

I am going to pray and fast for 7 days at the Washington DC Holy Ground

Robert Sullivan

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Tomorrow morning, April 7, I will be hopping a motor coach from St. Paul, Minnesota to Washington, DC, which immediately sounds like a prescription for RLS. If you suffer from it you know what it is.

However, the reason for my visit to the nation's capital has nothing to do with restless legs -- I know you were all wondering -- rather it is to pray and fast for 7 days on Holy Ground. The condition will begin at noon on Palm Sunday, April 9 and end at noon on Easter Sunday, April 16. Can't make any promises, but my plan is to be there each day from at least 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Gee, what might I be praying and fasting for? Thought you'd never ask! There are **THREE** purposes, of course! Let me briefly state each of them and then explain:

- 1) to remember the millions of children throughout the world that my wife, Debra, and I were not able to adopt;
- 2) to introduce to our brothers and sisters the wonderful blessings associated with "external adoptions" as a joyful and acceptable alternative tradition to our offering child tradition; and
- 3) to encourage our Movement to become a leader in a global adoption effort until every child, truly in need of parents, has been adopted into a loving home, thereby comforting Heavenly Parent's heart.

My whole life has been about adoption. I was adopted at birth by parents who raised me in a loving home and prepared me for my second adoption by True Parents, whose love for me paid the price to be adopted into God's lineage. A price I can never repay.

Moreover, Debra and I were not able to have children and chose to adopt five children external to the Movement, rather than through the offering child tradition. I was unable to conceive children because of radiation treatments I had received for testicular cancer and had always wanted to adopt children from outside the Movement as a way of giving back the life I was given. Once I explained that to Deb, she was not only onboard, she led the way through all five adoptions.

Deb has now transitioned to the spirit world. She passed away just a few weeks before True Father in 2012. Since her departure, I have felt her presence numerous times and have had two readings with her to discuss family matters. In the last reading she said that now is the time for our Movement to develop an "external adoption" tradition parallel to our current and very beautiful offering child tradition, and has asked me to take on that responsibility. Hence the purpose of this fast.

So in getting back to those three points, point one is really a point of repentance. I am sorry that we could not adopt more. I cannot think of anything that might bring greater grief to God's Heart than children in need of loving parents. These children are truly the innocents, and each one represents us in our capacity to love before God.

With regard to point two -- the blessings associated with external adoptions, I will try to cover these in daily texts from Holy Ground, so please stay tuned, I don't want to steal my own thunder here. But let me say this: I would hope that every Blessed Couple and Family would, as a result of this condition, at some point during Holy Week, sit down and discuss whether or not they might have room in their home and hearts for one more child in need of a loving home and if that room might be filled through an external adoption. The answer could well be "no". That's a perfectly good answer and in many cases the correct one. But what if the answer could be a "yes" and, what about the difference you could make in the life of an orphaned child? If you just talk about it, think about it, and pray about it as a family, the purpose of my condition will be fulfilled regardless of the answer you receive. Thank you.

And re point three, assuming that our Movement can step up to the plate and become a leader in international and domestic adoptions, we should be able to work with and mobilize other denominations and faiths in a Global Orphan Adoption Project that would make sure that every child in need of a loving family be placed in one as soon as that need is realized.

I have addressed these concerns regarding external adoptions and a testimony regarding our family in a letter to True Mother. To this date, I have not heard back from her regarding this matter, and I believe the letter is too long to post here. I know she is very busy, and I am sure has a whole list of concerns before she gets to mine. I have run this matter by the USA BFM, and they have graciously consented to post the letter on their website but to date have not had time to do so. As soon as they do, I will share the link with you.

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you. Bob and Debra Sullivan, blessed central family