

Sunday, May 03, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Follow the leader

When we were kids, playing “follow the leader” was easy. One child was designated as the pattern to imitate, and we just did whatever they did. In these days of crisis, it can seem harder to tell who the designated leader is. Is it the president or the pope, the pastor or the medical expert? Do we do what our parents advised, or listen to the recommendations of trusted friends? What do we do when media experts disagree? If we call ourselves Christians, then Christ is the ultimate authority for our values and criteria. Make a verse of scripture your daily companion.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10 (49). “For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.”

Monday, May 04, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Stand your ground

“The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger,” said Father Stanley Rother, and he didn’t, which made him a martyr in 1981 in civil war-torn Guatemala. Even though he knew his name was on a death list, this priest from Oklahoma stayed with the people he had been serving since 1968, during which time he built a farmer’s co-op, a school, a hospital, and a radio station. He was beatified in 2017. Learn more about this inspiration for faith in the book *The Shepherd Who Didn’t Run*.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 11:1-18; John 10:11-18 (279). “A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Tuesday, May 05, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Keep things in context

Catholics celebrate 50 days of Easter with a special emphasis on the Gospel of John. But with the Gospel of John comes a particular concern. At Mass, we hear—amid the evangelist’s poetic prose—some jarring references to “the Jews.” Historically, such language sadly led to a legacy of hate and harm. With anti-Semitism making headlines again, look to the short Vatican II document called *Nostra aetate*. It honors the Jewish people as our faithful forebears, tapping a truth right out of John 10: Jesus was an observant. Honor our religious ancestors by learning more about them.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 (280). “Jesus walked about in the temple area.”

Wednesday, May 06, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Follow the Light

“This Little Light of Mine” has been young Christians’ joyful favorite for nearly a century. It has also been an anthem for civil and human rights movements. For people of faith, we who believe that Jesus has come into the world as light, the song serves as a directive to allow God’s light to shine through the example of our lives. Reflect today on the example you have set during difficult times. Have you given into darkness and despair or served as a beacon of hope and support for those around you?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 12:24—13:5a; John 12:44-50 (281). “I have come into the world as light, to keep anyone who believes in me from remaining in the dark.”

Thursday, May 07, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

A masquerade to take seriously

In today’s gospel Jesus says, “Whoever receives the one I send, receives me.” It is in keeping with our tradition to see the poor, the migrant, the refugee as sent by God to stretch our hearts and open us to the Good News. Mother Teresa often referred to seeing Jesus “in the distressing disguise of the poor.” Indeed, how distressing it is to see the suffering being endured by those with the least. Take a step today to “receive” Jesus in the disguise of the poor.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20 (282). “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

Friday, May 08, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Youthful mystic

Imagine growing up with a saint in your hometown! New Jersey-native Teresa Demjanovich, honored today, was like many young people with responsibility for caring for aging parents while also getting an education and a job. She then became a religious sister but died just two years later at age 26. Known as a prayerful, holy woman, Teresa was deeply spiritual and considered a mystic. “Our heart is the compass that magnetically follows the north star of desire,” Teresa wrote. “To locate my treasure I have but to unearth the lodging of my desires.” As you pray this day, consider how God is leading you through your heart and desires.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6 (283). “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.”

Saturday, May 09, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Light a fuse!

Peter Maurin, who founded the Catholic Worker movement with Dorothy Day, was born on this day in 1877. He longed for a world where it would be easier for people to be good to each other. While he was the visionary, Day translated his ideals of justice into practical actions: a newspaper, houses of hospitality, and farms. He found “dynamite” in the gospels, which could solve the problems of society if someone would “blow the lid off.” Day lit the fuse, and their flame continues today in Catholic Worker houses.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14 (284). “The one who believes in me . . . will do greater works than these.”

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



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