



SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2015 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

You've got a friend

A high-school junior recently pointed out that the word “friend” has lost its meaning. “Isn’t there a difference between having a real friend and thousands of Facebook ‘friends?’” Indeed there is, and the difference is trust. A true friend is someone who knows your heart because you have opened it to him or her. This takes trust. It’s risky to let yourself be known deeply. But this is just what Jesus does in these hours before his Passion: “I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.” How do you respond to Jesus calling you his friend? What do you expect of a friend? What do you think Jesus expects of you, his friend?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17 (56)*. “*This is my commandment: Love one another as I love you.*”

MONDAY, MAY 11 EASTER WEEKDAY

Be a good host

From his birth in a stable to his travels as an adult, Jesus gave others the opportunity to take care of him by offering their shelter, sustenance, and company. It was while relaxing and dining as a guest that he imparted so many of his greatest teachings. Christians are called to welcome and serve others as Christ was welcomed and served. Consider opening your home, your wallet, your heart to strangers on a regular basis. You never know what spiritual gifts are in store.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a (291)*. “*If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my home.*”

TUESDAY, MAY 12 FEAST OF PANCRAS, MARTYR

Growing up fast

What were you doing when you were 14? Hanging out with your friends, catching a movie, studying for an eighth-grade exam? Things were quite a bit tougher for Pancras, a Roman youth of 14 who had converted to Christianity along with his family around the year 300. During the persecution of Christians by Diocletian, Pancras refused to perform a sacrifice to the Roman gods. Impressed with the boy’s determination to resist, Diocletian promised him riches, but Pancras chose martyrdom instead. Whether or not you would have had the courage at 14—or now—to make the same choice, you can honor Pancras today for the choice he made—on behalf of us all.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11 (292)*. “*The crowd in Philippi joined in the attack on Paul and Silas ...*”

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 EASTER WEEKDAY

OMG! Awesome!

Catholic Christians are a conundrum. Our creed is a litany of OMGs (Oh my God!) literally and figuratively. We believe in one God who is three persons. We believe God became fully human while remaining fully divine. We believe in the resurrection of the dead. Even with these mysteries of our faith, we can come to know our God personally. Theologian Karl Rahner wrote frequently of the experience of God as an intermingling of incomprehensibility and intimacy: “Thanks be to your mercy, you Infinite God, that I don’t just know about you with concepts and words, but have experienced you, lived you, suffered you.” Amen!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15 (293)*. “*It is God who gives to everyone life and breath and everything.*”

THURSDAY, MAY 14

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Body and soul rise to the occasion

We’ve all seen artwork commemorating the Ascension—typically Jesus hovering in a cloud above his disciples, taking his leave of this earth with a blessing and promise to return one day. We usually focus on the fact that Jesus “left” earth. But the deeper significance of this event is that Jesus’ humanity is taken to heaven with him. He enters into his glory fully embodied. What this tells us is that our own bodies, with all the aches and pains and vulnerability to illness and death, are also sacred space. God redeems all of us—soul and body. Give thanks with every breath, in every cell in your body!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 4:1-13 or Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 15-20 (58)*. “*Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.*”

FRIDAY, MAY 15 FEAST OF ISIDORE

Holiness starts with humility

Humility comes from knowing we’re dust: literally *humus*, the soil. So Isidore the farmer and his wife Maria de la Cabeza, both saints, were planted in holy ground from the start. From humble beginnings, miracles spring up like grass! Today Muslims celebrate Laylat al-Miraj, the event through which their prophet rose into his destiny. Mohammed had a vision in which he meets Adam, John, and Jesus; Joseph, Aaron, Moses, and Abraham. Through these holy encounters, he discovers the necessity to bow and pray before God five times daily. Practice the humility of bowing: before the tabernacle, at the cross, in the presence of all that’s holy.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23 (295)*. “*Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.*”

SATURDAY, MAY 16 EASTER WEEKDAY

Faith practiced is faith perfected

It can be hard to face the fact that life isn’t perfect. What you hope for isn’t always so and the road to change can be a long one. The journey of life isn’t meant to be perfect, however, it’s meant to perfect us—to make holy what is by working toward wholeness. Jesus longs for you to be whole. Catholic teaching defines prayer as the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God. Note the qualifier—“of good things.” But what is good? Think of it this way: What do you need today so that you can be more whole? What will allow you to be a joyful witness to the gospel? Start there!

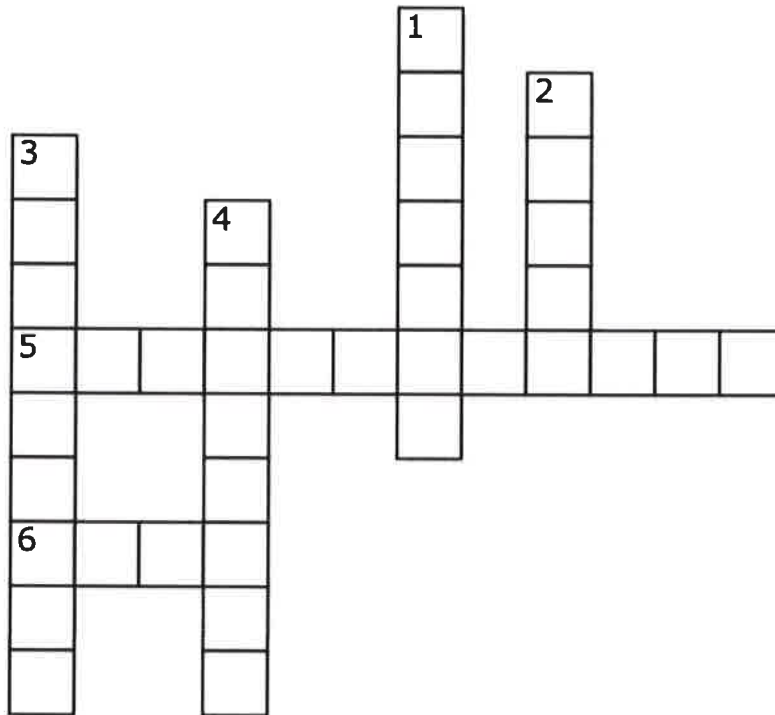
TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28 (296)*. “*Whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.*”



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, Patrice J. Tuohy, Sister Julie Vieira, I.H.M.

CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities
John 15:9-17



Across

- 5) "If you keep my _____, you will remain in my love"
6) "_____ one another as I love you."

Down

- 1) Jesus said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's _____"
2) "It was not you who _____ me, but I who _____ you"
3) In this Gospel reading, Jesus was speaking with His _____.
4) "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be _____."