

Sunday, May 24, 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Right where you belong

We each have a need to belong that doesn't start with the playground or end with the work shift. Psychologist Abraham Maslow categorized the need to belong as number three on a hierarchy of essentials: right behind physical needs (food, clothing, and shelter) and safety. Catalog the people who are essential to your happiness and the social groups that include you as a member. Then consider this: God has chosen you to be one of God's people. And Jesus counts you as one who belongs especially to him.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 1:12-14; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11a (59). "They belonged to you, and you gave them to me."

Monday, May 25, 2020

MEMORIAL OF GREGORY VII, POPE

Cherish your freedoms

Pope Gregory VII fought hard for the separation of church and state because he lived in a time (11th century) when the church was subject to civil authorities, and abuses of power were rampant. In the face of enormous opposition, this great reformer extricated the church from the control of external rulers and strengthened the unity of the whole church under the centrality of the papacy. On this Memorial Day, remember that religious freedom is one of the founding principles of our country, worthy of the sacrifice of many. And one that our faith demands that we respect for all.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33 (297). "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PHILIP NERI, PRIEST

God provides

It's fitting Philip Neri was canonized in 1622 with Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, and Teresa of Ávila. Ignatius was a friend, Francis was an influence, and Philip took to heart Teresa's quip: "From . . . sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" The affable Philip won over so many different kinds of people for Christ in 1500s Rome—using humor, humbleness, and holiness—that he's called, with Peter and Paul, an apostle of Rome. "Cast yourself into the arms of God," he said, "and be very sure that if he wants anything of you, he will fit you for the work and give you strength." That is comforting at a time when many of us feel stretched to the limit.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a (298). "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me."

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP

Look for God in unexpected places

Lest Saint Augustine of Canterbury be confused with Saint Augustine of Hippo: the two are not the same. Augustine of Hippo was a fourth-century doctor of the church. Augustine of Canterbury was a sixth-century Benedictine missionary sent by Pope Gregory the Great to Christianize the British Isles. He is known as the "Apostle to the English," and his legacy includes an approach to evangelization and conversion that shows a respect for indigenous practices. Rather than condemning, he consecrated

and incorporated popular Anglo-Saxon rites into Christianity. What practices from popular culture today might we consecrate into contemporary Christian practice?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19 (299). "As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world."

Thursday, May 28, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Celebrate our finest gifts

Shavuot, or the Feast of Weeks, which our Jewish friends observe today, has a connection to the Catholic Solemnity of Pentecost. Just as Pentecost this Sunday comes seven weeks after Easter, Shavuot is celebrated seven weeks after Passover. In the biblical era, important dates for planting and harvesting were marked by religious holidays. Shavuot celebrated the wheat harvest seven weeks after Passover. Christians thank God for the abundant gift of the Holy Spirit.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26 (300). "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word."

Friday, May 29, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Keeping the peace

In 1972, Pope Saint Paul VI declared, "If you want peace, work for justice." Today we observe the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The U.N. deploys peacekeepers around the world to provide "a unique and dynamic instrument . . . to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace." The work of Catholic social justice organizations like Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Worker, and Cross Catholic Outreach go a step further by "tending the sheep" of the poor, the oppressed, the refugee, the dispossessed. Do your part today to support the social outreach of your church.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19 (301). "Tend my sheep."

Saturday, May 30, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Just do it!

Some argue that "believing the right things" is enough of a response to the call to discipleship. But Jesus emphasized *doing*. *Orthopraxy* (right practice) goes hand in hand with *orthodoxy* (right belief). In this time of global suffering, our faith response is required. It flows out of our faith *assent*, but we can't stop with professions of faith. Take your faith out to meet the great need you find around you today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21: 20-25 (302). "There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written."

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



©2020 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. **Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.**