

## SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2017

### SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

#### Embody your faith

The addition of today's feast to the church calendar was primarily the result of the work of 13th-century Augustinian nun Juliana of Liège. She worked in her convent's hospital nursing the sick. During this time she reported having visions of Christ reminding her that there was no feast for the Holy Sacrament. She persuaded Saint Thomas Aquinas to compose a special prayer to honor the Blessed Sacrament, and in 1264 Pope Urban IV made Corpus Christi a feast day. Today is a fitting day to ponder what it might mean for us to give ourselves "body and soul" to the Good News, as Jesus did.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Lauda Sion; John 6:51-58 (167)*. "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?"

## MONDAY, JUNE 19

### MEMORIAL OF ROMUALD, ABBOT

#### Journey inward

Romuald (c. 951-1027) was a man on a mission. Becoming a Benedictine monk in order to atone for a murder his father had committed, he sought ever simpler forms of monastic life, a desire that led him to establish monasteries and hermitages as places of silence and contemplation—known as Camoldolese monastic communities. To his monks he wrote: "Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish." Devote some time to the journey within, not as something selfish, but as an inner pilgrimage to God. God is yours, and you are God's.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Matthew 5:38-42 (365)*. "Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow."

## TUESDAY, JUNE 20

#### Grace really is amazing

Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote: "Grace builds upon our nature and does not destroy it." It's a way of saying God works through our human nature but also that we need the gift of God's power—grace—to take us beyond our nature in order to meet the challenges of Christian love. Scripture speaks of that very well. Jesus calls on us to find the strength to go beyond the human tendency to love only those in "our group" by remembering the love of God, which goes out to all. Ask God for abundant grace.

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, JUNE 21 MEMORIAL OF ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, RELIGIOUS

### Bloom where you are planted

Today marks the summer solstice. It's an appropriate moment to honor Saint Aloysius (1568-91), who barely reached the summer of his life. Aloysius was born into a noble family and was entitled to great things. He chose smallness instead, preferring a life of devotion and prayer. His father planned for him to be a great soldier; Aloysius became a Jesuit instead, serving the sick and dying during



an epidemic of plague. Always frail in health, his dream of becoming a missionary to India was never realized. But he did what he could where he was. That's a goal we all can reach.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (367)*. "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them."

## THURSDAY, JUNE 22

### MEMORIAL OF PAULINUS OF NOLA, BISHOP

#### Loss can lead to gain

Saint Paulinus of Nola (ca. 354-431) was praised by such well-known contemporaries as Saints Augustine, Jerome, and Ambrose. The wealthy and privileged son of the Roman prefect of Gaul, Paulinus seemed to have it all—until he and his wife, Theresa, lost their only child a week after birth. The loss changed them profoundly. They gave much of their property to charity (to the displeasure of their relatives) and turned their residence into a shelter for the wayward poor. For his choice of radical charity, Paulinus was unexpectedly ordained a priest and later made bishop of Nola by popular demand. Reflect on

the losses in your own life. Ask God to help you transform your pain into compassionate outreach to others.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 11:1-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (368)*. "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own?"

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23 SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

### Heartfelt communication

When a businessman turned 40, he began to realize he wasn't really a self-made man, and he sought out his third-grade teacher to thank her for all she'd meant to him. She strained her aging eyes as he approached her in the nursing home, but recognition dawned along with a huge smile. "I've kept you in my heart all these years," she told him. He knew just what she meant. The heart is the symbol of the inner life of a person. Jesus is often depicted with a heart on fire with love—for us! The fire in his heart can become the fire in our own. What's in your heart today? Is there room for love?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 7:6-11; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 11:25-30 (170)*. "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Respond to your deepest calling

The name *John* means "God's gift," and such was the Baptist. From the moment he came on the preaching scene, he proved himself a powerful, captivating herald of God. His bold, dramatic, austere, and uncompromising style is what many people had in mind when they hoped for a Messiah. But John understood that his role was to prepare the way for the One who was to come. His prophetic witness and commitment to his call are his legacy to us. Share in his gift by being true to your own Christian calling.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80 (587)*. "They wanted to name the baby after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.'"



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

© 2017 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. 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. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.