

Sunday, Jun 16, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Truth is what reveals reality

A powerful politician once asked a condemned man: “What is truth?” If Pilate had sought truth, he’d have recognized his prisoner and set Jesus—and himself—free. Dostoevsky warned what happens to those who lose contact with the truth: They “lose all respect for themselves and for others. And having no respect, they cease to love.” It’s easy for Pilate to condemn a man who doesn’t matter. Choose respect, choose love, and everyone begins to matter.

TODAY’S READINGS: Proverbs 8:22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15 (166). “*But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.*”

Monday, Jun 17, 2019

Wage peace

Jesus’ call to nonviolence is often misinterpreted as passivity and weakness. Far from it! In the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, nonviolence does not mean surrendering to evil, but actively and courageously responding to it with good, “and thus breaking the chain of injustice.” It means being someone “who is convinced of God’s love and power, who is not afraid to confront evil with the weapons of love and truth alone.” Join what the Holy Father called the “Christian revolution” of loving your enemy and start waging peace.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Matthew 5:38-42 (365). “*When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well.*”

Tuesday, Jun 18, 2019

It rains on everybody

Jesus asks us to love people who’ve been hateful and pray for people who are hurting us. Why should we do such a thing? Because it makes us more like God—and after all, we are the children of God. God brings rain down on everybody indiscriminately, and sunshine, too. God does not withhold divine blessings from bad people and give them to good people, though you’d have a hard time getting some folks to believe that. Perfect human justice is merely even-stein. Divine justice, bounded by mercy, goes way beyond just deserts.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; Matthew 5:43-48 (366). “*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*”

Wednesday, Jun 19, 2019

MEMORIAL OF ROMUALD, ABBOT

Get some expert advice

Saint Romuald lived from the first millennium into the second. He likewise bridged the world of monastic prayer and the rest of the world by showing that ordinary experiences are examples of how to relate to God. He said, for example, “Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it”—perhaps anticipating today’s “turn off your cell phone and television.” He said, “Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish,” suggesting that if you know how to fish—be silent, still, and wait for the fish to make themselves known—then you know how

to pray. A great saint can point us to holiness in simple, commonplace ways.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (367). “*Your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.*”

Thursday, Jun 20, 2019

Needs need testing

Perhaps you’ve heard the saying: “God doesn’t need our prayers—we do.” God knows what we need even before we ask. Truth be told, often enough we don’t really know what we *need*, only what we *want*. They aren’t always the same thing, as another popular saying reminds us: “Be careful what you pray for, you just might get it!” So we pray for what we want, and God sees to it that we get what we really need, and later, we realize God was right, again—thank God!

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 11:1-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (368). “*Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*”

Friday, Jun 21, 2019

MEMORIAL OF ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, RELIGIOUS

Earthen treasures

Young Aloysius Gonzaga intentionally walked away from his family’s wealth and power, choosing to join the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits. Gonzaga lived such an extreme life of prayer and self-denial that his superiors told him to eat more and spend increased time with friends. While studying theology in Rome when a plague broke out, he volunteered to care for the sick in a Jesuit hospital. That sacrifice eventually claimed his life at the tender age of 23. Give thanks for the friends who stand by you and renew you in times of joy and of struggle—the real treasure in your life.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30; Matthew 6:19-23 (369). “*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy. . . but store up treasures in heaven.*”

Saturday, Jun 22, 2019

MEMORIALS OF JOHN FISHER, BISHOP, AND THOMAS MORE, MARTYRS

Be a believer for all seasons

Fisher and More, who were friends, were executed (in 1535) within 15 days of one another over their opposition to King Henry VIII’s divorce of Catherine of Aragon and his plans to take over the church in England. On the scaffold More described himself as the “king’s good servant—but God’s first.” The film version of More’s life, *A Man for All Seasons*, won six Oscars, including Best Picture. Watch the movie and give some thought to how you can put God first in your life.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Matthew 6:24-34 (370). “*Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?*”

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



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