

Sunday, Oct 18, 2020

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Share the suffering, ease the burden

People in love behave differently. They “never stand still,” Pope Francis declares. “They’re drawn out of themselves; they’re attracted and attract others in turn.” Believers are lovers in this way, feeling the irresistible urge to share the blessings of faith. That is why, the pope concludes, we must all be missionaries. On this World Mission Sunday, we embrace the call to be lovers of our suffering world. The Rosary’s Sorrowful Mysteries hold the keys: Bring global suffering to prayer, be willing to suffer for the truth, bear wrongs patiently, share the burdens of others, and know what’s worth sacrificing for.

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21 (145). “*For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and the Spirit and with much conviction.*”

Monday, Oct 19, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Heal the breach

Jean de Brébeuf was a French Jesuit missionary who worked with the Huron in what is today Canada and was martyred in an Iroquois raid. Brébeuf was a skilled linguist and not only learned the Huron language but also the spiritual beliefs already held by the Huron. His fellow Jesuits wrote about how easily Brébeuf adapted himself to the Huron way of life. While he was not always respectful of Huron culture, we can emulate his effort to create bridges of mutual understanding, as our own country is today torn by differences.

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 2:1-10; Luke 12:13-21 (473). “*You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?*”

Tuesday, Oct 20, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PAUL OF THE CROSS, PRIEST

How deep is your love?

Paul of the Cross, Italian mystic and founder of the Passionist religious order in 1725, was taught by his mother to look to the crucified Jesus as a way to make sense out of suffering. Most of his siblings died; his father’s business barely scraped by. But no matter what hardships the family endured, his mother said, they were nothing compared to God’s deep love. What a seed she planted in her son! “The holy sufferings of Jesus is a sea of sorrows, but it is also a sea of love,” wrote Paul. “Ask the Lord to teach you to fish in this sea.”

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 2:12-22; Luke 12:35-38 (474). “*Be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open.*”

Wednesday, Oct 21, 2020

People, get ready

“Be Prepared” is a motto for the Boy and Girl Scouts that is explained in this way: “You are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty.” That motto could very well be a motto for Christian life. Jesus expects his followers to be alert to

the assistance of the Spirit and to act in ways that bear witness to Christian duty. It is a Christian’s duty to use the gifts of time and talent to build up Jesus’ kingdom of love. When you review the past week, can you find evidence that you are doing your Christian duty by responding to Jesus’ call to love unconditionally?

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 3:2-12; 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 22, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN PAUL II, POPE

Small acts can have great impact

Saint John Paul II’s quarter-century as pope greatly influenced both church and state. Many times his personal witness is what moved people’s hearts. Christians and those of other faiths alike were moved by his willingness to meet with his would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Ağca. While most people’s lives are not lived on the world stage, each of us can bear witness through acts of love, forgiveness, and reverence. What gesture of yours today can bear witness to God?

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 3:14-21; Luke 12:49-53 (476). “*I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!*”

Friday, Oct 23, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST

Fly back when the time is right

The cliff swallows of San Juan Capistrano, California depart the mission town on or around this date, the Memorial of Saint John, the town’s namesake. They return every spring after their 6,000-mile winter migration to Argentina. Pray that, like the swallows of Capistrano, everyone will be able to safely come back to the place they call home, after war, famine, natural disaster, or separation due to pandemic.

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 12:54-59 (477). “*Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.*”

Saturday, Oct 24, 2020

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP

Let your light shine!

As a young man, Anthony Claret was torn between his talent in the textile business and the emerging call he felt to religious life. Seeing his talent, his father offered to share leadership of the family business with him. Anthony was famously short of stature, and he pointed out that workers likely would resist taking orders from him. His father suggested they could hide Anthony behind a desk to come up with ideas and put a larger man in charge of the workers. That sealed the deal for Anthony—he wasn’t interested in hiding. Thereafter he was a tireless and talented preacher, confessor, author, and publisher in the service of God. Don’t hide your own gifts—they are God-given and the world needs them!

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 4:7-16; Luke 13:1-9 (478). “*It may bear fruit in the future.*”

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



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