

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Praise where it's due

The penitent woman who washes Jesus' feet with her tears and wipes them with her hair is a humble and generous soul whose "great love" moved her to tenderly care for Jesus in this very public way. She and Mary Magdalene, with whom she is often confused, along with many other women, were important figures in the private life and public ministry of Jesus. Honor the unsung women in your life who contribute to making the world a better place.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13; Galatians 2:16, 19-21; Luke 7:36—8:3 (93). "Mary Magdalene . . . and many others (women) who were assisting them out of their means."

MONDAY, JUNE 13

FEAST OF ANTHONY OF PADUA, PRIEST,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

"Tony, Tony, turn around"

The story goes that Saint Anthony—patron of lost objects—had a book of psalms that he treasured. A member of his religious community left and stole the psalter on his way out. Anthony prayed and eventually the thief had a change of heart and not only returned the holy book but also returned to the community! A prayer composed in honor of Anthony goes, in part, "Treasures lost are found again, when young or old thine aid implore." A more informal rendering goes, "Tony, Tony, turn around. Something's lost and must be found." Keep Anthony in mind if you've lost a valued object—or lost something more precious, like faith, hope, or love.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 21:1-16; Matthew 5:38-42 (365). "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

Put on Christ

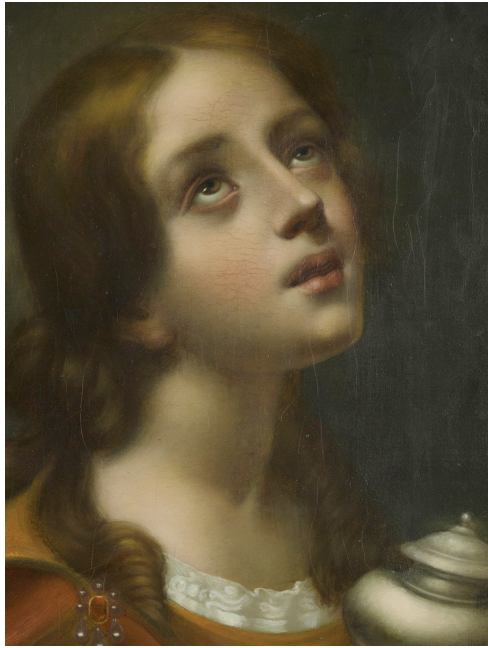
The U.S. flag is the prime symbol not just of the nation but also of its values. But there are those who engage in "flag waving" or who "wrap" themselves in the flag, dramatic and showy but without an actual, personal commitment to "liberty and justice for all." Without such commitment, pseudo patriotism means nothing. In Colossians, Saint Paul says, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience," all rooted in Christ. Can people tell from watching you that you are clothed in Christ?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 21:17-29; Matthew 5:43-48 (366). "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

Sky's the limit

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was a human being like the rest of us, but unlike us she was conceived without sin. And unlike any woman, she conceived while a virgin through the power of the Holy Spirit. And at the end of her earthly life, she was taken up, body and soul, into heaven—certainly not an experience the rest of



MARY MAGDALENE IN PENANCE, RODOLFO PAOLETTI, 19TH CENTURY

us can expect! She's living proof that nothing is impossible with God. Like her, say yes to God with your whole being and see what God might do with you.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (367). "Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind."

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Thank a truth teller

It may have been a parent, younger brother, or elderly aunt. It could have been a grade-school teacher or college professor or AA sponsor. It may have been your first boss, someone you dated briefly, a roommate, or your oldest and dearest friend. It could even have been a complete stranger you met on a train. Now and again throughout our lives, we encounter people with flaming words to offer us. These words aren't always comforting, and their challenge may burn into our minds and hearts, revealing a painful passage toward the truth. Accept the words,

and thank the giver.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-14; Matthew 6:7-15 (368). "There appeared the prophet Elijah whose words were as a flaming furnace."

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

May your eyes be bright

"One day we will learn that the heart can never be totally right if the head is totally wrong." This teaching by Martin Luther King Jr. illuminates the gospel saying about the need for light. If we see clearly, we will know what to do. If we learn to think past opinions and can be motivated beyond personal comfort, we will find our way all the way to the truth. King also said: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Love is the lamp that brightens every eye.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20; Matthew 6:19-23 (369). "The lamp is the light of the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light."

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Trust in God

"When we attend to the needs of those in want, we give them what is theirs, not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice." These words, found in the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) and attributed to Saint Gregory the Great, ask each of us to share what we have with others. It is a profound piece of advice that challenges a "me-first" way of life. It tells us that God thinks that everyone has a right to live in dignity, and you and I have a responsibility to help make that happen. If you can shift the focus away from "getting more," you will find you worry less. Trusting that God will take care of us frees us from anxiety. On this day in the Year of Mercy, take stock of your worries and think about ways to surrender those worries to acts of generosity.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Chronicles 24:17-25; Matthew 6:24-34 (370). "Stop worrying . . . Your Father knows all that you need . . . seek his way of holiness."



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

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