

Points to Ponder Week of June 21, 2020

I was still in elementary school when Cardinal Angelo Roncalli was elected Pope. He took the name John XXIII. After being elected on October 28, 1958. Opened the Second Vatican Council on October 11, 1962. While on a pilgrimage to Italy I was privileged to celebrate Mass in the Church where he was baptized and also said his first Mass. He was canonized by Pope Francis on April 27, 2014.

Sunday

Cheerfulness at all times, tranquility, a mind free from care. When I see that I have kept my resolutions carefully, I will praise God from my heart for all he has done; when I have failed, I will be careful not to lose heart and I will think that sometimes God permits this to happen so that I may become more humble and entrust myself more wholly to his loving care.

Monday

After any fault, I will make an act of profound humility and then begin again, as cheerfully as ever, smiling as if God has just caressed me, kissed me, and raised me up with his own hands-and I will set out once more, confident, joyful in the name of the Lord!

Tuesday

The keen sense of my own nothingness must ripen and perfect in me the spirit of kindness, making me patient and forbearing with others in the way I judge and treat them.... When I feel irritable, I must think of my own unworthiness and of my duty to understand and sympathize with everyone, without passing harsh judgments. This will help me keep calm.

Wednesday

As for the little troubles...one must take them as they come, keep calm and peaceful, and thank the Lord that they are not worse, and one must not let one's suffering be seen by others.

Thursday

Charity is indeed the precious gold, refined in the fire, that enriches all who possess it, making them the beloved when they disperse it to others. Whatever you offer...without charity will be neither pleasing to God nor profitable to yourself.... You must have charity, for it surpasses in dignity all other virtues. May charity set your souls on fire, inspire souls, rule your life, and enrich your prayer.

Friday

I pity those unhappy men who, instead of keeping their sin before them, hide it behind their backs! They will never be free from past or future sins.

Saturday

Faith and good intentions alone are not enough to influence a civilization with wholesome principles and reform it in the spirit of the gospel. For this purpose, it is necessary to penetrate into...institutions and work effectively from within them.