



SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT; SECOND SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT

Pass it on

The song “Tradition” from *The Fiddler on the Roof* suggests that when we don’t have a clear reason for doing things a certain way, we call it “tradition”! However, the Latin root of *tradition* means handing down information or beliefs by word-of-mouth or by example from one generation to another. When it comes to preparing candidates for Baptism, the role of catechist is key and includes the passing on “by example.” To say, “We’re all catechists” is heavy-handed, but catechist or not, you *are* passing on the faith by example. What is your example (and not just in church)?

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31)*. “It is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.”

MONDAY, MARCH 7 FEAST OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS Shining the light of hope

Perpetua and Felicity were imprisoned by the Romans in the early third century because of their faith. Until the time they were put to death, Perpetua kept a diary. She describes visits from her father, who begs her to renounce her faith. She describes tender moments with her child, the birth of Felicity’s baby, and visions about martyrdom. The diary reflects the women’s steadfast faith that God was with them, offering meaning and hope as they faced persecution. Today, let us ask Perpetua and Felicity to shine God’s light of hope upon all who suffer religious, social, and political injustice.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54 (244)*. “See, I am creating new heavens and a new earth.”

TUESDAY, MARCH 8 FEAST OF JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS We’re lost until we’re found

Portuguese born João Duarte Cidade, who we remember as John of God, offers inspiration and hope to anyone searching for their life calling. As a child in the early 1500s he was kidnapped, then left as a homeless beggar. He was a shepherd, then a soldier, then a shepherd again, then again a soldier and would-be Crusader, then on to a printer’s apprentice. Perhaps no wonder that a nervous breakdown followed. But at long last, in his mid-40s he had an awaking to his religious vocation. If you’re not sure where you’re going in life, keep your heart open, and your vocation will find you. God’s on the journey with you!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245)*. “Do you want to be well?”



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

©2016 by TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; 800-942-2811; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Daily email sign-up and App available online. Art may be subject to additional copyright. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Contributors: Alice Camille, Peg Ekerdt, Sister Colleen Gibson, S.S.J., Daniel Grippo, Father Larry Janowski, O.F.M., Sister Maxine Kollasch, I.H.M., Jennifer Tomshack, Patrice J. Tuohy, Sister Julie Vieira, I.H.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 FEAST OF FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS Living your vocation in the world

Do you wish you could share in the communal spirit of a religious community but have worldly commitments that don’t allow for formal religious life? There is another option, as exemplified by Frances of Rome, an Italian saint who was a wife, mother, mystic, organizer of charitable services, and a Benedictine oblate who founded a religious community of laypeople who shared a common life without religious vows. Associations whose members share in the spirit of a religious order or institute while remaining in the secular world are often called third orders (the first and second orders being the community’s vowed religious men and woman). You can read more about “Associations of the Christian Faithful” at [Code of Canon Law, canon 303](#).

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246)*. “I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me.”

THURSDAY, MARCH 10 LENTEN WEEKDAY All the way to beauty

How do you get from here to beauty? Catherine of Genoa found a way that sounds odd to modern ears: through purgatory. This devout woman wrote her *Treatise on Purgatory* after an experience she describes as God’s final great mercy. The church views purgatory as a time rather than a place: literally the time it takes for a heaven-bound soul to arrive at perfection. Purgation is preparation for happiness, not punishment for sin. To arrive at ultimate beauty, most of us need to peel the last resistance to grace from our hearts.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247)*. “Let your blazing wrath die down; relent in punishing your people.”

FRIDAY, MARCH 11 LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE Be sweet without the sweets

Two weeks from Lent’s end, some of us may be burned out on seasonal sacrifice. Maybe we had the proverbial hot dog on a Friday, or ate the brownie we swore off these 40 days. Indulging in a lobster feast doesn’t quite match the spirit of Friday abstinence either. Whatever we consume by mistake or out of weakness, we need not be consumed by self-loathing. Nor is it good to fast perfectly but take it out on everybody. John Cassian wrote: “What we gain from fasting does not compensate for what we lose through anger.” Show mercy on yourself and others for shortcomings, Lenten and otherwise.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248)*. “His life is not like that of others, and different are his ways.”

SATURDAY, MARCH 12 LENTEN WEEKDAY Part of the crowd

In scripture, we’re often in the company of crowds: crowds that follow Jesus and are fed by him; crowds that ask Jesus and church officials some tough questions; crowds with a mob mentality; thoughtful crowds that are trying to make sense of confusing things they’ve seen and heard. The crowds offer diverse perspectives, such that we might better understand who Jesus is and what it means to believe. As you hang out with your crowds today—in scripture and at work, school, and home—what new insights about Jesus might they offer you?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53 (249)*. “Some in the crowd who heard these words said, ‘This is truly the Prophet.’ Others said, ‘This is the Messiah.’ But others said, ‘The Messiah will not come from Galilee, will he?’ ”