

**SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

### Reading the signs

Signs are not destinations. They may assist us in getting where we're going, tell how far we've come or what to do next, but they're not intended to be goals in themselves. Early Christians viewed certain signs as indicators of spiritual authority: the ability to heal, inspired speech, command of dark forces, or facing dangers without harm. Saint Paul warned us not to become enchanted with power for its own sake. Instead, we should consider the needs of the community and how best to serve. Name some modern signs that someone is demonstrating with genuine spiritual authority.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23 or 4:1-13; Mark 16:15-20 (58). "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?"*



*and may God Bless our mothers, living and dead. . .*

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### Fake news and peace

Peace is possible only when truth is readily available. This is why Pope Francis has dedicated this World Communications Day to a reflection on the polarizing effect of fake news. False information creates and fuels division, bleeding its consequences into both personal and group behaviors. By contrast, a "journalism of peace" promotes understanding and unites us around common values and goals. Maybe it's time to stop clicking on inflammatory headlines and refuse to forward the stuff that riles up our indignation. Propaganda is hardly new. Opt for something truly novel: good news!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 John 4:11-16; John 17:11b-19 (60). "Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth."*

**MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018**

**FEAST OF MATTHIAS, APOSTLE**

### Let go and love

Jesus' Last Supper discourses are surely some of the most poignant passages in John's gospel. You can almost hear the urgency in Jesus' voice as he exhorts his disciples to carry on and always love one another. Just *love one another*. Three simple words, yet how difficult they are to live at times! Or at least we make them that way. We prefer to hold on to our anger, resentment, or that small slight from this morning. We are entitled to feel the way we do—right? Yet, how much easier it is to simply let the negative feeling go. It's as easy as opening your hand. Today, when you find yourself holding on to anger, visualize opening your hand. Let it go. Love one another.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17 (564). "You did not choose me but I chose you."*

**TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018**

**MEMORIAL OF ISIDORE**

### Help bring a poor farmer to market

Seventy-five percent of the world's poor—900 million people—"live in rural areas in conditions of extreme poverty," according to a March 9, 2006 Vatican statement on agrarian reform. In the absence of internationally guaranteed protections, the Vatican says, "deprivation, exploitation, lack of access to the market, and social exclusion become more acute" among people who work the land. The Vatican urged rich countries to correct policies, such as farm subsidies and trade barriers, that adversely affect the economies of developing countries, and it condemned the concentration of productive farmland in the hands of a few. In honor of Saint Isidore, take steps to support small farmers by purchasing organic and fair trade products and frequenting local farmers' markets. Learn more about the Catholic rural ethic at .org.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a (298). "I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do."*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018**

**EASTER WEEKDAY**

### Take the long view

The proverb "This too shall pass" may come to mind while struggling through a tough period in life, such as a time of transition or a personal financial crisis. We hope and trust that the pain of these situations is temporary and will eventually pass. Though not often invoked in good times, this proverb can also refer to the passing of good things in our life. It might be, for example, the death of a loved one or the departure of a close friend or mentor, as the early church experienced when Jesus and then Paul prepared to leave behind their earthly lives. It reminds us to be open to what life brings and draw comfort from the fact that God's love remains constant.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19 (299). "They threw their arms around Paul and kissed him, for they were deeply distressed that he had said that they would never see his face again."*

**THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018**

**EASTER WEEKDAY**

**Let's attend the reunion**

The Catholic Church's approach to ecumenism has come a long way since the Second Vatican Council. The previous Code of Canon Law (from 1917) decreed: "It is illicit for the faithful to assist at or participate in any way in non-Catholic religious functions" (no. 1258). That changed with Vatican II and the new Code of Canon Law in 1983, and in 1993 the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity stated that "Christians may be encouraged to share in spiritual activities and resources, i.e., to share that spiritual heritage they have in common in a manner and to a degree appropriate to their present divided state" (no. 102). We still have a long road ahead, but the road map is clearer.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26 (300).* "I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

**FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018**

**MEMORIAL OF JOHN I, POPE, MARTYR**

**In search of what unites us**

Many hopeful moments occurred during the impressive funeral and memorial rites for Pope John Paul II in 2005. Perhaps one of the most remarkable was the gathering of so many leaders of different religious traditions and denominations from around the world. This was a sign of hope that all believers, of whatever corner of the world, could recognize that God is more important than our differences and that, in fact, God longs to gather us all into one. There is one God, the God of all. Let us pray that we will have the faith and humility to let God be God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19 (301).* "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

**SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018**

**EASTER WEEKDAY**

**Mind your own business**

Celebrity gossip is so pervasive that it's hard to avoid. How much do you know about the personal lives of the "glitterati"? Sure, these people invite the public into their lives for profit, but scrutinizing—even relishing—the foibles of strangers is a slippery slope. Jesus frequently reminded his followers to focus on themselves—their own failings and how they could improve—instead of worrying about those around them. Are you too quick to judge the actions of others?

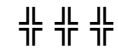
TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25 (302).* "What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours?"

*"Come, holy Ghost!"*



# TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH

DAILY RENEWAL FOR BUSY CATHOLICS



## THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER

*For May 13-19, 2018*

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

NOTE: THESE REFLECTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE EVERY WEEK. YOU MAY PICK UP A PRINTED COPY FROM THESE PLASTIC FOLDERS, READ THEM ON-LINE ON THE OLV WEB PAGE ([WWW.OURLADYOFVICTORY.NET](http://WWW.OURLADYOFVICTORY.NET)), OR HAVE THEM E-MAILED TO YOU EACH WEEK BY SENDING AN A MESSAGE TO [MMATUSZ@OURLADYOFVICTORY.NET](mailto:MMATUSZ@OURLADYOFVICTORY.NET) AND SAYING "ADD ME TO THE TAKE FIVE LIST". LET US KNOW IF YOU'VE REGULARLY USED & ENJOYED THESE REFLECTIONS.

