



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Render what is due

The principles of Catholic Social Teaching establish that faithful citizens have a “right and duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.” Pope Benedict echoed this sentiment when he wrote: “To desire the common good and strive towards it, is a requirement of justice and charity . . .” (*Caritas Veritate* #7). On this Mission Sunday we share our treasure to maintain the work of the church. But we do so with the clear understanding that faithful citizenship also requires us to pay the taxes that support society’s efforts to promote the common good.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 53:10-11; Hebrews 4:14-16; Mark 10:35-45 (146)*. “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s . . .”

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 FEAST OF JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Trust and let go

Today we remember martyrs, missionaries to our own continent, patron saints of North America. Isaac Jogues wrote, “My confidence is placed in God who does not need our help for accomplishing his designs. Our single endeavor should be to give ourselves to the work and to be faithful to him, and not to spoil his work by our shortcomings.” For some, accustomed to being in control, getting out of God’s way and allowing God to be God can feel like a martyrdom. Be brave!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21 (473)*. “Take care to guard against all greed.”

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Let’s get to it

Quite frequently, funeral eulogies provide opportunity for a genuine examination of conscience. As the virtues of the deceased are sincerely extolled, it seems natural to wonder: What in the world will they say about me? How have I loved and how have I failed to love God and neighbor? Burdened by memories of failures aplenty, faults seem glaringly obvious and sinfulness is the source of a deep regret. Is there time to change? Can amends be made? Yes, but we best start today.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474)*. “. . . so that when he arrives and knocks, you will open for him without delay.”

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

A true security system

Warnings of God’s coming like a thief in the night aren’t meant to be scary but are more precautionary. Jesus used parables as a means of teaching, but sometimes these stories can be just as much a reality check as a lesson. Be prepared, he tells his disciples. Like a good security system, Jesus wants to make sure we’re living at the ready, ensuring our safety today and for all eternity. As the prophet Micah said, that means acting justly, loving tenderly, and walking humbly with God, so that we might live in peace, knowing we’ll be ready to rejoice, not cower, when God comes calling.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475)*. “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much.”

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

FEAST OF JOHN PAUL II, POPE

When the going gets tough

Four years before his death, Saint Pope John Paul II was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, a degenerative disorder of the nervous system. The way he courageously shouldered his illness in those last years of his life and bore suffering for so long until death was a powerful witness. Even with all the responsibility of his office, he carried on as best he could. Physical decline is an inescapable part of life and not easy to accept. Follow the model of John Paul II and keep living to the end.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476)*. “There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

FEAST OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST

Don’t sweat the small stuff

We live in challenging times, no doubt. But consider what John of Capistrano, growing up in 1400s Italy, had to contend with. One third of the population was wiped out by bubonic plague. Schism shook the church. Emerging nations went to war. Yet Capistrano took it all in stride, confident in the Franciscan mission and ministry to which he was called. Rather than bemoaning the state of affairs, he went about alleviating suffering and making things better wherever he could. Embrace the challenges you face, see them as opportunities rather than obstacles. See if you can leave things a bit better than you found them.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477)*. “Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Glory days

We talk about “glory days” as if we lived them all before we were out of our teens. But there’s glory in the death experience that brings about a new sense of self. There’s glory in being lifted up from devastating times and set on a new path. There’s glory in the wisdom years, when the pieces of life’s puzzle start fitting together. There’s glory in knowing that we’re meant for more than this limited existence, and for that we give glory to God. Pray the Glorious Mysteries with gratitude.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 8:1-11; Luke 13:1-9 (478)*. “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”



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

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