

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2015

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Faith overcomes fear

Illness strikes us all with the realization of our own fragility, our powerlessness to change things. The Gospel of Mark tells the story of a father who desperately asks Jesus to help his daughter who is on the threshold of death. He is an example of both profound trust in Jesus and of how fear can challenge our faith. Your role, like that father, is to bring the sick to Jesus and Jesus to the sick. Consider becoming a minister of the Eucharist to the sick in your parish, or visit fellow parishioners who are homebound—a simple, profound act of compassion that can overcome fear.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43 (98)*. "Do not be afraid; just have faith."

MONDAY, JUNE 29

SOLEMNITY OF PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Diversity is strength

Today we celebrate two men who at first did not agree about who might be included in the Christian community. The question: Must non-Jewish believers follow the Law of Moses in order to be followers of Christ? Ultimately, Peter was able to persuade the Jerusalem community to accept Paul's Gentile converts with minimal requirements. Peter and Paul, each in a different way, gathered together the one family of Christ. Pray today that Christians who disagree may not seek to throw one another out of the church but rather, by the intercession of these two saints, allow differences to strengthen rather than weaken the community of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19 (591)*. "Simon Peter said in reply, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

FEAST OF THE FIRST MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH OF ROME

Rise from the ashes

Most everyone has heard the story of the Emperor Nero fiddling while Rome burned. Whether it's true or not, there was a great fire that consumed half the city in the year 64, and it's speculated that Nero set it so he could rebuild Rome in his own style. But it was the first Christian martyrs of Rome, Saints Peter and Paul likely among them, who were blamed for it and put to death. What an unlikely place for the church to someday call home. Out of destruction and death, God does amazing things.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 19:15-29; Matthew 8:23-27 (378)*. "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

FEAST OF JUNÍPERO SERRA, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY

Negotiating frontiers

Brother Junípero lived in two worlds—that of the Spanish colonizers of the Americas and that of the natives in modern-day California he sought to convert to Christianity. Looking back we can see



THE RAISING OF THE DAUGHTER OF JARUS, KARLE CAMIL, ISRAELI, PARACLISSON

mixed results. Yes, indigenous peoples learned valuable skills of agriculture and were introduced to the best the Christian tradition has to offer. At the same time diseases brought by the Spanish ravaged them, and they were too often exploited and abused. All of us must make our ways in an ambiguous world and do the best we can to be voices of charity, gentleness, and peace. Respect for the marginalized is a great place to start.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 21:5, 8-20a; Matthew 8:28-34 (379)*. "When the poor one called out, the Lord heard."

THURSDAY, JULY 2

Keep your head—and heart—in the game

Philosophical theology is a branch of theology that commonly addresses important questions regarding the existence and nature of God and the problem of evil. Classic biblical stories, such as the story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac, have kept and will continue to keep philosophical theologians busy for generations to come. Taking a philosophical approach to the problems life poses is often an admired trait, but be careful to balance your head with your heart. That ultimately is the lesson Abraham learned as he tried to understand God's will for him.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 22:1b-19; Matthew 9:1-8 (380)*. "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am," he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger."

FRIDAY, JULY 3 FEAST OF THOMAS, APOSTLE

Recipe for new evangelization: listen, share, love

Doubt will always exist alongside faith. Do you ever feel a kinship with the unbelieving Thomas? And what is your attitude toward those who don't believe? Would you remain Thomas' patient friend or would you get into endless arguments? The "new" evangelization, the call to all of us to share in the church's role of proclaiming the faith, reminds us that we fulfill the role of evangelizers by walking with those who struggle, those who do not believe. Ours is not to browbeat or bombard them with clever challenges or Bible quotations. Just listen, share your own faith, and love them. That is what God does.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29 (593)*. "Do not be unbelieving, but believe."

SATURDAY, JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

An ideal day to pray

Founding father John Adams wrote of the day the Declaration of Independence was approved (July 2, as it turns out), "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." Let us pray today that our nation will live up to the shining ideals and the reverent attitude that the founders tried to embrace.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29; Matthew 9:14-17 (382)*. "People do not put new wine into old wineskins."

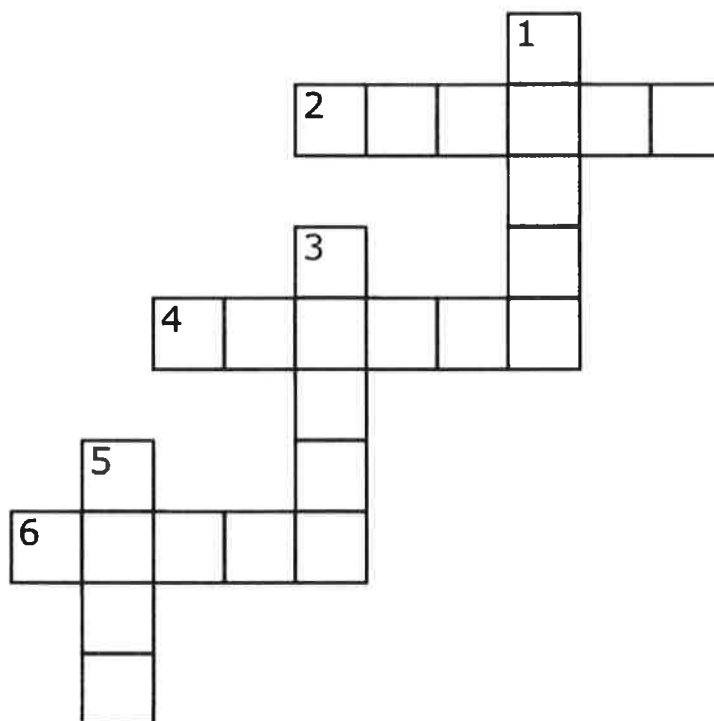


Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

©2015 by TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; 800-942-2811; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Daily email sign-up and App available online. Art may be subject to additional copyright. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Contributors: Alice Camille, Peg Ekerdt, Sister Colleen Gibson, S.S.J., Daniel Grippo, Father Larry Janowski, O.F.M., Sister Maxine Kollasch, I.H.M., Jennifer Tomshack, Patricia J. Tuohy, Sister Julie Vieira, I.H.M.

CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities

Mark 5:21-43



Across

- 2) What was the name of the synagogue official who came forward to Jesus?
- 4) There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for _____ years.
- 6) "Daughter, your _____ has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."

Down

- 1) He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, _____!"
- 3) "My daughter is at the point of _____. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live."
- 5) This week, we read from the Gospel according to _____