



SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY It's time for a family reunion

"Everything is related," Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si'*, "and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also united us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river, and mother earth." Recognizing that everything's connected underscores that we are more than just stewards of God's Creation—we are related to everything because of our common Creation. So, on this World Environment Day, maybe it's time we treat Mother Earth more like a part of the family.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 17:17-24; Galatians 1:11-19; Luke 7:11-17 (90)*. "O Lord, be my helper. You changed my mourning into dancing."

MONDAY, JUNE 6 FEAST OF NORBERT, BISHOP Don't get too comfortable

It's easy to go with the flow when life is moving along swimmingly. While those times are pleasant, they generally lack challenge and growth. When difficulties eventually arise—and they always do, sometimes quite suddenly—it's an opportunity to take stock and strive to become a better Christian, as the privileged Saint Norbert did. A near-fatal storm shook Norbert out of his cushy life and into one as an itinerant preacher who walked around barefoot in the snow. A bit extreme perhaps, but a reminder nonetheless that you don't reach sainthood by remaining comfortable for too long.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 17:1-6; Matthew 5:1-12 (359)*. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

TUESDAY, JUNE 7 A month of fasting and charity

Today Muslims around the world begin the yearly observance of Ramadan, a month to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad. The word *Ramadan* comes from the Arabic word for "scorching heat or dryness." While most of us associate Ramadan with fasting, charity is also very important during this month, and many will give to the poor above and beyond the required fixed percentage of savings. Prayerfully adding an extra observance to fasting and charity is a good way to join our Muslim brothers and sisters in solidarity for an end to "heat and dryness" in our world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 17:7-16; Matthew 5:13-16 (360)*. "You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world."

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8 Kingdom come

Jesus preached constantly about the coming of the kingdom of God, which began on earth with his death and Resurrection. According to the church, it's up to us Christians to further the kingdom until it's brought into perfection at the end of time. Pope John Paul II wrote, "The kingdom of God is the manifestation and the realization of God's plan of salvation in all its fullness." A kingdom of love, peace, and justice, extending to all and lasting forever—now that sure is something to work for, by living as Christ did.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 18:20-39; Matthew 5:17-19 (361)*. "Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

THURSDAY, JUNE 9 FEAST OF EPHREM OF SYRIA, DEACON, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Pearls of wisdom

Saint Ephrem was a fourth-century deacon, poet, teacher, preacher, and hymn writer. One hymn compared the purity of a pearl to the Body of Christ: "I began to look at [the pearl] from one side and from the other: it looked the same from all sides . . . In its clarity I saw the Clear One who does not grow opaque; and in his purity, the great symbol of the Body of Our Lord, which is pure." Pearls are indeed precious, but belonging to the Body of Christ is priceless. We're nourished and supported in community. Invest some time in your faith community; you'll be investing in a pearl of great price.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 18:41-46; Matthew 5:20-26 (362)*. "Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him."

FRIDAY, JUNE 10 Screen it out

Modern life is screened in on all sides—by smart phones, tablets, desktops, televisions. Maybe it's time to practice a little old-fashioned *custodia oculorum*—custody of the eyes. Quaint as it might sound, the practice is both challenging and rewarding. As Molly Jo Rose puts it in *U.S. Catholic*, custody of the eyes simply means holding yourself accountable for what you choose to focus on. If the eye really is the window of the soul, doesn't it make sense to at least install a shade you can lower from time to time? Before you roll your eyes at the idea, give it a try. Go an hour without staring at a screen and see how you feel. Congratulations—you are on the way to reclaiming ownership of your vision!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 19:9a, 11-16; Matthew 5:27-32 (363)*. "Everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

SATURDAY, JUNE 11 FEAST OF BARNABAS, APOSTLE Encourage one another

Barnabas appears on the scene of the early Christian community as a man named Joseph who sold some of his property and gave the money to the apostles. The apostles changed his name to Barnabas, which means "son of encouragement," and he took his place alongside Paul and other early missionaries who formed Christian communities. Barnabas' legacy of faith, courage, and generosity has endured for more than 2,000 years. To honor him today, speak a word of encouragement to someone or make a contribution to support the ministry of your parish community.

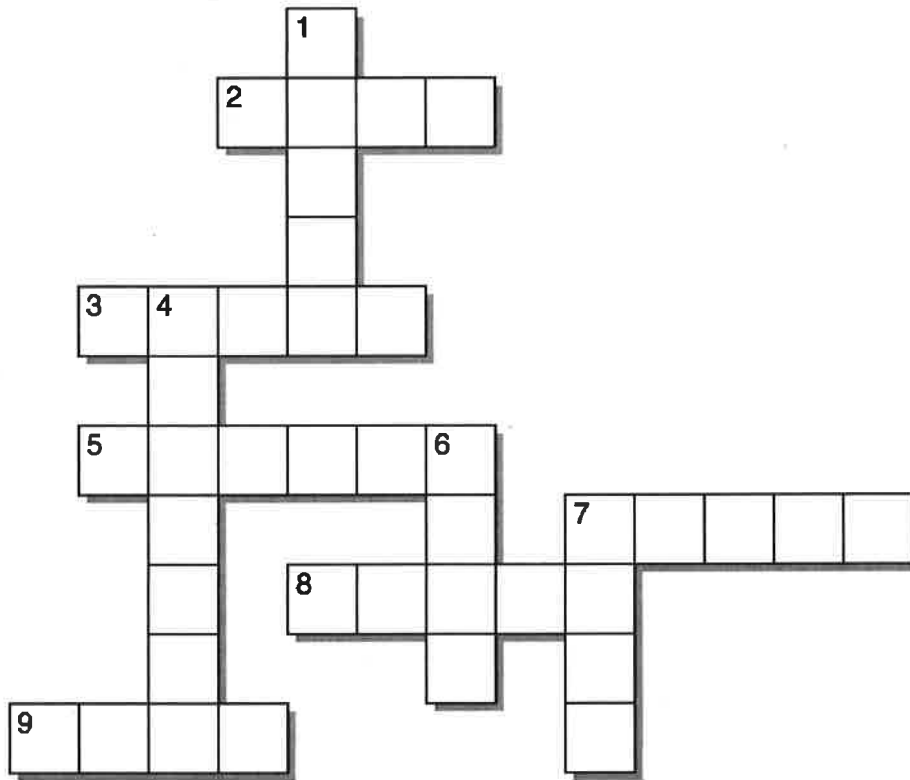
TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Matthew 5:33-37 (580; Gospel 364)*. "He encouraged them all to remain firm in their commitment to the Lord, since he himself was a good man."



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

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CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity - Luke 7:11-17



Across

2. This week, we read from the Gospel according to _____.
3. The dead man sat up and stated to _____.
5. Jesus stepped forward and touched the _____.
7. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a _____.
8. Jesus said, "Young man, I tell you, _____!"
9. Jesus was moved with _____ for the woman.

Down

1. The reports about what Jesus had done spread through the whole of _____.
4. When they saw what Jesus had done, the crowd exclaimed, "A great _____ has arisen in our midst"
6. Jesus journeyed to a city called _____.
7. Jesus said to the widow, "Do not _____."