



# The Role of St John JUNE 2020 the Baptist in Our Faith

## HOUSEHOLD TEACHINGS OF THE MONTH

The Role of Saint John The Baptist in our Faith

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

John the Baptist and my Faith

## SONG OF THE MONTH

*The Summons*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0aAkOe87mo>

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Prayer To St. John the Baptist

## MEDIA OF THE MONTH

*The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBn-kY7xpz4>

## CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

How can I emulate St. John

## GIFT OF LIFE (GOL) TOPIC OF THE MONTH

*Bought With a Price* Foreword

Matt Fradd

CLICK BUTTONS TO GO TO PAGE

## ROH JUNE 2020 | CFCUSA Pastoral Formation Materials

# The Role of St John the Baptist in Our Faith

June 2020

**Dear CFC USA Family,**

Greetings of peace to all! After the powerful and life changing experience we have encountered through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises (ISE), let us continue to remain focused and faithful to seek God in our daily living as we continue to dedicate each day to him through our holy hour and devotion. Let us look intently on a person whose identity was shaped in secret and revealed in public. His life message was convicting instead of conforming as he laid down his life so his generation could encounter Jesus. We can learn from John the Baptist! A man who is holy and courageous as he never let anything get in his way and kept his heart set to God.

What are the powerful truths from the life of John the Baptist that offer hope for us today in setting our eyes and heart to God?

Saint John the Baptist was known as a "Wild One." But it wasn't his appearance that made him wild; it was his internal defiance against a worldly system of complacency, apathy, and luke-warmness. He is one of the most inspiring prophets before and even during Jesus' time and throughout our Christian history, previous prophets referenced Saint John's coming and the impact in every one's faith. When he finally came into the world, his purpose was to speak of the coming of Jesus Christ and prepare the hearts of those who would be willing to follow Him. He willingly lived a humble life for Christ, and he continued to spread Jesus' good word wherever he went. Today, we remember Saint John the Baptist for his resilience, wisdom, and love for our Lord and Savior.

This month, together we can look deeply in the life and mission of John the Baptist who lived for one purpose alone, "to point others to Jesus Christ". To God be the Glory!

In Christ,  
Chodie Cayanan



## Household Teaching of the Month

### The Role of St John the Baptist in Our Faith

In our Christian journey, we've heard stories of him, or know some interesting facts about his life and ministry. But in this age where so many are driven to seek hard after success, recognition and fame, his life seems to be in direct contrast to how the world calls us to live out today. The passion that fueled his life compels us to look more closely and to learn from the heart of this wise, powerful soul.

The prophecy of John the Baptist, prophets of old, Isaiah and Malachi both spoke of his coming. For 400 years there had been silence, between the Old and New Testaments, and then John came to prepare the way of the Lord. "The redeemer of the world – Jesus Christ".

Malachi ends with these powerful words closing both the book and Old Testament with the hope of what was still to come, "See I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.



Many years before then, Isaiah had spoken these words about John, who, like himself, would also be a prophet preaching repentance, encouraging people to live for God alone. "A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

Jesus Himself said these words of John, "Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he". That verse itself should draw us in, to take a deeper look at how John lived, and also to how he died.

## **POWERFUL TRUTHS FROM THE LIFE OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Saint John's days were destined by the Lord. He was born with a specific purpose and timing in history.

God knew exactly when John needed to be born, though it didn't make sense to his parents at the time, Elizabeth and Zechariah. Elizabeth had been barren for many years. She was old when she became pregnant with John. Yet God's timing was not late or early, it was right on time. He knew that John needed to be the forerunner of Christ at this specific time in history. He knew and numbered all of his days when there was not one of them. He had design and purpose in the timing of his birth and in the family that John was born to. He was a relative to Jesus Himself. And in that very significant visit of Mary to Elizabeth's home to announce her own miraculous pregnancy, in the bible says that "...the baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit". Even before his birth, John's purpose was being aligned. God was calling.

### **Truth: God's timing in our lives is perfect.**

Saint John grew up strong in spirit. He answered God's call and lived with clear direction.

