

Sunday, Oct 06, 2019

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Valuing all of life

We desire happiness and avoid suffering. We might turn the page quickly on the faces of hungry children or cross the street to escape an encounter with the homeless. The prophet Habakkuk objected to the sight of violence and misery in his generation. If the anguish was so apparent to him, why did God not see it too and respond? God does respond—in sending ambassadors of divine will to act. This Respect Life Month, how will you respond in Jesus' name?

TODAY'S READINGS: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10 (141). *"Why do you let me see ruin; why must I look at misery?"*

Monday, Oct 07, 2019

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Mother of Mercy, pray for us

To some, the Rosary can seem like a static form of prayer. In reality, Catholics pray a form of the Dominican Rosary that's been evolving since the 1400s. In 1917 the Fatima Prayer was included. In 2002, John Paul II added the Luminous Mysteries—used on Thursdays—joining three other sets of mysteries as meditations on the life of Jesus: Glorious (Sun./Wed.), Joyful (Mon./Sat.), and Sorrowful (Tue./Fri.). What's more, you can pray merely a decade—10 Hail Marys—on your own or as part of a Rosary Circle. You can pray it with beads or your own 10 fingers. You can pray with others as you go running or kneel at church with parishioners. No matter how you pray the Rosary, the concluding "Hail Holy Queen" reminds us that Mary is our life, our sweetness, and our hope as we strive to emulate her mercy.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 1:1-2:2, 11; Luke 10:25-37 (461). *"He answered, 'The one who treated him with mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"*

Tuesday, Oct 08, 2019

Balance your Martha with your Mary

People who look after practical details often feel bad when they recognize themselves as Martha in today's reading. However, Catholicism has long made room for both the practical and the prayerful, and ideally we integrate the two. For instance, monks pray frequently but must spend part of each day on income-producing work. Likewise parents with small children can be intensely busy but routinely fold those small fingers together for prayer at meals and day's end. No matter our station in life, we can keep marrying the focus of Martha with the focus of Mary by pausing during the day to lift our lives to God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42 (462). *"Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."*

Wednesday, Oct 09, 2019

MEMORIAL OF DENIS, BISHOP, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Your life is your most effective witness

Saint Denis—first bishop of Paris and patron saint of France—was so gifted at winning people over to Christ that he and two fellow missionaries provoked the ire of local leaders, leading to their martyrdom. Depictions of Denis in iconography—a cephalophore ("head-carrier") saint, his head held in his hands—

remind us that Christian faith is so much more than a head trip, asking us to commit our hearts, and perhaps our very lives, to the radical love Jesus preached. Saint Denis, pray for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4 (463). *"Do not subject us to the final test."*

Thursday, Oct 10, 2019

Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door

In 1893 Francis Thompson published his famous poem "The Hound of Heaven" about God's relentless pursuit of the human heart—a love story, in verse, that captured the imagination of Catholic literary greats G.K. Chesterton and J.R.R. Tolkien. But as Jesus reminds us today, it's OK to be as persistent in return. Like the man who bangs on a friend's door in the middle of the night, begging a favor, our pestering of God always pays off. Saint Teresa of Avila knew this love story well: "This Beloved of ours is merciful and good. Besides, he so deeply longs for our love that he keeps calling us to come closer." Which is why she also said this about prayer: "You pay God a compliment by asking great things of him." Go ahead. Knock.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13 (464). *"Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

Friday, Oct 11, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOHN XXIII, POPE

Beauty more than skin deep

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born in 1881 in Italy, the fourth of 13 children. He reigned as pope from 1958 to his death in 1963. He is best known for convening the Second Vatican Council. Earlier in his career, when he was made apostolic nuncio to France, a rival for the position characterized him as an "old fogey." And when he first saw himself in the mirror in his new papal vestments, he remarked "this man will be a disaster on television!" Remembering this "old fogey" saint, pray today for someone you know who may not measure up to cultural standards of beauty but is beatified in God's eyes.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26 (465). *"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."*

Saturday, Oct 12, 2019

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mother Mary comes to me

Fridays are traditionally the day for Catholics to remember Christ's Passion and death. Sundays are always our celebration of his Resurrection. So where does that leave us with Saturdays, the day in between? According to the great saints Bernard of Clairvaux, Thomas Aquinas, and Bonaventure, it leaves us remembering Mary—as the one who never left Jesus's side, a mother cradling his body at the foot of the cross the way she cradled him as an infant. The church honors Mary as the greatest disciple and our steadfast mother by setting aside every Saturday that isn't already claimed by another saint's observance. Trust that she never leaves your side, either, by remembering to pray the Memorare today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28 (466). *"A woman from the crowd called out and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that carried you.'"*

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



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