

Sunday, Apr 26, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Three ways to foolishness—or faith

Some of us are quick to admit we don't need help in being foolish. We do this quite well on our own. Nonetheless, the story of the Emmaus travelers provides a checklist of choices that lead to boneheaded moves. First of all, they abandon hope too soon. Second, they separate from the community of faith. Third, they discount reports that Jesus is still being encountered. No wonder they didn't recognize Jesus when he was standing right next to them! Practice patience. Stay close. And seek the Lord while he may be found.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35 (46). *"Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!"*

Monday, Apr 27, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Saints for all seasons

Six years ago today, Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II were both canonized. Commentators pointed out the apparent differences between these new saints: one known for his progressive outlook in convening Vatican II, one seen as upholding more traditional Catholic values. And yet their canonization was the perfect snapshot of what we believe the communion of saints to be—holy role models who are each unique unto themselves, demonstrating so many different ways to follow Christ. Ask John XXIII and John Paul II to pray for you today, requesting they guide your own distinct path to holiness.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29 (273). *"Believe in the one he sent."*

Tuesday, Apr 28, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PETER CHANEL, PRIEST, MARTYR

Exercise your right of redemption

Saint Peter Chanel is revered for having lived a courageous life as a missionary and having died a martyr's death in 1841 on the Oceania island of Futuna. The later remorse and repentance of his murderer Musumusu is also noteworthy. Having clubbed Chanel to death in 1841 on instructions from the king to "do what was necessary" to stop Chanel's evangelization, he later repented and was baptized. He asked to be buried outside the church where Chanel's remains were kept, so that the faithful would walk over his grave on their way to revere Chanel. Even your greatest errors in life can be redemptive.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30-35 (274). *"The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

Wednesday, Apr 29, 2020

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Speak up!

Preaching is a sacred art, whether at a podium or in everyday life, "to communicate the awe of the word," says Jonathan Edwards, one of the best-known Protestant preachers. A skilled preacher prays with scripture, studies, and reflects on the circumstances of the local and global community to inspire and challenge listeners.

Each of us has the capacity to preach the Good News. One of the great saints and a member of the Order of Preachers, Catherine of Siena advises us: "Preach the truth as if you had a million voices. It is silence that kills the world."

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 (275). *"Now those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."*

Thursday, Apr 30, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PIUS V, POPE

Set the bar high

Picture horse racing in St. Peter's Square. Hard to imagine how that worked, but it does give us an indication of the state of the papacy when reformer Pius V took charge in 1566. Though his stern demeanor and reforms did not endear him to comfortable Vatican insiders, he practiced what he preached, living and dressing simply and often walking barefoot. During a famine he used church resources to purchase corn from abroad and distributed it widely to the poor. He also spent heavily to improve the water supply and sewers of Rome. If you wish to hold others to high standards, be willing to start with yourself!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 (276). *"The bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."*

Friday, May 01, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Food for the soul's journey

What food does to the body is what the Eucharist does to the soul. It gives us energy, strength, defense against disease. It's intimate, partaken in relationship, in family, in community. It's a gift, shared in love. If you are what you eat, as the old saying goes, then it transforms us, makes us more like Christ. Finally, we take it with us, out of the church doors. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI: "We cannot approach the Eucharistic table without being drawn into the mission which, beginning in the very heart of God, is meant to reach all people."

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59 (277); or Genesis 1:26—2:3 or Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Matthew 13:54-58 (559).

"Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you."

Saturday, May 02, 2020

MEMORIAL OF ATHANASIUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Be an ideal person

It can feel lonely to fight for an ideal, including some of the ideals that the church has spoken up for in recent years: immigrant rights, racial justice, dignity of life from womb to tomb. Today is a good day to find inspiration and support in a soulmate: Saint Athanasius, who spent much of his energy as a bishop in the fourth century defending our core belief in the divinity of Christ as the Word made flesh. Hold fast to your ideals and continue to bring them to life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69 (278). *"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."*

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



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