

Sunday, Oct 20, 2019

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

We're stronger together

Most things are easier when shared. We stick to the diet if our spouse commits to it. We exercise with more discipline if a friend meets us at the gym. Working late is less lonely if others in the office agree to put in the extra hours. Is it any wonder Moses can raise his hands in prayer longer if he has company in his exhausting vigil? As the church observes World Mission Sunday, we recall the great commission we share to bring good news to all the earth. Together, we can bring light to all the dark places.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 17:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:14—4:2; Luke 18:1-8 (147). "Aaron and Hur supported [Moses'] hands, one on one side and one on the other."

Monday, Oct 21, 2019

Let's care about those who care for

This is Pastoral Care Week, first held in 1985 by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains to honor all spiritual caregivers. The celebration is an opportunity for everyone to recognize the ministry caregivers provide—in hospitals, prisons, businesses, military settings, healthcare settings, schools, and more throughout the world. This week is also a chance for chaplains and pastoral care counselors, educators, and providers to share their stories. Express your appreciation to the spiritual caregivers in your life, and visit spiritualcareweek.org for more resources on how to participate.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21 (473). "This night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?"

Tuesday, Oct 22, 2019

People, get ready

If the Lord came today, would you be ready to meet him? Or would you want more time to align your life with his? Take these questions seriously because you never know what the day holds. If you feel out of whack with the Lord and too focused on things of this world, consider this prayer of Saint Ignatius Loyola as a way to get ready: "Take Lord and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will . . . whatever I have you have given me; I restore it all to you and surrender it wholly . . . give me only your love and your grace."

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 5:12,15b,17-19,20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474). "Be ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks."

Wednesday, Oct 23, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST

To heal the past we acknowledge it

John of Capistrano (1386-1456), preacher, theologian, and Franciscan reformer, was also a leading proponent of the antisemitism that sadly has infected much of church history. During his era, Jews faced restrictions on where they could live and what they could own, were required to dress in a way that signaled they were Jews, and at times faced violent pogroms incited by fiery preachers such as John. As we acknowledge past shortcomings, let us remain vigilant to contemporary resurgences

of intolerance in any form. The reform we need begins here and now, in our hearts.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475). "You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Thursday, Oct 24, 2019

Light your fire

In scripture, fire often signals God's presence, notably the burning bush Moses encounters and the tongues of fire that appear above the disciples at Pentecost. Fire also signifies a disciple's zeal for the faith. "An apostolic missionary must have both a heart and tongue ablaze with charity," said Saint Anthony Claret, founder of the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary order, better known as the Claretians. For the past 170 years, Claretian missionaries have spread the gospel message around the world, primarily through preaching and parish work, social justice advocacy, education, and publishing. The Claretian logo carries a flame to remind all Christians of their call to unceasingly expend themselves "to light the fire of divine love in the world." Take steps to flame the passion of your faith today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476). "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!"

Friday, Oct 25, 2019

Paul gets it

Who has not felt the anguish of Paul in today's first reading, unable to overcome his own vices? He's so disgusted with himself, he wonders, "Who will deliver me from this mortal body?" Although Paul hints that he'd like to be pure spirit, over and over our faith ties body and soul closely together, resting on the foundation that Christ became flesh. Our bodies may fail us, but they "are temples of the Holy Spirit." If your body has let you down through illness or sin, know that you keep company with Paul, and perhaps ask Paul's intercession. He understands.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477). "I take delight in the law of God, in my inner self."

Saturday, Oct 26, 2019

Think about it

Catholics proclaim the Nicene Creed on most Sundays when we gather to celebrate the Mass. Spoken in one voice as individuals within a community, it is how we claim the core beliefs of our faith. With the final words, we profess belief in the holy, catholic, apostolic Church, and in one Baptism for the forgiveness of sin. The final sentence is: "I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." Here is the question: Do I *really* look forward to the life of the world to come?

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 8:1-11; Luke 13:1-9 (478). "Lord, this is the people who longs to see your face."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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