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## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### The word of God in the words of men

Saint Paul says “all scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching,” yet many Catholics are not quite sure what “inspired” means. Did the Holy Spirit dictate the words directly to the biblical authors? Not exactly. The phrase “the word of God in human language” would be more accurate. The Catholic Catechism says that while God chose certain authors for this task, those writers used their own faculties and powers to accomplish what God intended. These authors were not taking dictation, but using their talents to write “whatever God wanted written.” Explore some biblical writing to see how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you as well.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Exodus 17:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2; Luke 18:1-8 (147)*. “Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient.”

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

### Make room for everyone

Catholics can take pride in the fact that the word *catholic* comes from the Greek *katholikos* meaning universal, complete, whole. Saint Ignatius gave us the first example of the word’s use way back in the year 107 when he wrote in a Letter to the Smyrnaeans, “. . . wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.” We have a 1,900-year legacy of being an inclusive people, of making room for one and all. Now more than ever, in this age of strife and division, let’s affirm our *catholic* tradition.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ephesians 2:1-10; Luke 12:13-21 (473)*. “Take care to guard against all greed.”

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 FEAST OF LUKE, EVANGELIST

### A multit talented witness

Saint Luke, to whom we credit authorship of the gospel that bears his name as well as the Acts of the Apostles, was a multi-talented man. A gifted stylist in his native language of Greek, he is also respected as one of the first great historians. As classics Professor E.M. Blaiklock put it, “For accuracy of detail, and for evocation of atmosphere, Luke stands, in fact, with Thucydides.” Luke’s talents went even further—he also is credited with being the first icon painter and having created the first icon of the Virgin Mary. Give thanks for the gifts that have been dedicated to creating the treasures of Catholic tradition. Add your special gift.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9 (661)*. “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”



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

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## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19 MEMORIAL OF JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

### Be a courageous witness

John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues are two of the eight Jesuit missionaries who traveled to present-day Canada and upstate New York to evangelize and minister to the Native Americans of the region. These men built bonds of trust with the Huron nation, but failed to win acceptance from the Mohawk tribes, and all eight were eventually martyred. The National Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, New York ensures that their courage and faithfulness will not be forgotten. On this feast day, ask for the grace to replace fear with love and to find courage to do what is right.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ephesians 3:2-12; Luke 12:39-48 (475)*. “Do you intend this parable for us, Lord, or do you mean it for the whole world?”

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20 MEMORIAL OF PAUL OF THE CROSS, PRIEST

### Leave the judging to God

Saint Paul of the Cross, born toward the end of the 18th century, would recognize a phenomenon of our century. His was the time of the Great Enlightenment, the Age of Reason, which considered Jesus a model of ethics, but no more. Some (especially younger) Catholics in our own American culture feel the same about Christ today, much to the chagrin of their more traditional parents and grandparents. Saint Paul was beloved both for his preaching, but especially for his kindness and mercy. In this Year of Mercy, rather than getting into arguments with relatives and trying to force them back to Sunday Mass, what about loving them and listening to them, and leaving the judgment to God?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ephesians 3:14-21; Luke 12:49-53 (476)*. “I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.”

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

### Forgive unto others

The sacrament of Reconciliation, through which sins can be forgiven, is often referred to simply as “Confession.” By confessing the wrongs you’ve done, you begin to relieve yourself of their burden. But that’s just the start. You also ask for forgiveness, receive it, repent, and are challenged to “go and sin no more.” And there’s yet one more step in the process: By being so mercifully reconciled to God and community, you owe it to others to forgive them, too. In the words of the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi: “It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 12:54-59 (477)*. “If you are to go with your opponent before a magistrate, make an effort to settle the matter on the way.”

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

### Sorrow is a holy mystery

Unjust suffering never ceases to stun. Why did a plane full of happy travelers go down? Why do so many hopeful migrant families drown at sea? Why do faithful parents give birth to a sick baby destined for hardship? Why do sadness and misfortune visit our dear ones? Because grief is a mystery we can’t fathom, we need to pray our way through it. The Rosary’s Sorrowful Mysteries honor emotional agony and physical anguish, the burden of shame and the weighty cross. Death is cruel, but it never has the last word.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ephesians 4:7-16; Luke 13:1-9 (478)*. “Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.”