

Sunday, Oct 29, 2017

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

Priests need our prayers too

No two priests are alike, yet all are commissioned to be a sign of Christ and bring the gospel to God's people. The fact that priests come in all shapes and sizes says a lot about the breadth and depth of Christ. Christ is reflected in all those who dedicate their lives to God's mission. Faithfulness, not perfection, is all that is required. Priests remind us that our salvation, which comes through Christ, isn't out there somewhere but right here standing at our side, accompanying us on our journey. Offer priests strength and encouragement in their roles as you hope they will offer you in yours.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10; Matthew 22:34-40 (148). *"I love you, O LORD, my strength, O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer."*

Monday, Oct 30, 2017

Healing leads to praise

Stop to notice the content of your prayers. According to the early Christian thinker Origen, the noblest form of prayer we can make is praise. But so often, it is the one feature missing in our communication with God. We find in the gospels that praise is the song of the healthy creature—what one gives *after* healing. When you do not praise, it may mean you need to be healed. Look for ailments in your life, whether of the mind, body, or soul. Tend to your needs and ask for the healing grace of the Holy Spirit. Praise will follow.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 8:12-17; Luke 13:10-17 (479). *"When Jesus laid hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God."*

Tuesday, Oct 31, 2017

Break some bread today

Baking bread requires the holy virtues of patience and attention. It is hard work wrapped in warm smells and a tremendous sense of accomplishment when the job is done. The process seems undeniably spiritual to anyone who has attempted to bake bread. Why? Because preparing and sharing food is a fundamental act of faith. It is the essence of Christianity and of Jesus himself. Who will receive nourishment from you today? Remember, a little leavening goes a long way.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 8:18-25; Luke 13:18-21 (480). *"The kingdom of God is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with flour until all of it was leavened."*

Wednesday, Nov 01, 2017

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

You can do this

In *Sister Wendy's Book of Saints*, art historian Sister Wendy Beckett writes about us: "Holiness can so easily appear as something remote from us, to be read about or . . . gazed at, but from afar. Yet to be a saint is a wholly practical and realistic growth into our own truth. It is what we are all meant to become, it is our deepest fulfillment, our own personal realization of what we have been potentially from birth. There is no play about sanctity. It starts from where we are and what we are." Move deeper into the saint you were born to be.

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew

5:1-12a (667). *"They will be called children of God."*

Thursday, Nov 02, 2017

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

At the hour of our death

A few years ago a church document had this to say about death: "Death, while starkly real and total, is the vehicle of that final offering of self which calls for the supreme act of faith in the Lord of Life." Yes, death is final; we will never know the dead in the way we knew them on earth, and that is sad. Death also challenges us. Do we really believe it is not the end, a terrifying abyss? Or do we see it as rebirth to new life and entrance into the peace of spirit that awaits resurrection? On this day, pray for those who have died. Pray also for the faith to see in death the final passage into full union with Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6:37-40 (668). *"If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him."*

Friday, Nov 03, 2017

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN DE PORRES, RELIGIOUS

Look deeply for dignity

Saint Martin de Porres (1579-1639) was a barbershop surgeon when he joined a Dominican monastery at 15. Soon his success with medicinal herbs and miraculous healings earned him great fame as a healer. But Martin was famous for tending to small things, too. Once, he solved the monastery's pest problem by nabbing a mouse and respectfully asking it to leave, along with its countless cousins. Recognizing the dignity in all God's creatures is no small thing. How can we show others that we see their dignity?

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 9:1-5; Luke 14:1-6 (483). *"Who among you, if your son or ox falls into a cistern, would not immediately pull him out on the sabbath day?"*

Saturday, Nov 04, 2017

MEMORIAL OF CHARLES BORROMEIO, BISHOP

Shaping up is an ongoing process

Saint Charles Borromeo was an instrument of the Holy Spirit in helping to keep the church on course through needed reforms in the 16th century. Had he been a participant in the Second Vatican Council rather than the Council of Trent, he may have contributed to Vatican II's similar insight on the need for reform: "Christ summons the church, as she goes her pilgrim way, to that continual reformation of which she always has need."

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; 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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