

## Sunday, Oct 01, 2017

### TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

#### To life!

The call to respect life confronts the multiple ways life is often devalued in our world—war, capital punishment, and abortion, among others. It is not only a call “out there in the world” but also a call within each of us. We can take this message to heart in every situation we encounter, and each day offers many opportunities—large and small—to respect life by the way we treat one another. What is one choice for life that you can make today?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32 (136).* “Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.”

## Monday, Oct 02, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

#### Our better angels

The tradition of a guardian angel that guides and protects each person in life developed gradually in the church. Devotion to angels grew in the monastic tradition, beginning with Saint Benedict and getting a big boost from the 12th-century reformer Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. By the 16th century the feast the church celebrates today in honor of guardian angels was well established. Whether you embrace the tradition literally or think of angels as expressions of God's love and care extended to all of creation—or both—today is a day to be thankful that you do not walk alone in the spiritual life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 8:1-8 (455); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650).* “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

## Tuesday, Oct 03, 2017

#### Time to decide

Some things in our lives can be left to float in indecision or even inattention. That's the pile of stuff on your desk or in the closet you keep adding to but never subtract from. Other things require commitment. And every commitment we make is an act of faith in God, faith that God will see us through, come better or worse. Think of the extraordinary commitments we make to friends, spouses, family, neighbors, and employers. Sometimes it is time to choose. Or, as Yogi Berra quipped: When you come to a fork in the road, take it!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456).* “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

## Wednesday, Oct 04, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI

#### Honor your mother

In his wonderful *Canticle of the Creatures*, Saint Francis of Assisi praises God for the delightful family he has enjoyed in the creatures he calls Sir Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water, and Brother Fire. His prayer for Sister Mother Earth includes praise for the one who “sustains and governs us, and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.” Two days ago was “World Habitat Day.”

Saint Francis would approve. Find a way this year to commit yourself to the health of our planet who is our sister and mother.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 2:1-8; Luke 9:57-62 (457).* “Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.”

## Thursday, Oct 05, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST

#### Be of good cheer

What's the secret to a joyful life? It is not about enjoying happy circumstances, or all privileged people would be smiling and the rest of us would be in therapy. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which was very apparent in the life of the “cheerful ascetic” Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos (1819-67). This Redemptorist priest was best known for his simplicity, sincerity, and good cheer in every situation. Once, upon escaping the fate of being named bishop of Pittsburgh, he threw a party! Before he died while serving victims of the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans, Seelos declared: “To become holy is our only purpose in life.” Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary today to inhabit the spirit of joy.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458).* “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”

## Friday, Oct 06, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF BLESSED MARIE ROSE DUROCHER, VIRGIN

#### Pass the torch with loving attention

Among the short list of most influential people in your life surely there is a teacher or two, most likely from your early years of education. Saint Marie Rose Durocher, who founded an order in Quebec with a strong teaching ministry, was herself deeply influenced by those who taught her along the way. Her first teacher, in fact, was her paternal grandfather, who home-schooled her until the age of 10. The wisdom of tradition is preserved when it is passed from one generation to the next. Honor those who inspired you by doing the same for those who are coming up after you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459).* “If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.”

## Saturday, Oct 07, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### Draw a bead on the Rosary

Rarely do we pass a statue of Mary that is not originally draped by the artist—and eventually by her devotees—with a rosary: around her neck, across her hands, or anywhere it's possible to dangle one. Some statues are so laden with rosaries by the fervent that it's a wonder Our Lady can stand up under the strain! This reality contrasts with the story that it was Mary who gave the Rosary to the early Carmelite Saint Simon Stock—and by extension, to all of us. We're the ones who need a little help getting our prayer on, after all! As Rosary Month moves forward, have you found your beads yet?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460).* Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.”



