

Points to Ponder

When our Holy Father, Pope Francis addressed a joint session of the United States Congress on September 24, 2015 he singled out four persons as representatives of the American people.

“Three sons and a daughter of this land, four individuals and four dreams: Lincoln, liberty; Martin Luther King, liberty in plurality and non-exclusion; Dorothy Day, social justice and the rights of persons; and Thomas Merton, the capacity for dialogue and openness to God.”

In the 1930's she (Dorothy Day) founded the Catholic Worker Movement and its newspaper The Catholic Worker. The newspaper sold for a penny a copy and that still is the cost today. She wrote over 1,000 articles for The Catholic Worker and this week's points to ponder are taken from those articles. The cause for her canonization was opened in 2000.

Sunday: Showing Our Love for the God We Cannot See

It certainly is a solution to the world's problems, this idea of looking around to see what you can do for those around you, a true expression of the second commandment, and the only way we have of showing our love for God whom we do see. “Love is an exchange of gifts.” And “love is the measure by which we shall be judged.” The Catholic Worker, December 1942

Monday: Respect for All

To serve others, to give what we have is not enough unless we always show the utmost respect for each other and all we meet. The Catholic Worker, October -November 1971

Tuesday: Things Unsaid

“Least said, soonest mended,” my mother used to say. We all talk too much and do too little. God help us! The Catholic Worker, June 1973

Wednesday: Pray About Everything

Yes, reading is prayer—it is searching for light on the terrible problems of the day, at home and abroad, personal problems and national problems, that bring us suffering of soul and mind and body....there is nothing too small to pray about. The Catholic Worker, July-August 1973

Thursday: Holding the Father's Hand

It is hard to explain the fact that there is joy in truly religious ceremonies for our departed ones. One has to experience it to know it. They have run their course, they have lived fully, they have encountered and passed through death, that universal experience, that penalty for the Fall, which Christ himself first paid for us all. It indeed can become an occasion of joy, even in anticipation, holding as we can do to our Father's hand. The Catholic Worker, October-November 1973

Friday: Focus

Gregory the Great, who lived around the fifth or sixth century, wisely said that if we pour ourselves too fervently in Church or state affairs, or let ourselves be too upset, we are weakening, or even nullifying, our most potent weapons—the weapons of the spirit. The Catholic Worker, June 1976

Saturday: The Final Word is Love

We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know him in the breaking of the bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship.

We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community. The Catholic Worker, May 1980

These texts are reprinted from "Dorothy Day Library on the Web" at Url: <http://www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/> and is not copyrighted.