May 1 his feast day.

In our Ukrainian Catholic Church and other Eastern Christian churches, St. Joseph is honored on the Sunday after Christmas, together with King David and James, the brother of the Lord.

From the life of St. Joseph, we can discover many virtues that should inspire all of us on life’s journey. Joseph was faithful to God and to those God

entrusted to his care, Mary and Jesus. Each of us is likewise asked to always be obedient to God, to do His will and not ours.

As the protector of Mary and Jesus, who kept the Christ Child safe from the plan of Herod to kill Him, Joseph not only gives us an example to protect those we love, but is a saint whose prayers and intercession we should seek for our own safety and protection.

Joseph also was a religious man, who had a special relationship with God and followed the teachings and practices of the Jewish faith. This love of God should encourage us to grow in the knowledge and understanding of the faith we profess.

As a carpenter, he was skilled in and practiced a woodworking trade to provide for Mary and Jesus. By example, he teaches all of us the value and dignity of working for our daily bread.

When I think of St. Joseph, I am also reminded of another Joseph. Like St. Joseph, this Joseph I know is also a man of faith, who loves and provides for his family. He is a loving, caring person. And as a policeman in Canada, he protects men and women from the perils and dangers of society.

You could say I have a close relationship with this Joseph. You see, we began the journey of life together in my mother’s womb. As I was writing this article and reflecting on the qualities of St. Joseph, I never realized how my twin brother also has many similar qualities of the patron saint for which he was named by my beloved father and mother.

Perhaps the greatest honor to St. Joseph, this humble, caring, and faithful servant of God, is simply expressed in the words of St. Matthew “he was a righteous man.” (Mt. 1:19) ❄️



The Creation of Adam, from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, painted by Michaelangelo Buonarroti, 1508-1512

St. Joseph: Surviving his own destruction

by Fr. Cyprian Consiglio, OSB Cam

Right from the very start Joseph gets left out, “destroyed,” done away with.

Then, as now, it was a proud thing to trace one’s father’s bloodline. The Gospel of Luke traces Joseph’s bloodline back to Adam. In the Gospel of Matthew it is traced back to Abraham. It then gets cut off, because Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus with Mary!

We are let known right away that something new is happening. As John says in his Gospel (Jn 1:13), “Jesus was one born not by blood or by desire of the flesh, not by human will, but born of God.” And this will be a theme of Jesus’ throughout his ministry and after his death as the Christian movement sweeps Palestine and Europe. With Christ, even the bloodline of Abraham doesn’t matter anymore. One doesn’t have to be a direct descendant of Abraham to be counted as one of his children any more.

The Gospel shatters any sort of belonging that is based merely on culture or solely on biology. In its place is offered a whole different kind of belonging: a family that is not at all dependent on culture or biology. Not of

human blood, nor by desire of the flesh, not born of human will, but born of God: those who have the mind of Christ, those who have been grafted on the vine.

Unfortunately, our culture and our biology don’t always lead us into the ways of truth, goodness, unity and beauty. They often actually lead us to just the opposite. Often we have to unlearn what has been taught to us by our culture or by our families. So, perhaps this is where the difficult sayings of Jesus come from, such as Matt. 10:35: “For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

The spiritual relationship with Christ trumps all our earthly relationships. Even our mothers and fathers at some point become our sisters and brothers. It’s a whole new level playing field.

Because in the reign of God, it is not human blood nor desire of the flesh that matter – nor culture, nor biology. It’s not those who make a big show of their religious commitment, but rather it’s the poor in spirit who belong. Like Joseph.

It’s not the seed of Abraham. It’s the

seeds that allow themselves to fall to the ground and die so that they may yield a rich harvest. (See Matthew 13:3-23) Just as Joseph survived his own “destruction” by dying to self, and went on to act as a guardian for Jesus and his mother, Mary.

I think this is a wonderful model. So let’s use Joseph as our guide and pray that we too may be secure enough to be able to survive our own “destruction.” That we can be for each other a mirror reflecting each other’s beauty and goodness.

The Gospel serves as an antidote to what ails us still, as a corrective, a completion and goal. We must be children of God through the transforming Spirit that has been poured into our hearts and onto the Body of Christ, because if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

“Everything old has passed away; everything has become new!”
(2 Cor 5:17) ✠

Fr. Cyprian serves as Prior of the New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur, CA. This monastery is a North American branch of the Camaldolese Hermits featured in our previous edition, Summer 2014.

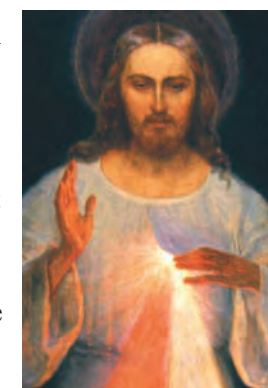
Message of the Divine Mercy

St. Joseph: A just man

Scripture does not tell us a lot about St. Joseph, but it does say that he was a just man (Matt 1:19). The definition of just is “based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair.” As a father, I look back and realize how many mistakes I have made, and how at times I have not been morally right and fair.

While I cannot correct the mistakes of my past, I can strive to make more mature, moral, and fair decisions today. Like the past, the future is also out of my control. I must stay in the moment and not worry about the past or future, as today is the gift God has given to me. So many times I have spent useless time dwelling on the past or living in fear of the future. It was a waste of energy and didn’t correct or fix or solve anything.

I thank God for His unfathomable mercy! For He is a loving and merciful God; He throws all my transgressions into the ocean of mercy where they are gone forever. He loves me for whom I am and not whom I ought to be or want to be. But I must do my part and strive to be more like St. Joseph, for



God loves the sinner but hates the sin.