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

## Sunday, Oct 08, 2017

### TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Forgiveness first

Feeling the sting of personal offense, our first response is often to fight back. Forgiveness may occur to us, but we'll push that idea aside as too soft. After all, we've been injured! Someone has done wrong and should be punished, and it's our job to do the punishing! No matter what choice we make in the short run, sooner or later the business of forgiveness comes back around as the only viable solution. We could save ourselves a lot of trouble by employing forgiveness first.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43 (139).* "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

## Monday, Oct 09, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF DENIS, BISHOP, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

#### Send a message

All martyrs' stories seem to end alike, with blood on the ground. But behind all these bloody endings are some pretty remarkable beginnings, each one as unique as you are to the person next to you. Each starts with an individual on fire with the beauty, hope, and truth of the gospel. Take Bishop Denis, future patron saint of France, who got together with six of his fellow bishops around the year 250 to bring the message of Jesus to Paris. It has been said that nothing is more eloquent than the blood of martyrs. These men became the message they brought. What message can you bring to the world?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 1:1—2:1-2, 11; Luke 10:25-37 (461).* "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

## Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017

### Witness through your daily routine

Let dust bunnies multiply and guests go hungry? It's what Jesus seems to imply when Martha of Bethany grumbles about her slacker sister. But to the delight of moms and church ladies everywhere, centuries of Christian tradition have come to Martha's defense. Thérèse of Lisieux won the hearts of millions with her "Little Way" of serving God—helping to launch the Catholic Worker Movement and its houses of hospitality by influencing Dorothy Day. Brother Lawrence, doing chores around the monastery, taught us how to practice the presence of God while washing dishes. Give witness to Christ today by showing love—especially in the smallest of gestures.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42 (462).* "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?"

## Wednesday, Oct 11, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF JOHN XXIII, POPE

#### Heal the breach

The Second Vatican Council opened on this day in 1962, under the leadership of Pope John XXIII. One of the council's greatest achievements was its recognition of the wisdom and value found in

other faith traditions. Today, in an era where we face so much conflict in the world based on religious differences and misunderstandings, interfaith dialogue is needed more than ever. Make a point today to reach out to someone of another faith tradition—via a phone call, an email, a short note. Begin a dialogue that can help heal the world. Carry on the legacy of Vatican II and John XXIII.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4 (463).* "For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in kindness to all who call upon you."

## Thursday, Oct 12, 2017

### Be persistent in prayer

Do you have friends like this? They've got an endless stream of needs, and they bombard you with them by phone, email, and the old-fashioned doorstep method. They always seem to want your approval, advice, or sympathy for their latest crisis. They think nothing of asking you to bail them out of their lack of preparation for life in general. Sometimes you help them out of compassion and sometimes just to make them go away. Jesus promises God will be even more responsive when we ask!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13 (464).* "Even though he will not get up because he is his friend, because of his persistence he will give him what he needs."

## Friday, Oct 13, 2017

### The cycle is unbroken

Jewish communities today celebrate *Simchat Torah* ("rejoicing with the Torah"), the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle. The last section of the Book of Deuteronomy and the first section of the Book of Genesis are read out loud in the synagogue. In this way the cycle of readings is unbroken. The Roman Catholic cycle of liturgical readings also comes up for renewal every year on the first Sunday of Advent, about six weeks from now. The Judeo-Christian community is part of the never-ending story of salvation. Now is a good time to reflect on how important the cycle of holy readings is to your own sense of religious identity.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26 (465).* "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

## Saturday, Oct 14, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF CALLISTUS I, POPE, MARTYR

#### Drop the stone

Saint Callistus I, pope from 217-222, was proof of Paul's proclamation to the Galatians that "there is no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free"—that through faith, all are one in Christ despite social status or even a checkered past. Callistus himself was a freed slave and later sentenced to hard labor for fighting in a synagogue. Yet he became deacon to a pope and later pope himself, his imperfect past making him tolerant of remarried clergy as well as returning heretics in the early church. Though some thought him too lax, Callistus challenges us to forgive as Jesus did.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28 (466).* "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"



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your faith will deepen and grow—  
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## Sunday, Oct 15, 2017

### TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Accept the invitation

Have you ever shown up at a party or other social function only to realize you're woefully underdressed? It's unnerving to realize everyone else is in formal wear when you came ready for a picnic. In today's gospel Jesus taps into the powerful symbol of clothing as revealer of our interior disposition when he tells about the wedding guests who uninvite themselves by showing up in the wrong clothes—that is, unprepared to join the celebration. It's not that Jesus is a stickler for fashion do's and don'ts, but he cares enormously about the state of our hearts. And so should we.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 25:6-10a; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14 (142).* "Many are called, but few are chosen."