Zechariah and Elizabeth recognized the clear calling of the Lord on

their son. They embraced it and encouraged God's purposes be fulfilled through their child. Normally in that day, the firstborn son would be named after the father or would receive at least a family name. But both parents honored the words given to them by the angel Gabriel who had announced John's birth and purpose before he was even conceived. Because Zechariah had doubted this word at the angel's visit, he had been silenced, unable to talk, until he wrote these powerful words on a tablet. "His name is John". The bible says that immediately his mouth was opened and he began praising God then prophesied these words over his precious child, "And you my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins."

The passage goes on to say that John "...grew and became strong in spirit and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel". Prophets were known to use the isolation of the desert places to grow spiritually over time and to focus their message on God. By living apart from the culture in preparing for ministry, John was able to speak with great passion and clarity for the people of that day.

### **Truth: God has a specific calling and purpose for our lives today.**

St. John didn't let anything get in his way, but kept his heart set on Christ.

John continued on in his mission. He lived in the desert, took the Nazarite vows and lived his days with specific purpose. His clothing and diet were simple; he wasn't loaded down with the cares and desires of this world. Though his life may seem extreme and most of us may not easily relate to a diet of locusts and honey, the heart of it is this: He chose obedience to God's call. He said "yes" to God's mission. Even when it probably was not easy. Even when he could have chosen his own way. He didn't allow his own desires, or even other people interfere with what he knew he was there to do, in that exact time in history. He lived with focused determination and purpose. He knew and understood God's call, and he pursued it with his whole heart and life.

**Truth: God gives us the power to keep our heart and minds set on Christ, even in desert days.**

Saint John the Baptist was a strong and humble leader.

He didn't live for the opinions of others, but lived with compassion to see others brought to repentance towards Christ. Many people followed John, came to hear him preach, but he didn't let that make him become proud and self-focused. He preached repentance of sins, pointing others to the Savior that he knew he needed too. Deep humility and obedience characterized his life and ministry. "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire".

**Truth: Humility and obedience to God matters more than what others think of us.**

Saint John lived solely to point others to Christ, and he was obedient to God's purposes.

Many people asked John who he really was. They wondered if he was the promised Messiah, or Elijah, or even a false prophet. Yet John clearly and firmly answered "No" to all of these, and repeatedly pointed others to Christ. His mission was only to give direction towards our Savior. This is never clearer than when he baptized Jesus Himself, at His request, in the Jordan River. Days later an argument had developed between some of John's disciples as they saw many people begin to follow Jesus. Jealousy had set in and they were disturbed at the turn of events. Yet John did not give in to that need for "success" in the world's eyes. He knew this was no popularity contest. His purpose remained strong, "He must become greater, I must become less" (John 3:30).

**Truth: Our mission in this life is to point others to Christ.**

Saint John the Baptist was brave, and was willing to speak truth, even if it meant his own death.

John was not afraid of the religious or political leaders of his day. He saw beyond their exterior into the deeper heart. He spoke the truth with clarity and passion; he didn't live to people-please, simply to preach the need for forgiveness of sin. He called out the Pharisees and Sadducees, for what they truly were. He knew their hearts and lives were far away from God. He spoke the hard truth to Herod, one of the four rulers over Palestine. When Herod had taken Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, to become his own, John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." It had bothered Herod so much that he had John imprisoned, he wanted to kill him but was afraid of the people because so many considered him to be a great prophet. But on his birthday celebration, in response to a promise he had given to the daughter of Herodias, John's life was tragically ended. "Prompted by her mother, she said, 'Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.'"

