



# ST. PIUS X PARISH

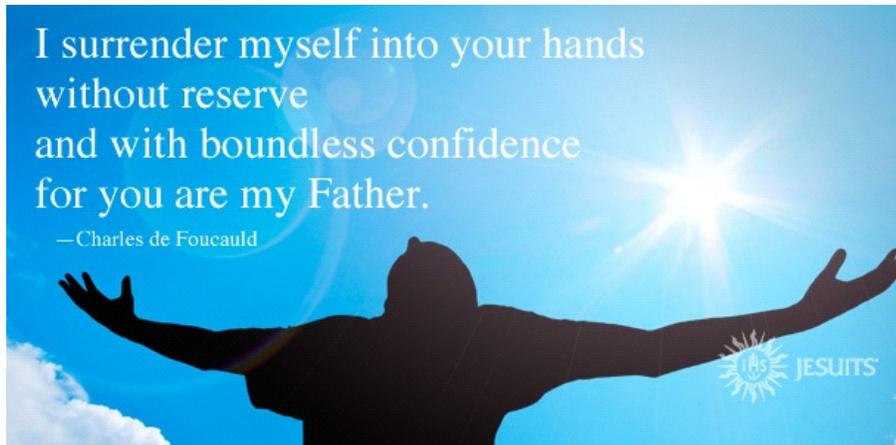
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## OUR PIUS UPDATE APRIL 20, 2021





## FALLING IN LOVE WITH JESUS

Having just witnessed the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, the followers of Jesus want to know as much information about Jesus as possible. They seem to have many questions and concerns of the world on their minds, including the arrival time of Jesus in Capernaum. Certainly, managing the logistics of our lives is important, but Jesus calls us to focus more on meaningful aspects of our existence, "*Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life...*" The followers of Jesus seem to ask for an instruction manual for doing the works of God. Jesus instead calls them and us to a vocation to believe in him and know God's deep love. By shifting our focus from controlling all aspects of daily life, we make room for responding generously in abundant and surprising ways. This is falling in love with Jesus. It's no wonder that generosity would flow into all aspects of life, from waking up in the morning, how evening time is spent, and everything in between.

How do you need to put more of your focus on the food that endures for eternal life?

How is Jesus seizing your imagination at this moment in your life?

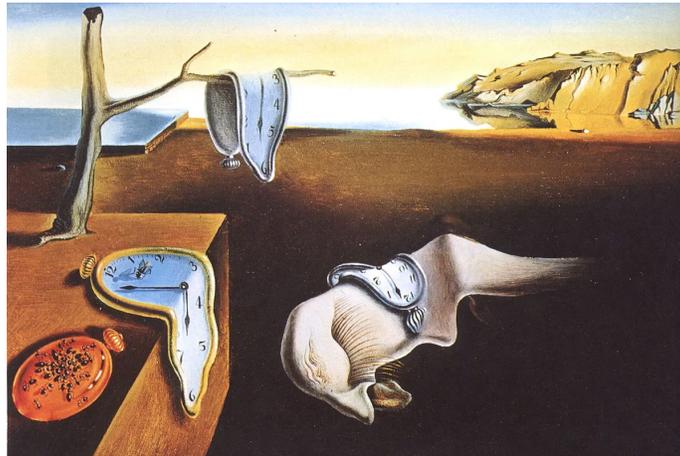
**SOURCE:** Katie and Ruston Broussard

## PRAYER

*Nothing is more practical than  
finding God, than  
falling in Love  
in a quite absolute, final way.  
What you are in love with,  
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.  
It will decide  
what will get you out of bed in the morning,  
what you do with your evenings,  
how you spend your weekends,  
what you read, whom you know,  
what breaks your heart,  
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.  
Fall in Love, stay in love,  
and it will decide everything.*

**SOURCE:** Attributed to Pedro Arrupe, SJ

# TIME



What is **time**? According to the **Canadian Oxford Dictionary**, **time** is the *indefinite and continuous duration of existence seen as a series of events progressing from the past through the present into the future*.

The pandemic has focused us on time. When will the lockdown end? When can we visit Grandpa? When will it be safe to go to the gym, or even to the supermarket, without worrying? Will it ever be my turn to get the vaccine? A first wave, then a second wave, and now talk of a third wave. Where is the end? What day is it anyway, for the days blend one into another?

I wonder if this is what the Jewish people felt like wandering in the desert headed for the promised land. The Exodus took forty years to complete, a generation of time spent in the desert searching for the end. How long did forty days and forty nights of rain and water feel? It must have seemed like an eternity of misery and danger, a challenge to the faith of Noah and his family, and his precious cargo.

