

## Sunday, Oct 08, 2017

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Forgiveness first

Feeling the sting of personal offense, our first response is often to fight back. Forgiveness may occur to us, but we'll push that idea aside as too soft. After all, we've been injured! Someone has done wrong and should be punished, and it's our job to do the punishing! No matter what choice we make in the short run, sooner or later the business of forgiveness comes back around as the only viable solution. We could save ourselves a lot of trouble by employing forgiveness first.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43 (139). *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."*

## Monday, Oct 09, 2017

MEMORIAL OF DENIS, BISHOP, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

### Send a message

All martyrs' stories seem to end alike, with blood on the ground. But behind all these bloody endings are some pretty remarkable beginnings, each one as unique as you are to the person next to you. Each starts with an individual on fire with the beauty, hope, and truth of the gospel. Take Bishop Denis, future patron saint of France, who got together with six of his fellow bishops around the year 250 to bring the message of Jesus to Paris. It has been said that nothing is more eloquent than the blood of martyrs. These men became the message they brought. What message can you bring to the world?

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 1:1—2:1-2, 11; Luke 10:25-37 (461). *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."*

## Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017

### Witness through your daily routine

Let dust bunnies multiply and guests go hungry? It's what Jesus seems to imply when Martha of Bethany grumbles about her slacker sister. But to the delight of moms and church ladies everywhere, centuries of Christian tradition have come to Martha's defense. Thérèse of Lisieux won the hearts of millions with her "Little Way" of serving God—helping to launch the Catholic Worker Movement and its houses of hospitality by influencing Dorothy Day. Brother Lawrence, doing chores around the monastery, taught us how to practice the presence of God while washing dishes. Give witness to Christ today by showing love—especially in the smallest of gestures.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42 (462). *"Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?"*

## Wednesday, Oct 11, 2017

MEMORIAL OF JOHN XXIII, POPE

### Heal the breach

The Second Vatican Council opened on this day in 1962, under the leadership of Pope John XXIII. One of the council's greatest achievements was its recognition of the wisdom and value found in other faith traditions. Today, in an era where we face so much conflict in the world based on religious differences and misunderstandings, interfaith dialogue is needed more than ever. Make a point today to reach out to someone of another faith

tradition—via a phone call, an email, a short note. Begin a dialogue that can help heal the world. Carry on the legacy of Vatican II and John XXIII.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4 (463). *"For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in kindness to all who call upon you."*

## Thursday, Oct 12, 2017

### Be persistent in prayer

Do you have friends like this? They've got an endless stream of needs, and they bombard you with them by phone, email, and the old-fashioned doorstep method. They always seem to want your approval, advice, or sympathy for their latest crisis. They think nothing of asking you to bail them out of their lack of preparation for life in general. Sometimes you help them out of compassion and sometimes just to make them go away. Jesus promises God will be even more responsive when we ask!

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13 (464). *"Even though he will not get up because he is his friend, because of his persistence he will give him what he needs."*

## Friday, Oct 13, 2017

### The cycle is unbroken

Jewish communities today celebrate *Simchat Torah* ("rejoicing with the Torah"), the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle. The last section of the Book of Deuteronomy and the first section of the Book of Genesis are read out loud in the synagogue. In this way the cycle of readings is unbroken. The Roman Catholic cycle of liturgical readings also comes up for renewal every year on the first Sunday of Advent, about six weeks from now. The Judeo-Christian community is part of the never-ending story of salvation. Now is a good time to reflect on how important the cycle of holy readings is to your own sense of religious identity.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26 (465). *"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."*

## Saturday, Oct 14, 2017

MEMORIAL OF CALLISTUS I, POPE, MARTYR

### Drop the stone

Saint Callistus I, pope from 217-222, was proof of Paul's proclamation to the Galatians that "there is no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free"—that through faith, all are one in Christ despite social status or even a checkered past. Callistus himself was a freed slave and later sentenced to hard labor for fighting in a synagogue. Yet he became deacon to a pope and later pope himself, his imperfect past making him tolerant of remarried clergy as well as returning heretics in the early church. Though some thought him too lax, Callistus challenges us to forgive as Jesus did.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28 (466). *"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"*

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



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