Sunday, Sep 24, 2017
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Ours is not to know
Life is a puzzle; there are so many things we do not understand: Why is there evil? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do some people live to a ripe old age while others die before they've had a chance to live? Why can't we seem to get along? Why are some people fabulously wealthy or healthy or fortunate or all of these while others struggle simply to survive? Oddly, there is some freedom in not having all the answers. We don't have to be able to see the whole picture in order to know that "all shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well," as the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich put it. Practice surrendering to the mystery.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a (133). *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."*

Monday, Sep 25, 2017
Quantum hints of God
In her *Revelations of Divine Love,* 14th-century mystic Julian of Norwich describes how she came to understand that God is light, "our endless Day." Seven centuries later, physicist Bernard Haisch came to the same understanding: "The solid, stable world of matter appears to be sustained at every instant by an underlying sea of quantum light," which Haisch concludes gives "Let there be light" profound meaning and a clue to the nature of God and the mysteries of the universe. The light that shines within you is God. Let others see that light in everything you do.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 8:16-18 (449). *"No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand."*

Tuesday, Sep 26, 2017
MEMORIAL OF COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS
Let's care for one another
Cosmas and Damian are said to have been brothers, perhaps even twins, who were trained as physicians. Tradition says that, motivated by Christian charity, they would take no money for their services. They are the patron saints of doctors, surgeons, druggists—and twins. While most healthcare professionals are not in a position to refuse payment, there are other ways to make healthcare accessible to all. The USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development established criteria for fair and just healthcare reform: a truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity; access for all with a special concern for the poor and inclusion of legal immigrants; pursuing the common good and preserving pluralism including freedom of conscience and available options; and restraining costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers. What can you do to bring these reforms to life?

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Luke 8:19-21 (450). *"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."*

Wednesday, Sep 27, 2017
MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST
There's always more to be done
Toward the end of his life, Vincent de Paul (1580-1660) sat with one of his many wealthy patronesses, who recounted all the good works of charity Vincent had initiated and supervised throughout his priesthood. She asked him what else he could possibly hope to do. "More," he replied benignly. His relentless enthusiasm for the relief of human suffering was infectious and led to the founding of the society that bears his name by layman Frederic Ozanam two centuries later. In his name—and through your generosity—the St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to do "more."

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6 (451). *"Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the Good News and curing diseases everywhere."*

Thursday, Sep 28, 2017
MEMORIAL OF WENCESLAUS, MARTYR
Live generously
Legend surrounds the brief life of Saint Wenceslaus I, duke of Bohemia (907-935), originally venerated because of his martyrdom but most remembered today because of a Christmas carol from the 16th century that celebrated him as a model of generosity. Separating fact from fiction may be difficult after 1,000 years, but your own track record with regard to generosity should be easier to tally. Will anyone sing praises of your generosity a millennium from now? A hundred years? Ten minutes after you're gone? If not, what can you do today to start building your own lasting legacy?

TODAY'S READINGS: Haggai 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9 (452). *"Who then is this about whom I hear such things?"*

Friday, Sep 29, 2017
FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS
Eyes on the prize
According to Saint Augustine, the word *angel* (from the Greek *angelos*—"messenger") is basically a job description—that is, angels serve as messengers of God's purposes. They are reliable, says Jesus, because they "always behold the face of my father in heaven." We can trust such messengers because they do not lose sight of God. Today we celebrate the feast of three archangels—Michael, who spoke regularly to the prophets; Gabriel, who announced the births of John the Baptist and Jesus; and Raphael, whose name means "God has healed." Let's learn from them to keep our eyes on God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab; John 1:47-51 (647). *"You will see heaven opened and the angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*

Saturday, Sep 30, 2017
MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
Dig deep
Saint Jerome (c. 340-420) lived out his dictum: "Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ." At the encouragement of the pope he made a new translation of the Old Testament into Latin and revised the existing translation of the New Testament. He also wrote commentaries on biblical books, including the prophets. He knew that the more deeply one explores scripture, the closer to Christ one gets. And to get the message of the Bible makes us messengers ourselves, just like Saint Jerome. What can you do to deepen your knowledge and understanding of scripture —and also of God—and pass that along?

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9:43b-45 (454). *"The Son of Man is to be handed over to men."*