

Sunday, Oct 01, 2017

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

To life!

The call to respect life confronts the multiple ways life is often devalued in our world—war, capital punishment, and abortion, among others. It is not only a call “out there in the world” but also a call within each of us. We can take this message to heart in every situation we encounter, and each day offers many opportunities—large and small—to respect life by the way we treat one another. What is one choice for life that you can make today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32 (136). *“Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.”*

Monday, Oct 02, 2017

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Our better angels

The tradition of a guardian angel that guides and protects each person in life developed gradually in the church. Devotion to angels grew in the monastic tradition, beginning with Saint Benedict and getting a big boost from the 12th-century reformer Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. By the 16th century the feast the church celebrates today in honor of guardian angels was well established. Whether you embrace the tradition literally or think of angels as expressions of God's love and care extended to all of creation—or both—today is a day to be thankful that you do not walk alone in the spiritual life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:1-8 (455); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650). *“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

Tuesday, Oct 03, 2017

Time to decide

Some things in our lives can be left to float in indecision or even inattention. That's the pile of stuff on your desk or in the closet you keep adding to but never subtract from. Other things require commitment. And every commitment we make is an act of faith in God, faith that God will see us through, come better or worse. Think of the extraordinary commitments we make to friends, spouses, family, neighbors, and employers. Sometimes it is time to choose. Or, as Yogi Berra quipped: When you come to a fork in the road, take it!

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). *“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”*

Wednesday, Oct 04, 2017

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Honor your mother

In his wonderful *Canticle of the Creatures*, Saint Francis of Assisi praises God for the delightful family he has enjoyed in the creatures he calls Sir Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water, and Brother Fire. His prayer for Sister Mother Earth includes praise for the one who “sustains and governs us, and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.” Two days ago was “World Habitat Day.” Saint Francis would approve. Find a way this year to commit yourself to the health of our planet who is our sister and mother.

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 2:1-8; Luke 9:57-62 (457). *“Foxes*

have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.”

Thursday, Oct 05, 2017

MEMORIAL OF BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST

Be of good cheer

What's the secret to a joyful life? It is not about enjoying happy circumstances, or all privileged people would be smiling and the rest of us would be in therapy. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which was very apparent in the life of the “cheerful ascetic” Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos (1819-67). This Redemptorist priest was best known for his simplicity, sincerity, and good cheer in every situation. Once, upon escaping the fate of being named bishop of Pittsburgh, he threw a party! Before he died while serving victims of the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans, Seelos declared: “To become holy is our only purpose in life.” Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary today to inhabit the spirit of joy.

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458). *“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”*

Friday, Oct 06, 2017

MEMORIAL OF BLESSED MARIE ROSE DUROCHER, VIRGIN

Pass the torch with loving attention

Among the short list of most influential people in your life surely there is a teacher or two, most likely from your early years of education. Saint Marie Rose Durocher, who founded an order in Quebec with a strong teaching ministry, was herself deeply influenced by those who taught her along the way. Her first teacher, in fact, was her paternal grandfather, who home-schooled her until the age of 10. The wisdom of tradition is preserved when it is passed from one generation to the next. Honor those who inspired you by doing the same for those who are coming up after you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459). *“If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.”*

Saturday, Oct 07, 2017

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Draw a bead on the Rosary

Rarely do we pass a statue of Mary that is not originally draped by the artist—and eventually by her devotees—with a rosary: around her neck, across her hands, or anywhere it's possible to dangle one. Some statues are so laden with rosaries by the fervent that it's a wonder Our Lady can stand up under the strain! This reality contrasts with the story that it was Mary who gave the Rosary to the early Carmelite Saint Simon Stock—and by extension, to all of us. We're the ones who need a little help getting our prayer on, after all! As Rosary Month moves forward, have you found your beads yet?

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460). *“Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.”*

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



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