

Sunday, Oct 11, 2020

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Seek wisdom's light

If we learned nothing else this year, it's that circumstances change. Societies come together and shatter apart. Wellness comes and goes. Markets rise and fall. War and peace exchange places. We climb up and down the ladder of success. If we're wise, we learn what Saint Paul observed: Spiritual flexibility beats insisting and resisting. Today the Rosary's Luminous Mysteries guide us to wisdom: Partner with the Holy Spirit, trust grace to supply what's needed, seek the Kingdom's paradox, recognize Jesus in the faces of the poor, and know that God is present at every table.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14 (142). *"I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance."*

Monday, Oct 12, 2020

The past calls us to a more just future

Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated in many communities to honor Native Americans and their histories and cultures. Today is also a U.S. federal holiday, Columbus Day. Many want the former to replace the latter, while others are dismayed by the growing trend. We can acknowledge the complicity of colonial church leaders in the exploitation and abuse of native peoples (though there were notable exceptions like Bartolomé de las Casas). At the same time, we can work to right those wrongs in the present and forge a more just future together, building the reign of God here and now.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1; Luke 11:29-32 (467). *"Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation."*

Tuesday, Oct 13, 2020

Ponder the mystery

For centuries the Catholic Church has honored Mary in both May and October. So perhaps it wasn't surprising that Our Lady of Fatima reportedly began to appear once a month to three children in Portugal in 1917—beginning on May 13 and ending on this day, October 13. On the last day, with more than 70,000 people gathered in anticipation, many reported seeing an unusual heavenly phenomenon that has been called the "dance of the sun." Ponder today what Pope John Paul II identified as Fatima's significance: "conversion and repentance, the nucleus of the message of the gospel."

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 5:1-6; Luke 11:37-41 (468). *"Through the Spirit, by faith, we await the hope of righteousness."*

Wednesday, Oct 14, 2020

MEMORIAL OF CALLISTUS I, POPE, MARTYR

Differences of opinion are nothing new

Callistus I was elected pope by the clergy and laity of Rome in 217. The election results did not sit well with that election's runner-up, Hippolytus. The two men disagreed on church doctrine and Hippolytus accused Callistus of leniency in enforcing church rules. Callistus' tolerance imitated Jesus' compassion but Hippolytus did not see it that way. He became the first anti-pope in church history, a schism that lasted 18 years. Eventually, Hippolytus reconciled with the church but not before Callistus I

was martyred in a local Roman disturbance in 222. This piece of history is a reminder that differences will occur among church leaders, but the promised Holy Spirit remains with us. Pray for peaceful resolution of differences, in church and in society.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 5:18-25; Luke 11:42-46 (469). *"If you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law."*

Thursday, Oct 15, 2020

MEMORIAL OF TERESA OF JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Seek some mystic reform

Today we honor one of the great women of the church, Saint Teresa of Ávila, also known as Teresa of Jesus. Teresa's life seemed rather routine on the surface—she was a cloistered nun in the 1500s. But as her mystical encounters with Jesus emerged, along with her desire for a simpler, less "worldly" way of being, she began to write about the spiritual life and advocated for reform of her religious order, against strong opposition. Declared a doctor of the church in 1970, Teresa's reforms and enduring spiritual insights still carry weight. What reform, small or large, can you work toward today that can help bring about peace and spiritual growth for yourself and others?

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 1:1-10; Luke 11:47-54 (470). *"Woe to you, scholars of the law! You have taken away the key of knowledge."*

Friday, Oct 16, 2020

MEMORIAL OF MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, VIRGIN

Put your heart into it

From stained glass windows to tattoos, the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been an enduring, powerful symbol to many people from all walks of life. In the 17th century, particular attention to the heart of Jesus began to be promoted. Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French Visitation nun, had a special tenderness for Jesus' Sacred Heart and often shared her prayers and visions of it. In the heart of Jesus—imaged as pierced with thorns, flames, and a cross atop—she experienced the burning love of Christ for all people and the trust that Jesus held all of our joys and suffering in his heart. With Margaret Mary, what joys and sufferings might we entrust to the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 1:11-14; Luke 12:1-7 (471). *"In Christ we were . . . chosen."*

Saturday, Oct 17, 2020

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

Journey with courage

Map the distance between Antioch, Syria, and Rome: 3,716 kilometers, 39 hours by car—without traffic. Now imagine traveling that distance in chains around the year 107, with hungry lions awaiting your arrival. Even with all that, Ignatius of Antioch, approaching a brutal martyrdom, writes from the road to the Ephesians: "I do not issue orders to you, as if I were some great person. For though I am bound for His name, I am not yet perfect in Jesus Christ." His focus is on the privilege of dying for God's glory: "Being blessed in the greatness and fullness of God," he sends readers "abundant happiness through Jesus Christ, and His undefiled joy." Call on Ignatius when you face the really frightful realities life confronts us with at times.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 12:8-12 (472). *"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints."*

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](https://www.TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe).**