Yet even in this heartless, cruel plot, John's death was not in vain. For to live for Christ, to speak truth, to point others to Him, is never in vain. His mission was completed; God's call was with him even until death. He had lived to point others to our Savior, Jesus Christ, who we need beyond anything else in this life. There were times in his imprisonment that even John, this great man of God, had doubted if God was there. He wondered if Jesus was really the Messiah, the One who had come to set us free. If so, why was he left there in prison, why was Jesus not setting him free? That life event was perhaps the greatest of what John had lived for. He paved the way for the One who truly sets free. Even when things don't make sense, even in the midst of suffering, tragedy, great loss, and even in death, Christ indeed is our Lord and King. "For He came to set the captives free". Days later, Jesus too would suffer at the hands of men, and conquer death once and for all. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

**Truth: No matter what battles we face in this world, there is always true and unending freedom through Christ. He alone is our Hope and Deliverer.**

Saint John challenges us Christians to the fundamental attitude of Christianity. The total dependence on the Father, in Christ. Except for the

Mother of God, no one had a higher function in the unfolding of salvation. Yet the least in the kingdom, Jesus said, is greater than he, for the pure gift that the Father gives. The attractiveness as well as the austerity of Saint John, his fierce courage in denouncing evil, all stem from his fundamental and total placing of his life within the will of God.



## Discussion Question of the Month

### John the Baptist and my Faith

- ① Why is John the Baptist's role in the life of Jesus so important? Why is it important to you? What impact does it have in your faith?
- ② What have you learned from Saint John the Baptist pointing others to Jesus? How can you be a follower bringing people closer to Jesus?
- ③ What are your ways and means of detaching yourself from the worldly life and temptation?



## Prayer of the Month

### Prayer to St. John the Baptist

O glorious Saint John the Baptist,  
 Greatest prophet among those born of woman,  
 although thou was sanctified in thy mother's womb  
 and didst lead a most innocent life,  
 nevertheless it was thy will to retire into the wilderness,  
 there to devote thyself to the practice of austerity and penance;  
 Obtain for us of thy Lord the grace to be wholly detached,  
 at least in our hearts, from earthly goods,  
 and to practice Christian mortification  
 with interior recollection and with the spirit of holy prayer.

O most zealous Apostle,  
who, without working any miracle on others,  
but solely by the example of thy life of penance and the power of  
thy word, didst draw after thee the multitudes,  
in order to dispose them to receive the Messiah worthily  
and to listen to His heavenly doctrine;  
Grant that it may be given unto us,  
by means of thy example of a holy life  
and the exercise of every good work,  
to bring many souls to God,  
but above all those souls that are enveloped  
in the darkness of error and ignorance and are led astray by vice.

O Martyr invincible,  
Who, for the honor of God and the salvation of souls  
didst with firmness and constancy withstand the impiety of Herod  
even at the cost of thine own life,  
and didst rebuke him openly for his wicked and dissolute life;  
By thy prayers obtain for us a heart, brave and generous,  
in order that we may overcome all human respect  
and openly profess our faith in loyal obedience  
to the teachings of Jesus Christ, our divine Master.

O God,  
You raised up St. John the Baptist  
to prepare a perfect people for Christ.  
Fill Your people with the joy of possessing His grace,  
and direct the minds of all the faithful in the way of peace  
and salvation.

Grant that as St. John was martyred for truth and justice,  
so we may energetically profess our Faith in You,  
and lead others to the Way, the Truth, and Eternal Life. Amen.



## Media of the Month

### The Nativity of Saint John The Baptist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBn-kY7xpz4>

## Song of the Month

### *The Summons*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0aAkOe87mo>

John L. Bell & Graham Maule

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
 Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
 Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
 Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
 and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
 Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
 In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## **Challenge of the Month**

### **How can I emulate St. John?**

Let's take a moment to recollect ourselves in the Presence of God... to recall and reflect on the truth of who God is and who we are... to realize that we were created for eternity and that this life of pilgrimage on this earth is exceedingly short and the time to come is everlasting. We can become all caught up in the unimportant activities that our culture deems important. We can even become caught up in good things and allow them to impede our true mission and vocation which is to attain the supernatural end for which we were made to know love and serve God in this world and to spend eternity with Him in the life to come.

How can we challenge ourselves from what we learned from the life of Saint John the Baptist?

## **1. Spreading the Word of God through our Christian Witness and lives of Detachment**

The first lesson for us from St. John is to live detached lives. We should reflect on this aspect of our baptismal promises. Truthfully, many do not recognize the importance of our call, as individual members of the Body of Christ, to be witnesses to His coming into the world and the work He accomplished.

