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SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Please keep moving

Do you feel different this year? What insights have you gained over the past 12 months? In what ways have you changed? What areas in your life need your attention? You may feel like resting for a while. But remember, you can't stand in one place indefinitely and be a disciple of Jesus. Christianity requires transformation and conversion, and these changes can take a lifetime. Invest in the resources (people, periodicals, books, and worship) that will serve as your walking shoes on your never-ending spiritual journey.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 8:23—9:3*; *1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17*; *Matthew 4:12-23 (67)*. "Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Jesus."

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

MEMORIAL OF VINCENT OF SARAGOSSA, DEACON, MARTYR
Can you help?

Saint Vincent of fourth-century Saragossa is one of the most famous deacons of all time. As a deacon he participated in one of the oldest ministries of church: *diakonia*. *Diakonos* is the Greek word for "minister" or "helper," and it was first used in Acts 6:1-6 to describe the people needed to facilitate the apostles' ministry. Learn more about the vocation and ministry of deacons on the U.S. Catholic Bishops' [website](#).

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 9:15, 24-28*; *Mark 3:22-30 (317)* or *Genesis 1:1—2:2 (41)*; *Romans 11:33-36 (121)*; *Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (414)*. "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
Get it write

Back in the day of Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622), print publications were the emerging technology. De Sales is considered patron of Catholic writers and journalists because he made innovative use of the new technology, developing flyers and booklets widely used in spiritual direction and religious education. To this day Catholic journalists look to him as a model and inspiration, and the St. Francis de Sales Award is the highest award the Catholic Press Association presents. If you have a knack for the communication arts, consider a career in religious journalism. Perhaps you are called to be the Francis de Sales of the internet generation!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 10:1-10*; *Mark 3:31-35 (318)*. "Who are my mother and my brothers?"



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

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF PAUL THE APOSTLE

Make history by collaborating

Saint Paul would agree that faith isn't a matter of words but of how we live. In 1963 the Catholic theologian Yves Congar wrote an essay in which he observed how unity is fostered more by personal contacts than formal decrees. Congar dreamed of a research center in which Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Protestant students would publish great church histories—but only after all of them could sign his or her name to each volume. How different would history sound if written by collaborators rather than partisans?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 22:3-16* or *Acts 9:1-22*; *Mark 16:15-18 (519)*. "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 MEMORIALS OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS Be a friendly Christian

Though the letters of Saint Paul to Timothy and Titus were written by someone other than Paul long after Timothy and Titus were dead, the church honors these companions of Paul's because of the significant influence they had in shaping the early Christian community. They were revered followers of Jesus' way and remained loyal and trustworthy friends to Paul even during the most difficult times. Friendship is the primary Christian relationship. Jesus calls his disciples—including you—his friends. How have you acknowledged this friendship?

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Timothy 1:1-8* or *Titus 1:1-5 (520)*; *Mark 4:21-25 (320)*. "The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given to you."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 MEMORIAL OF ANGELA MERICI, VIRGIN Share some homespun Good News

Saint Angela Merici didn't set out to form a typical religious community of women. An orphan herself, she began by giving religious instruction to the poor children of her neighbors. Before long, other women were attracted to join her. By the time she was 50, she began a community of women called the Ursulines, who embraced virginity, poverty, and obedience. But they took no formal vows. They didn't formally congregate as a religious community either, but stayed at home to evangelize their family, friends, and neighbors. Evangelism can begin with even the tiniest seed. With whom will you share a bit of the Good News today?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 10:32-39*; *Mark 4:26-34 (321)*. "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it?"

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

We are aided by Aquinas

Thomas Aquinas was born in 1225 at his family's castle near Naples, Italy. Despite many social and political opportunities, he chose to join the Dominican friars when he was 19—much to his family's dismay and anger. Thomas went on to become one of the greatest of Christian scholars, known for bringing together ancient philosophies with Christian theology and systematizing the whole of the church's wisdom and teachings. Pray for spiritual aid today using Thomas' own prayer: "Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19*; *Mark 4:35-41 (322)*. "He asked them, 'Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?'"

CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity – Matthew 4:12-23



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