## Monday, Oct 16, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, VIRGIN

#### Take heart in Jesus

Devotion to the physical heart of Jesus goes back to the Middle Ages, but it really did not become widespread until a Visitation sister, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, had a series of visions between 1673 and 1675 that gave a clearer shape to the devotion. Though prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus became one of the most popular devotions in the history of Catholicism, it did have its opponents, who thought it meant separating the human part of Jesus from the divine and worshipping it—idolatry, in other words. What they failed to see was that the Sacred Heart testified to the Incarnation: how God took human form and showed mercy and love for humanity. Adore Jesus' humanity by showing that same mercy and love.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32 (467).* "Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise."

## Tuesday, Oct 17, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

#### The same yesterday, today, and tomorrow

Ignatius, born in the first generation after Jesus, became bishop of Antioch in the year 69, shortly after the deaths of Peter and Paul. On the way to his own martyrdom in Rome, Ignatius wrote seven letters revealing much about the early church. They affirm that the humanity of Jesus was not simply an appearance; that the Eucharist is the "flesh of our Savior"; and that the bishop is the primary teacher of the faithful. Ignatius was also the first to describe the church as "catholic" as in universal. Appreciate the gift of consistency in teachings across the millennia.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41 (468).* "But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you."

## Wednesday, Oct 18, 2017

### FEAST OF LUKE, EVANGELIST

#### Retell the story

To Luke is attributed the authorship of both the gospel bearing his name and the Book of Acts; the two books are really one continuous work. Reputed to have been a physician, Luke also went with Paul on one of his missionary journeys. Each of the gospel writers addressed a somewhat different audience and brought out somewhat different aspects of Jesus and his ministry. Luke emphasized Jesus as both the fulfillment of the

hopes of the Jewish people and the light to the Gentiles. What does your picture of Jesus include? If you were retelling the story of Jesus to someone, how would you frame it?

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9 (661).* "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest."

## Thursday, Oct 19, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

#### Faithful to the end

Saints Isaac Jogues and John de Brébeuf were among a group of Jesuit missionaries who tried to evangelize Native Canadians in the 1640s in what is now Ontario and upstate New York, often meeting fierce resistance. After a long imprisonment, Jogues returned to France to recuperate, so altered by his experience that his own brother did not recognize him. Given the option to stay in France and teach, Jogues decided to go back to the colonial territories even though it meant certain death, and indeed this time he was martyred. Determination and endurance can make an effort worthwhile, regardless of the outcome.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54 (470).* "Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication."

## Friday, Oct 20, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF PAUL OF THE CROSS, PRIEST

#### Be slow to anger

Though Jesus could have resisted his persecutors, he chose not to. Paul of the Cross, a mystic, saw in the Lord's suffering and dying the greatest demonstration of God's love. He encouraged us to imitate Christ especially when tempted to lash out at someone who is bothering or irritating us. On a small scale we can choose the path Jesus chose on a very large scale: "When you feel the assaults of passion and anger," wrote Paul, "then is the time to be silent as Jesus was silent in the midst of His ignominies and sufferings." Though this approach runs counter to our assertive culture, try it out sometime and see if it does not bear unexpected fruit in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7 (471).* There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known."

## Saturday, Oct 21, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

#### Shed some light on things

One of the great biblical themes is the presence of light in the world. Light is "God's eldest daughter," according to clergyman Thomas Fuller, who noted that God separated light from darkness as the primary action in Genesis. God's presence is ever after associated with light, from the flaming torch Abraham sees in a trance, to the burning bush drawing Moses to his destiny, to the pillars of fire guiding the Israelites through the desert, to the fiery tongues of Pentecost. The psalmist calls the word of God a "lamp for our feet," and Jesus calls himself the light of the world. Pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary today, asking God for this discerning light in your decision-making.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 4:13, 16-18; Luke 12:8-12 (472).* "I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God."



