

Sunday, Oct 28, 2018

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I can see clearly now

Certain events leave us with the sensation of scales falling from our eyes. Maybe it's a directed retreat or parish mission that shatters our complacency and brings us to tears. Or maybe it's just life happening to us in all of its raw power—in birth, loss, love, or pain—that promotes a clearer value of what's really important. All in a moment, we sense what we need to do, or stop doing, to be true to what's real. When those hours arrive, pay attention! Jesus is calling, a way is opening, and all that's required is to say "yes."

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52 (149). *"Immediately [Bartimaeus] received his sight and followed him on the way."*

Monday, Oct 29, 2018

Let go and let God

The novelist Henry James wrote: "Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind." It is not always simple or even possible, though, to know how to be kind to others. In the tricky and complex situations you occasionally find yourself, the "high road" is not always clear: "Would this person appreciate an explanation, or would that just make them angrier?" "Should I back off or continue to engage?" Asking yourself what you would like in a similar situation isn't always helpful either; that question only helps you to know yourself better! Sometimes the best you can do is to have the intention and let God do the rest.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 4:32—5:8; Luke 13:10-17 (479). *"Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ."*

Tuesday, Oct 30, 2018

Start small

When Mother Teresa first went into the slums of Calcutta, she had little more than a patch of dirt in which to scrape the letters of the alphabet as a way of teaching children to read. Today, thousands of Missionaries of Charity, the community she founded, work around the world with the poorest of the poor. Dorothy Day started the Catholic Worker movement with only one house of hospitality. Many worthy efforts started with very little, sometimes only an idea, before growing into something great. So don't run down your own humble ideas or projects, especially if they will make people's lives better. You never know when that little seed will grow into a tree.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 5:21-33; Luke 13:18-21 (480). *"The kingdom of God . . . is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree."*

Wednesday, Oct 31, 2018

Saints don't need scary costumes

At a Catholic elementary school in Chicago in the 1950s, students were expected to come to school on Halloween in costume. Cool! The catch: You had to be dressed as a saint! Definitely uncool. Who wants to walk to school past "the publics" looking like a dork? Still, the sisters had it right, even if their pedagogy was unappreciated. Today is All Hallows Eve, the day before the day when we remember all the saints who have gone before us,

canonized and no. We remember that they lived, searched for God, failed, and succeeded just as we do today, and maybe they had to do dorky things in school, too.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 6:1-9; Luke 13:22-30 (481). *"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."*

Thursday, Nov 01, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Let your sainthood shine!

Genesis says people are made in the image and likeness of God. The gospels say to see Jesus in one another. In other words, we are more like God than we might think. We can see God, not completely, but a lot, in human beings. That's what saints, whom the church celebrates today, do: They show us how to be close to God, how to be holy. They help us to see how God is like us and we are like God—and call us to be more like God, as they were. Answer that call. Imitate the saints. You can be one, too!

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a (667). *"What we do know is this: When God is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is."*

Friday, Nov 02, 2018

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

Grace will bring you home

When we pray the Hail Mary, we ask for the help of Mary our Mother at two crucial moments of our lives: "now, and at the hour of our death." *Now* is an important occasion because it is the time of decision. *The hour of our death* is critical because it's the last moment over which we exercise our will. When we pray for the dead, today and every day, we come to the spiritual assistance of those who can no longer help themselves. We can rest assured that one day the church will be supplying us with the same grace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; John 6:37-40 (668). *"The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them."*

Saturday, Nov 03, 2018

MEMORIALS OF MARTIN DE PORRES, RELIGIOUS; BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Sanctify the smallest deeds

As the young Martin de Porres (1579-1639) began his vocation in Peru, he longed to bring his mission to foreign peoples so that he could receive the honor of martyrdom. When he realized that God was not going to make this possible, however, he turned his focus from exotic lands to the commonplace tasks he saw right in front of him. This "Brother of the Broom" worked to bring forth the kingdom of God within his abbey by becoming a master of homemaking. He looked after the cooking, cleaning, and laundry. A fellow brother recounted how Martin showed him how to sow chamomile in the "well-manured hoof-prints of cattle." No task was too small that Martin couldn't see God's plan in it.

Throughout the day, look at mundane tasks as saintly deeds.

TODAY'S READINGS: Philippians 1:18b-26; Luke 14:1, 7-11 (484). *"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

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



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