

Sunday, Oct 22, 2017

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Give a little back

Pastoral Care Week, sponsored by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, was established to recognize the many ways church professionals respond with attentive listening to those with physical, emotional, or spiritual concerns. Hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and your local parish will accept volunteers who wish to donate their time for this important work. So cut loose a couple of hours a week and give them to someone in need. Be a generous giver.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21 (145). *"Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth."*

Monday, Oct 23, 2017

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST

Keep the margins in mind

Mission San Juan Capistrano, of the returning swallows fame, was founded by Spanish settlers on All Saints' Day in 1776 and named for today's saint, Giovanni Capistrano, a 15th-century Italian "warrior priest" who led a Crusade at the age of 70! The Spanish settlers in the Americas were warriors in their own right, taking land and imposing conversions to Catholicism when necessary. At the same time many of the clergy in the missions that dot what is today the U.S. Southwest did their best to ease the harshest aspects of Spanish colonial domination. The church finds itself working within all kinds of social orders and regimes. May it stand with the vanquished and marginalized and for justice and mercy.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21 (473). *"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."*

Tuesday, Oct 24, 2017

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP

Weave a holy life

Saint Anthony Mary Claret was a successful weaver before he entered the seminary. Born near Barcelona in 1807, he spent the rest of his life—as priest, then bishop—weaving together two strong elements of his personality: the mystic and the man of action. He was deeply prayerful and also a prolific author. He preached more than 10,000 sermons in his life, often to great gatherings of the poor who felt marginalized by the church. He stands as a great example of how to blend prayer and action in our own busy lives. What are the elements in your life that need to be woven together as a beautiful tapestry—your gift to God?

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474). *"Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival."*

Wednesday, Oct 25, 2017

Be ready for a pleasant surprise

In scripture and tradition we remember and celebrate the past—but in the present. What has been applies very much to how we live now. We also look to the future in hope, when all Jesus stood for and taught will be fulfilled. We think of this time as his return, his coming again, when he will be with us again in his fullness. And like the past, the future has a lot to do with the present. What

we hope for shapes what we do now. That's why Jesus tells his disciples to be ready, especially because his coming again will be unexpected. But if we are ready, the only surprise will be a joyous one, like a surprise visit from a friend or loved one.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475). *"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."*

Thursday, Oct 26, 2017

Baptism by fire

Imagine having the insight to realize that your mission would lead without fail to your persecution and death. Now imagine having the courage to remain faithful to that mission—despite the cost. The next time you feel stressed out by the demands of your own calling (and don't we all feel that way at least some of the time?), pause to consider the stress that Jesus was under. Say a quick prayer asking Jesus to send you the courage you need to face your own trials.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476). *"I have a Baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!"*

Friday, Oct 27, 2017

Clear the air

We spend a lot of time worrying about the weather. Nothing captures national attention like a brewing hurricane or a string of tornadoes or an earthquake. Weather programming is a fixture of any local news program, and one of our first questions on waking up in the morning is often, "What's the weather like today?" Not much has changed (except the technology) since Jesus' time. He pointed out that for all the attention folks paid to storm clouds in the west or wind from the south, they didn't seem to be able to tell right from wrong when dealing with one another. Before checking today's forecast, take a moment to examine the "climate" of your interpersonal relationships. Dispel the storm clouds and bring some sunshine to those nearest and dearest.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477). *"Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"*

Saturday, Oct 28, 2017

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

Let your faith inform your citizenship

The apostle Simon is called the "Zealot," a name that suggests he was zealous for the Law or possibly connected to the Zealot movement, which revolted against the Romans in A.D. 66. Perhaps we do better to admire Simon's zeal for God more than his alleged sympathies for violent change. In matters political, let the words of the Second Vatican Council's document on the church in the modern world be your guide: "The church . . . is not identified in any way with the political community nor bound to any political system," the Council wrote. "Christ . . . gave his church no proper mission in the political, economic, or social order. The purpose which he set before her is a religious one. But out of this religious mission itself comes a function, a light, and an energy which can serve to structure and consolidate the human community according to the divine law."

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666). *"Jesus went up to the mountain to pray."*

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



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