If we pray each day to be open to and aware of those the Lord places in our daily lives, we cannot fail to see the many opportunities to share the message and work of the Gospel. Pray also for the courage to carry out His will and share the good news in word and deed. There is someone to whom that the Lord wants you to share His message. There is someone for whom the Lord desires you to serve and care... meeting their needs, both spiritual and material.

## **2. Spreading the Word of God through our lives of Virtue and calls to Repentance**

Saint John teaches us is to live a life of virtue. Living a life of virtue is not that difficult if we surrender to Christ and nourish our growing faith in prayer and the sacramental life. We must decide to stop offending God in grave matters. And we must also decide to stop offending Him in small matters. Living lives of heroic virtue is more difficult, but we are called to do so, therefore we must never tire of trying, even when we fail again and again.

The call to repentance for us and others is something that makes many of us uncomfortable and it should. Revisit week 4 of our ISE experience. The seven capital sins that we need to repent and turn ourselves away from to be true followers of Jesus Christ. Be reminded of the virtues to overcome temptations.

The spiritual works of mercy, to which all are called, includes admonishing the sinner. We need to understand that this begins with our admonishing ourselves. What are the works of mercy? To live them all helps us to understand.

## THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- ① To instruct the ignorant
- ② To counsel the doubtful
- ③ To admonish the sinner
- ④ To bear wrongs patiently
- ⑤ To forgive offenses willingly
- ⑥ To comfort the afflicted
- ⑦ To pray for the living and the dead

## THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- ① To feed the hungry
- ② To give drink to the thirsty
- ③ To clothe the naked
- ④ To shelter the homeless
- ⑤ To visit the sick
- ⑥ To rescue the captive
- ⑦ To bury the dead

When appropriate, we are to do these works. In many instances, it might not be our place to admonish a sinner; some other person might be more effective in doing so. In some cases, we might not be equipped to counsel the doubtful; again, this task in a particular instance might be better left to another. It takes prayer and wisdom to know and that begins with our own conversion and response to the call to holiness.

The best course is to begin with oneself. There was a reason why so many were drawn to Saint John when his words were so difficult to hear. The reason was his own personal holiness. If we are giving a true witness to Christ by the very way in which we live our lives, it is far more likely that people will hear what we have to say.

### **3. Spreading the Word of God through our lives of Charity and Humility**

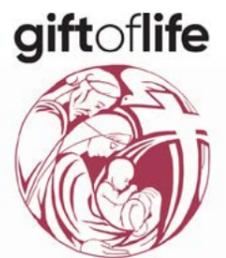
We must be poor in spirit and we must be charitable. This must be demonstrated by our lives. This is a particular aspect of living the life of virtue.

In all that Saint John did, he pointed the way to Christ instead of calling attention to himself for his own gain.

Humility is among the most important of Saint John's examples for us to follow. It is the most important virtue (humility) for us to practice if we are to advance in the spiritual life and overcome the deadliest of sins (pride). None of the rest will matter without humility, performed in a spirit of love.

## **Gift of Life Teaching** *Bought With A Price Foreword*

by Matt Fradd



I was playing in a relative's garage, rummaging through an old trunk in the corner, when I found it: a glossy magazine picture of a completely naked woman. I gasped, and my heart seemed to stop—I had never seen anything like it. I felt a strong sense of awe, and also something like guilt. For although no one had ever told me I shouldn't look at pornography (I'd never even heard the word before), I somehow knew it was wrong. I also knew I wanted to see more. I was eight years old.