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## **Sunday, Oct 22, 2017** **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **Give a little back**

Pastoral Care Week, sponsored by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, was established to recognize the many ways church professionals respond with attentive listening to those with physical, emotional, or spiritual concerns. Hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and your local parish will accept volunteers who wish to donate their time for this important work. So cut loose a couple of hours a week and give them to someone in need. Be a generous giver.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21 (145). Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.*"

## **Monday, Oct 23, 2017** **MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST** **Keep the margins in mind**

Mission San Juan Capistrano, of the returning swallows fame, was founded by Spanish settlers on All Saints' Day in 1776 and named for today's saint, Giovanni Capistrano, a 15th-century Italian "warrior priest" who led a Crusade at the age of 70! The Spanish settlers in the Americas were warriors in their own right, taking land and imposing conversions to Catholicism when necessary. At the same time many of the clergy in the missions that dot what is today the U.S. Southwest did their best to ease the harshest aspects of Spanish colonial domination. The church finds itself working within all kinds of social orders and regimes. May it stand with the vanquished and marginalized and for justice and mercy.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21 (473). Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."*

## **Tuesday, Oct 24, 2017** **MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP** **Weave a holy life**

Saint Anthony Mary Claret was a successful weaver before he entered the seminary. Born near Barcelona in 1807, he spent the rest of his life—as priest, then bishop—weaving together two strong elements of his personality: the mystic and the man of action. He was deeply prayerful and also a prolific author. He preached more than 10,000 sermons in his life, often to great gatherings of the poor who felt marginalized by the church. He stands as a great example of how to blend prayer and action in our own busy lives. What are the elements in your life that need to be woven together as a beautiful tapestry—your gift to God?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474). "Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival."*

## **Wednesday, Oct 25, 2017** **Be ready for a pleasant surprise**

In scripture and tradition we remember and celebrate the past—but in the present. What has been applies very much to how we live now. We also look to the future in hope, when all Jesus stood for and taught will be fulfilled. We think of this time as his return, his coming again, when he will be with us again in his fullness. And like the past, the future has a lot

to do with the present. What we hope for shapes what we do now. That's why Jesus tells his disciples to be ready, especially because his coming again will be unexpected. But if we are ready, the only surprise will be a joyous one, like a surprise visit from a friend or loved one.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475). "You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."*

## **Thursday, Oct 26, 2017** **Baptism by fire**

Imagine having the insight to realize that your mission would lead without fail to your persecution and death. Now imagine having the courage to remain faithful to that mission—despite the cost. The next time you feel stressed out by the demands of your own calling (and don't we all feel that way at least some of the time?), pause to consider the stress that Jesus was under. Say a quick prayer asking Jesus to send you the courage you need to face your own trials.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476). "I have a Baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!"*

## **Friday, Oct 27, 2017** **Clear the air**

We spend a lot of time worrying about the weather. Nothing captures national attention like a brewing hurricane or a string of tornadoes or an earthquake. Weather programming is a fixture of any local news program, and one of our first questions on waking up in the morning is often, "What's the weather like today?" Not much has changed (except the technology) since Jesus' time. He pointed out that for all the attention folks paid to storm clouds in the west or wind from the south, they didn't seem to be able to tell right from wrong when dealing with one another. Before checking today's forecast, take a moment to examine the "climate" of your interpersonal relationships. Dispel the storm clouds and bring some sunshine to those nearest and dearest.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477). "Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"*

## **Saturday, Oct 28, 2017** **FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES** **Let your faith inform your citizenship**

The apostle Simon is called the "Zealot," a name that suggests he was zealous for the Law or possibly connected to the Zealot movement, which revolted against the Romans in A.D. 66. Perhaps we do better to admire Simon's zeal for God more than his alleged sympathies for violent change. In matters political, let the words of the Second Vatican Council's document on the church in the modern world be your guide: "The church . . . is not identified in any way with the political community nor bound to any political system," the Council wrote. "Christ . . . gave his church no proper mission in the political, economic, or social order. The purpose which he set before her is a religious one. But out of this religious mission itself comes a function, a light, and an energy which can serve to structure and consolidate the human community according to the divine law."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666). "Jesus went up to the mountain to pray."*

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## **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."*

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