I read an article by **Alex Hutchinson** titled **"COVID-19 is like running a marathon with no finish line. What does sports science say about how we can win it?"** (**The Globe and Mail**, November 21, 2020). He talks about the *Quarantine Backyard Ultra*, a race won by the last runner left standing.

Each of the over 2400 runners in 59 countries were to run 4.16 miles per hour consecutively, (which amounts to 100 miles per day), until one runner remained. Most people ran about 100 miles, seeing that goal as an end; further running beyond that perceived goal was difficult.

The winner **Mark Wardian** who ran 63 laps, was declared the winner when the other remaining runner failed to report on time for the next lap. What Wardian discovered through his wife's encouragement was to not anticipate an end to the race, but to race each hour in the moment. To identify no specific endpoint (while still acknowledging there will be an end) and to focus on the predetermined pace lowers heart rate and lowers the perception of effort. He ran in the present, not to a preassigned future end.

It turns out we humans, like migratory birds, react to an end. **"Teleoanticipation"** is the anticipation of the end of a physical task that allows more efficient expenditure of energy. It is why when we reach the final lap in a race, our natural tendency is to accelerate to the end, expending our remaining

energy such that in a way, we use it all up to achieve the task.

Birds eat just enough food to migrate to their destination. Eating too much would make them heavier, and therefore slower. Just enough fuel to get there.

When we don't have an end, we might make one up, or get demoralized when we can't find it. Hence the disappointment when schools reopen and then close again, when the vaccine is coming, and then is held up.

I have to wonder that when our political leaders are desperate to see an end in sight, when things get a little better, they relax rules accelerating to the end they think they see, only to discover disappointment.

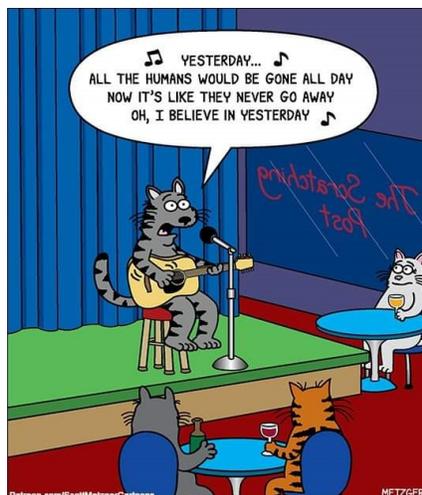
*"Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." (Mark 13: 33-37).* Then he said to them all, *"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me..." (Luke 9:23).*

Rather than take these readings as cautionary tales, perhaps we can take a lead from the American comedian Joan Rivers: *"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God's gift, that's why we call it the present."*

*"When will the pandemic end?"* is a question that can't be answered. To find the present, God's gift, in today, as hard as that might be, may be what Jesus is asking us to be alert for. One day at a time, find the present. That's easy to say, not so easy to do; but it's what we should do daily.

*"But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day." (2 Peter 3: 8).* I pray that you will have at least one moment during these difficult times that you will treasure for a thousand years, and that when this pandemic is over, it will seem like just one day, when we step into the new better normal.

**SOURCE:** Dr. Michael Bautista, [www.ignatian.ca](http://www.ignatian.ca)



## ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA



*St. Kateri* is considered patroness of the environment, based totally upon her Native American upbringing. Being one of the first Native American saints puts her in the position unlike any saint from the Old World: She has ties to the earth in a way that non-Natives can admire yet never completely grasp. She was part of a culture in which everything that was hunted or harvested for food, clothing, or shelter was received with a prayer of thanks for the offering that the animal or plant was making. Exploitation of the earth's resources was foreign to Native Americans like Kateri.

Once fresh and pristine, the lakes and rivers of North America are now polluted with industrial waste, chemical runoff, and toxic materials. Yet the deep respect for the earth and an understanding of the sacredness of creation is innate within the spirituality of the Iroquois. One hopes *St. Kateri* can help North America to discover how to use only the natural resources it needs and to be grateful for those it has. At her canonization, two images on bronze medallions placed in a glass box alongside a relic of her depict her deep in prayer on her knees in the woods. The image of the natural setting of the forest was a connection between her faith and her environment.

**SOURCE:** From the book *Lily of the Mohawks: The Story of St. Kateri* by Emily Cavins



We ask, O Lord,  
for the  
heroic courage  
and deep love of  
*St. Kateri Tekakwitha*.  
May her example  
inspire us to follow  
Your Will,  
even in difficult times.  
Amen.