

Points to Ponder July 12-18

Lessons from the Saints by St. Pope John XXIII

Sunday

In Catholic tradition, devotion to the saints is not merely a mark of respect or a brief prayer on certain occasions, which seem to grow fewer as life proceeds, but a deeply felt spiritual communion, an attentive study of the precious examples and lessons that the saints give us to cheer and encourage us. "Thy saints, O Lord, will give thee glory."

Monday

Saint Joseph speaks very little, but he lives intensely, and never seeks to evade any responsibility placed on him by the will of God. He sets us an appealing example of obedience to the divine commands, of serenity at all times, and of perfect trust in God, attained through a life of superhuman faith and charity and, above all, through that great means: prayer.

Tuesday

To Christ Jesus the glory. He is truly to be "admired in his saints," and supremely admired in Saint Ignatius of Loyola. First of all, Saint Ignatius teaches us not to fear for the Holy Church of Christ, for the Lord sustains her, and preserves in her the very fountain of life, of the apostolate, and its success.

Wednesday

I like to repeat what the Blessed Gregory Barbarigo used to say so often: "The Lord blesses the cooking pots when they are large." You must have no doubts about the Lord's blessing and his providence, and you must not lie awake sleepless, thinking about what may happen in the future.

Thursday

The faith of a humble woman, Martha, was considered worthy to represent the faith of all mankind in Christ the Savior.

Friday

The figure of the apostle Paul, with his bold spirit, and his body tempered and worn to the limit of physical endurance, makes a special appeal to all, but particularly to the young, who are naturally generous, impulsive, prone to enthusiasms, and eager to imitate those they admire. In fact, in his epistles, Saint Paul is seen to be very familiar with the striking athletic contests of his day, drawing from them striking examples to illustrate the loftiest moral truths.

Saturday

Every one of us has heard and still hears ringing in his conscience, the command "Climb higher," higher, ever higher, until while we are still on this earth we can reach up to grasp the heavens, until we can join our saints—whether they be the venerable saints of old or the wonderful saints of modern times, who were our own contemporaries.