

Sunday, Oct 07, 2018

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Join the church of yes

It's all too easy to fall into the identity of the "church of no": capitalizing on Thou Shalt Nots and prohibitions as if being against things is the best or only route to sanctity. Church teaching on divorce, after all, is more about respecting marriage than rejecting those who fail at it. We lose sight of how essential it is to be *for* things: not simply against casual or serial marriages but supportive of those all around us struggling to make their families work. How do you defend, not "marriage," but real marriages?

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrews 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16 or 10:2-12 (140). *"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him."*

Monday, Oct 08, 2018

Remember your prayers

Jesus held in the highest esteem the Jewish prayer known as the *Shema*, which exhorts believers to love God with all their heart. The *Shema* has survived thousands of years of Jewish exile, dispersion, and persecution and remains a bedrock of Jewish identity to this day. At the end of World War II, an esteemed rabbi traveled Europe to reclaim Jewish children who had been hidden during the Holocaust with non-Jewish families. He would loudly proclaim "*Shema Yisrael*" ("Hear, O Israel"—the first words of the prayer) at gatherings of children and then look at their faces to see which ones recognized it from their earliest memories of praying with their Jewish families. Pray these words with Christ and live them.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 1:6-12; Luke 10:25-37 (461). *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart . . ."*

Tuesday, Oct 09, 2018

MEMORIAL OF JOHN LEONARDI, PRIEST

Teach by example

Saint John Leonardi founded the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, known in most parishes today as simply C.C.D., the religious education programs for children not enrolled in Catholic schools. Unfortunately, too often people think it means "Communion, Confirmation, Done" or "go to class, get the sacraments, and that's it." Religious education, especially when it comes to learning how to do God's work, is a lifelong, never-ending task for all of us. Who are those teaching you how to live out your faith? Whom should we be teaching by our example?

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 1:13-24; Luke 10:38-42 (462).

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing."

Wednesday, Oct 10, 2018

Help bring heaven to earth

The Lord's Prayer is part of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and it is also central to the worship of most other Christian faiths. With more than 2 billion Christians on the planet, this prayer could potentially be recited by nearly one-third of the world's population—in 200 countries, in hundreds of languages—

during Sunday services. What a powerful unifier! Fitting, since the Lord's Prayer is a plea to God for peace in our hearts and our world—a heavenly kingdom on earth indeed! Take a moment to pray it now.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Luke 11:1-4 (463). *"Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples."*

Thursday, Oct 11, 2018

MEMORIAL OF JOHN XXIII, POPE

Wage peace

Pope Saint John XXIII, in his encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, written nearly a half century ago, asked the question, "Is there anyone who does not ardently yearn to see war banished, to see peace preserved and daily more fully established?" No one wishes for war. But how hard do we work for peace? Think of all the conflicts, battles, and outright wars fought since he wrote those words. Each of us needs to commit ourselves daily to bringing peace to our family, our community, the workplace, our country, and the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 11:5-13 (464). *"And I tell you, ask and you will receive: seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

Friday, Oct 12, 2018

Dispense with the demons

Demons can make for great supernatural thrillers in the entertainment world, but they can also create havoc in our lives. We bump into them all the time—an unkind word, a sense of entitlement, a disparaging attitude toward ourselves or others. Our demons may not be the apocalyptic creatures of the *Twilight Zone* or the latest "survival horror" video game, but they are very real and very deadly nonetheless. They can rob us of our conscience, of our God-given capacity to move toward the good, foster right relationships, and seek God always. What demons are you tangling with and how might you, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, be vigilant in shifting your focus to God and trusting in the "superabundance" of God's grace?

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 3:7-14; Luke 11:15-26 (465). *"Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house."*

Saturday, Oct 13, 2018

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Draw a bead on the luminous mysteries

Today is the second Saturday of Rosary Month. We consider five points of gospel light: Jesus' Baptism, the Miracle at Cana, the Proclamation of the Kingdom, the Transfiguration, and the Eucharist. In these five ways we see Jesus in a new light and ask ourselves: Do I believe that I am a beloved son or daughter who delights God? How might I serve Jesus behind the scenes? Do I share my faith openly? In whom have I glimpsed the beauty of God? How does my participation in the Eucharist enable me to help feed the world's hungers? Pray the "Luminous Mysteries" asking for wisdom to see clearly.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 3:22-29; Luke 11:27-28 (466). *"For through faith you are all children of God 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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