One of my favorite prayers as a child was, “May I die like you, St. Joseph, in the arms of Jesus and Mary.” Taking his last breath in the arms of Jesus and Mary makes me realize what a peaceful and joyful death St. Joseph must have had.

If I stay in the day and realize I cannot fix my past and should not fear the future, maybe when I die my children will say, “After dad changed his ways, he was a just man.” ✠

Bryan Thatcher, MD is the Director of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, 10016 Park Place Ave, Riverview, FL 33569 (877)380-072 eadm@marian.org

A Prayer of Trust by Thomas Merton

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.
 I do not see the road ahead of me.
 I cannot know for certain where it will end.
 Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
 But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You.

And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton (1915–1968) was an American Catholic writer and mystic. Poet, social activist, and student of comparative religion, Merton was originally a Trappist monk, ordained to the priesthood in 1949.

What is a Serving Brother?

The Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilization. During its early history as a military force, the Knights of Malta required the support of many helpers. One such group of helpers was known as “Serving Brothers.” These men assisted the Knights when called to fight, and also served the Chaplains in tending to the sick. While not members of the Order, they fully embraced its values and lifestyle.

Anyone may spiritually participate as a Serving Brother or Sister by actively participating in the life of the Catholic Church, including regular attendance at worship services, keeping up with seasonal bible readings, saying the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, studying our Faith and staying true to the admonitions of our Lord Jesus Christ, guided by the teachings of the Church.

Give your brain a workout!

Sudoku Puzzle

		5				4		
1			2					
			8		9			
	2		3				1	9
8					1			
				4		5		7
							2	3
2	3	7		6	8			5
		1				8	9	

Sudoku Directions – Fill each square with the numbers 1-9. No number can appear twice within the same row, the same column, or within the same frame of nine squares.

ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE

Brain Teasers

What is the difference between a dollar and a half and thirty five-cents?

What jumps higher than a building?

Imagine you are swimming in the ocean and a bunch of hungry sharks surround you. How do you get out alive?

Wednesday, Tom and Joe had dinner at a restaurant, then paid and left. But Tom and Joe didn't pay for the food. Who did?

What is it that no man wants to get, but no man wants to lose?

When do you start at red and stop at green?

Dear Sisters and Brothers, The following is taken from Pope Francis' message to the prisoners and the staff of the Penitentiary in Castrovillari, Italy given on June 21, 2014.

As you can see, his message is intended specifically for those who are incarcerated.

The Pope spoke of his closeness to every man and woman around the world who is in prison. The Order of Malta shares these words with great joy and asks that you, in turn, share them with others who need to hear this message of hope.

A Message to Each & Every Prisoner from Pope Francis

Jesus said: "I was in prison and you came to me." (Mt 25:36)

People often talk about respect for basic human rights and the need for the punishment to fit the crime. This is certainly an important part of prison policy and it deserves great attention. However this is not enough if it does not include a genuine commitment to bring about rehabilitation and reentry back into our communities.

Without rehabilitation as our goal, incarceration becomes just a way of incapacitation and revenge, which harms both the prisoner and our society. God does not do this with us. When God forgives us, He also accompanies us and helps us along the way. Always. Even in the small things.

When we go to confession, the Lord tells us: "I forgive you. But now come with me." And He helps us to get back on the path. He never condemns. He doesn't simply forgive us, He forgives and accompanies us as well.

We are weak and we have to return to confession. But God never gets tired. He always takes us by the hand again. This is the love of God, and we must imitate it! Society must imitate it. Take this path.

On the other hand, a true and complete conversion or rehabilitation is not the final part of our life's story. It's really more of a beginning of our journey back to God.

The spiritual path teaches us to allow ourselves to be looked at by God, who loves us. It is more difficult to allow God to look at us than to look at God. It is more difficult to allow God to enter our hearts, because we always resist.

He waits for us, He looks at us, He always

seeks us. This God who loves us is able to understand us better than we understand ourselves, and He can forgive all our mistakes if we are willing to let ourselves be humble enough to ask for forgiveness. The Lord is a master at rehabilitating people. He takes us by the hand and brings us back to society and the community. The Lord always forgives, always accompanies and always understands; it is up to us to allow ourselves to be understood, to be forgiven and to be accompanied.

I wish that for each of you this time may not be wasted, but that it be a precious time when you ask and obtain this grace from God. By doing this, you will contribute to bettering, first of all, yourselves but at the same time the community as well, because for better or for worse our actions affect others and the whole human family.

I would like to address a fond thought to your families in this moment. May the Lord grant you the opportunity to embrace them again in serenity and peace.

And lastly I would like to encourage all those who work in this penitentiary: the supervisors, the prison officers and all staff members.

I bless you all from my heart and I entrust you to the protection of Our Lady, our Mother. And I ask you please to pray for me, because I, too, make mistakes and I must do penance.

Thank you. 

Puzzle solutions

- 1) Nothing: A dollar and a half is the same as thirty five-cents (nickels).
- 2) Everything: buildings don't jump.
- 3) Stop imagining.
- 4) Their friend Wednesday paid.
- 5) A lawsuit.
- 6) When you're eating watermelon.

6	9	8	3	2	7	1	5	4
9	4	1	8	6	9	3	7	2
5	7	3	8	6	9	8	9	6
2	3	7	5	4	1	8	9	6
7	8	5	2	4	6	1	9	3
4	3	2	1	9	5	6	7	8
9	1	4	3	8	5	2	4	7
8	5	9	6	1	7	4	2	8
7	6	3	9	5	8	2	4	7
2	8	5	9	7	2	3	6	1
9	8	5	1	3	6	4	7	2