Though my first encounter with porn wounded the innocence of my childhood, more than two decades later there's something almost quaint about it. Today's kids don't have to stumble on faded centerfolds or sneak glimpses of late-night TV—they can tap a keyboard or screen and access a virtually infinite supply of graphic nudity and sex acts. They're awash in a sea of smut, and as our culture increasingly legitimizes, even glorifies it (or just defines it down), only heroic parental vigilance—plus God's providence—offers them any hope of escaping its influence. As a U.S. Justice Department memo warned, "Never before in the history of telecommunications media in the United States has so much indecent (and obscene) material been so easily accessible by so many minors

in so many American homes with so few restrictions.” If that sounds about right, it will be sobering to consider that it was written in 1996—before wireless broadband, before iPads, before selfies and sexting. **Before pornography took over twelve percent of the Internet, with more than 25 million sites today raking in over \$5 billion a year. Before it was considered common practice, as it is today, for porn consumption to begin with a first encounter around age 11 and go on to radically shape the ideas that teens and young adults have about sexual intimacy.**

I’m sure that providence was watching over me as a boy, but my parents weren’t vigilant enough. My friends and I began stealing pornographic magazines from the local shops, and soon I developed quite the stash. (When my father eventually discovered it, he just warned me, with a smirk, not to let my mother catch me.) My growing collection didn’t sate my cravings, though, but only intensified them, and by my teen years the still images of Playboy weren’t doing it for me anymore. This is always the case with addiction, and neuroscientists are now explaining in scientific language what those of us who have been addicted to anything already knew: The addictive state leaves us in constant craving for a neurochemical cocktail (endorphins, dopamine, serotonin, etc.) that, with compulsive use, effectively re-sets the pleasure thermostat of our brain. The result is that alcoholics need more booze, drug addicts need bigger hits, and porn users need ever more intense kinds of sexual stimulation—just to feel “normal.”

I would go on to discover a new and profound normality—in fact, reality—at 17, when I abandoned the agnosticism of my youth and came to Christ. Suddenly I knew I was loved; I knew that the people I interacted with day in and day out had intrinsic worth; that, whether they knew it or not, God had thought them worth the price of His blood. This rocked my world. I could no longer justify degrading and objectifying women for whom Christ had suffered and died. And so I made the first and most important decision anyone can make in recovery: I admitted I was wrong, that my actions were bad, that I needed to change. I believe that any attempt to come to terms with why pornography is evil must begin with this recognition of the intrinsic worth and goodness of the human person. For if we did not

have inherent dignity, how could anything we did to ourselves or others offend justice? Or if, as the Gnostics taught, the flesh was just a prison for the soul, not part of what we essentially are, why would it matter how we used our bodies—or others'? You can't cheapen what is already worthless.

This is why Catholic teaching on human sexuality, expressed so beautifully in the writings of Saint John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, offers a noble vision of humanity. It insists on the integrity of the whole person: soul and body. It calls the flesh good and valuable, first because God created it and holds it in being, but even more so because God united Himself to it in the Incarnation. As the Catechism, citing the early Christian writer Tertullian, puts it, 'The flesh is the hinge of salvation.' We believe in God who is the creator of the flesh; we believe in the Word made flesh in order to redeem the flesh; we believe in the resurrection of the flesh, the fulfillment of both the creation and the redemption of the flesh.

Although my change of heart about pornography was a black-and-white moment, my recovery from porn addiction was not. It would take more time and healing to break free. After I got married, my wife's love and the grace of the sacrament helped deliver me completely. And, just as my initial conversion had done, the beauty of marriage and fatherhood also helped put the ugliness of porn into crystal-clear perspective. I came to understand how when husbands and fathers use porn they not only make themselves slaves to sin, they also deeply wound their ability to love and protect in the way their vocation demands. C. S. Lewis wrote presciently of the man who "keeps a harem of imaginary brides" that prevents him from achieving loving unity with an actual woman:

For the harem is always accessible, always subservient, calls for no sacrifices or adjustments, and can be endowed with erotic and psychological attractions which no woman can rival. Among those shadowy brides he is always adored, always the perfect lover; no demand is made on his unselfishness, no mortification ever imposed on his vanity. In the end, they become merely the medium through which he increasingly adores himself.

