A Few Related Thoughts…

Children of Heaven

**Childlike** (def.): having the positive characteristics of a child (faith, hope, & love; simplicity, sincerity, trust; high aspirations, & the willingness & audacity to pursue them; etc.).

**Childish** (def.): having the negative characteristics of a child (selfishness, self-centeredness;

lack of self-control & self-discipline; dishonesty, cowardice, silliness, bad temper, etc.).

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The disciples approached Jesus and said, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, “…Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child

is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

--Christ (Mt 18:1-4)

“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to ones such as these.”

--Christ (Mt 19:14)

“Great is the man who has not lost his childlike heart.”

--Mencius (Mèng Zi)

(4th-C. BC Chinese philosopher)

“An honest man is always a child.”

--Socrates

“Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them.”

“Goodbye, said the fox. “And now here is my secret, a very simple secret. The eyes are blind

to what is essential. One only sees clearly with the heart.”

--Antoine de Saint-Exupery, ***The Little Prince***

“See what great love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God-- and such we are!”

--St. John (1 Jn 3:1)

“Spiritual childhood is not spiritual foolishness or softness; it is a sane and forceful way… All this is not utter nonsense, but a sturdy and solid Christian life… Whoever wants to follow this “little way” in order to become a child needs to add strength and manliness to his will.

The great daring is always that of children… Who won’t stop at danger to get what he wants? Be a child… A child, with God: and because of that, very much a man in everything else…

Let your prayer be manly. To be a child does not mean to be effeminate.

Child, when you really are one, you will be all-powerful.”

--St. Josemaría Escrivá, ***The Way***

“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.

Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow-men.”

--Mahatma Gandhi

“Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men.”

--John F. Kennedy

“To be a man is, precisely, to be responsible. It is to feel shame at the sight of what seems to be unmerited misery. It is to take pride in a victory won by one's comrades. It is to feel, when setting one's stone, that one is contributing to the building of the world.”

--Antoine de Saint-Exupery (***Wind, Sand, & Stars***)

“Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway. In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.

We cannot do great things on this Earth—only small things with great love.”

--St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta

“Sometimes," said Pooh, "the smallest things take up the most room in your heart."

--A. A. Milne (***Winnie-The-Pooh***)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,… but store up treasures in heaven…

For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be… Seek first the kingdom of God,

and all these things will be given to you besides.”

--Christ (Matthew 6:19-21)

“The wise man does not lay up his own treasures. The more he gives to others, the more he has for his own.”

--Lao Tzu (Laozi), ***Tao Te Ching***

(Ancient Chinese philosopher,

date unknown)

“For it is in giving that we receive.”

--Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

“Children, let us not love in words or speech, but with actions and in truth.”

--St. John (1 John 3:18)

“Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility.”

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer (German Protestant minister &

opponent of Nazism; imprisoned & executed, 1945)

“In the first place, prayer; in the second, mortification; and in the third place—very much in the third place—action.”

--St. Josemaría Escrivá, ***The Way***

“I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”

--St. Paul (2 Timothy 4:7)

# For further reading…

A. A. Milne, ***Winnie-the-Pooh*** (New York: Penguin, 2005).

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, ***The Little Prince*** (Hertfordshire, England: Wordsworth, 1995).

St. Josemaría Escrivá, “Spiritual Childhood” & “Life of Childhood” chapters in ***The Way*** (New York: Scepter, 1988).

Gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 12, verses 16-24.