

Points to Ponder August 2-8

Taken from addresses given to Pope Benedict XVI during the first year of his Papacy.

Sunday

Testimony

Faith cannot be reduced to a private sentiment or indeed, be hidden when it is inconvenient; it also implies consistency and a witness even in the public arena for the sake of human beings, justice, and truth.

Angelus

October 9, 2005

Monday

Mission

The dismissal at the end of Mass: "*Itē, missa est,*" which recalls the "*missio,*" the task of those who have taken part in the celebration to bring to everyone the Good News they have received and with it, to bring life to society.

Angelus

October 9, 2005

Tuesday

The City of Hope

We must be a true Jerusalem in the Church today, that is, a place of peace, "supporting one another" as we are; "supporting one another together" in the joyful certainty that the Lord "supports us all."

Catechesis to the General Audience

October 12, 2005

Wednesday

Singing and flying

The image of the sparrow [cf. Ps 84:4] is a joyful one, through which the psalmist wants to say that his entire life has become a song. He can sing and fly. Singing itself is almost like flying, rising up to God; it is in some way an anticipation of eternity when we will be able to "unceasingly sing God's praise."

Address at the end of the concert by the Regensburg Cathedral Boys Choir in the Sistine Chapel

October 22, 2005

Thursday

The little things

Joy is often found behind little things and is reached by following one's proper daily duty with a spirit of devotion.

Address to pilgrims in Rome for the canonization of five new saints in the Paul VI Audience Hall

October 24, 2005

Friday

Spiritual reading

“Spiritual reading” of Sacred Scripture consists in pouring over a biblical text for some time, reading it and rereading it, as it were, “ruminating” on it as the Fathers say and squeezing from it, so to speak, all its “juice,” so that it may nourish meditation and contemplation and, like water, succeed in irrigating life itself.

Angelus

November 6, 2005

Saturday

The risk

Our danger is that the memory of evil, of the evils suffered, may often be stronger than the memory of good. The Psalm’s [cf. Ps 135] purpose is also to reawaken in us the memory of good as well as of all the good that the Lord has done and is doing for us, which we can perceive if we become deeply attentive. It is true, God’s mercy endures forever: it is present day after day.

Catechesis to the General Audience

November 16, 2005