This comports nicely with Pope Francis' admonition, from *Evangelii Gaudium*, that "Life grows by being given away, and weakens in isolation and comfort." I think of Christ's words from Luke 22:19 at the Last Supper—"This is my body which is given for you." Husbands and fathers have a special calling to imitate Christ in His self-giving sacrifice: in our work, in the way we love, in our patience and kindness. But porn flips that on its head. It makes husbands and fathers say, "This is your body, taken by me." By turning men inward, pornography suffocates their vocation, robbing them of their power to be Christ-like lovers, protectors, and leaders of their families.

Most troubling of all, for both men and women (the latest studies show an alarming rise in porn use among the latter) pornography deadens the heart to spiritual things. *Bought with a Price* is full of wisdom and good counsel from beginning to end, but I think Bishop Loverde writes most urgently when he warns of the "damage that pornography does to man's 'template' for the supernatural." God gave us the earthly gifts of sight and sex and ordered them towards a heavenly end: everlasting life with Him.

When we subvert use of those gifts, we lose interest in their true end. Our perspective gets stuck on earth and its low pleasures. Thus we endanger not just our temporal relationships but our eternal destiny.

That's the bad news—the worst news, in fact. The good news, as the bishop's bold and manful letter also tells us, is that healing is possible; purity can be achieved.

Perhaps you have been struggling to be free of pornography for a long time. Perhaps you've grown tired of promising yourself, your spouse, and God, that you'll never fall to this again, only to return—like the dog to its vomit (2 Pet. 2:22)—once more. *Bought with a Price* is a timely and urgent word which will, by God's grace, renew you and convince you once more that this is a battle worth fighting.

Remember, there is only one sin which God will not forgive. What is that sin? The one we refuse to ask forgiveness for. Be assured of God's love for you. Be assured of His infinite mercy. The same God who

forgave Moses the murderer, Rahab the prostitute, David the adulterer, Peter the denier, and Paul the Christian-murderer will forgive you also, and convert your heart. And there's even better news. Scripture promises that "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Rom. 5:20). So we have here not just a struggle, but an opportunity to tap into a massive outpouring of God's grace. Think about it. Every person, every Christian, every saint who lived before the Internet lacked one gift that we have: the ability to choose Christ by rejecting, day after day, this uniquely modern and anonymous sin of porn. So let your heart not be troubled but grateful—for God's inexhaustible mercy, for the powerful help we get from the Church's sacraments and teachers like Bishop Loverde, and for this almost unprecedented chance to grow in virtue by striving to walk the path of purity.

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**Matt Fradd** works for Covenant Eyes and is author of the book *Delivered: True Stories of Men and Women Who Turned from Porn to Purity*. A speaker and Catholic apologist, Matt has produced many resources on pornography and purity, including *Porn: 7 Myths Exposed*, *The Ugly Truth*, *The Man Talk*, and [ThePornEffect.com](http://ThePornEffect.com). He lives in Atlanta with his wife Cameron and their three children.

### **Bought with a Price**

Every Man's Duty to Protect Himself and His Family from a Pornographic Culture  
**by Bishop Paul S. Loverde,**  
**Bishop of Arlington**

The letter's title stems from Saint Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: **"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price"** (6:19-20).

The new edition—dated March 19, when Catholics recall the life of Saint Joseph, patron of fathers—includes an array of practical resources designed to challenge men to be free of pornography and to protect their homes and children.

“Every home,” said Bishop Loverde in today’s re-issuing of his 2006 pastoral letter *Bought with a Price*, “now stands in the pathway of this attack on our children’s innocence and purity. I call on every husband and father to renew his sacred commitment to his wife and children.”

Throughout the 15,000-word letter, Bishop Loverde demonstrates how pornography “damages man’s ‘template’ for the supernatural” by corrupting the faculty of sight. “Our natural vision in this world,” he writes, speaking of the Christian’s encounter with the Lord after death, “is the model for supernatural vision in the next.”

“You may feel a sense of helplessness and that these sins are impossible to overcome,” Bishop Loverde writes. **“But with God you need never despair. You will win. He loves you and wants you to be free.”**

SOURCE: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/21405380-bought-with-a-price>

No matter what battles we face in this world,  
there is always true and unending freedom  
through Christ. **He alone is our  
Hope and Deliverer.**

