

**Sunday, Aug 06, 2023**

### **Improve your vision**

Much of the time, we keep our heads down. We focus on the day ahead or the task at hand. We worry about personal relationships gone awry or the pricey cost of living. Transfigured seeing invites us to lift our gaze higher or to grasp truths under the surface of things. The broader, deeper vision reveals to us how to respond effectively to what we see. Saints in every generation have exercised this prophetic vision, recognizing a social problem and then creatively proposing a response. Pray the daily news—and ask for the guidance of a clarifying vision.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9 (614). *"As the visions during the night continued, I saw: One like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven."*

**Monday, Aug 07, 2023**

### **May your faith ripen sweetly**

It's about this time of year that grapes in many parts of the world begin a crucial transformation process the French have named *veraison*. It's when grapes start to ripen and change from green to purple—not always at the same time in the same cluster, making for some beautiful color combinations. Mostly likely because of the timing of his feast day, Pope Sixtus II is the patron saint of grape prosperity. Where are you in the midst of your own *veraison* as a Christian? Pray for cause to celebrate your faith bearing ripe fruit.

MEMORIAL OF SIXTUS II, POPE, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21 (407). *"They all ate and were satisfied."*

**Tuesday, Aug 08, 2023**

### **For want of a better word**

When Dominic founded the Order of Preachers in 1216, he'd been appalled by the rise of the Albigensian heresy, denying the goodness of God's creation. Even more appalling was the lack of informed preaching to inoculate the congregation against it. Dominic threw himself into the kind of witness modeled by the Acts of the Apostles, his new religious community adopting the motto "to praise, to bless, to preach." Not surprisingly, the Dominicans have given us eloquent saints, including Catherine of Siena and Thomas Aquinas—even captivating the world in 1963 with a chart-topping pop song, "Dominique." To quote another Dominican, Saint Martin de Porres: "Everything, even sweeping ... could be a prayer, if it were offered to God."

MEMORIAL OF DOMINIC, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14 (408). *"Throughout my house he bears my trust: face to face I speak to him; plainly and not in riddles."*

**Wednesday, Aug 09, 2023**

### **The awful truth**

The bombing of Nagasaki, which occurred on this day in 1945, was truly awful in all senses of the word. Splitting the atom to unleash its enormous power put the genius and depravity of humanity on full, awe-inspiring display. Though we have many positive uses for atomic energy, its initial use to increase our

capacity to kill on a massive scale is a moral failure that we have yet to overcome. The war machine rages on. What role will you play in helping humanity move toward the good?

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Matthew 15:21-28 (409). *"We have sinned, we and our fathers; we have committed crimes; we have done wrong."*

**Thursday, Aug 10, 2023**

### **Where's your treasure?**

During the persecution of the Early Church, Saint Lawrence was under a death threat from Emperor Valerian. But his persecutor offered a deal. Lawrence could live if he turned over the treasures of the church. In one of history's most audacious rebukes, Lawrence is said to have gathered the poor and sick and told Valerian: Here is our treasure. For his act of resistance and faith, Lawrence was burned to death. How do you resist injustice? Saint Lawrence, give us courage.

FEAST OF LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26 (618).

*"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life."*

**Friday, Aug 11, 2023**

### **Love takes its toll**

Inspired by her mentor Saint Francis, Saint Clare and the women who eventually joined her to form the Poor Clares had a "radical commitment to corporate poverty." The women lived simply and spent most of their day in prayer and chores. It was a hard life, but one filled with joy for those who chose it—and continue to choose it. Spend time today pondering this pearl of wisdom from Clare: "Love that does not know of suffering is not worthy of the name."

MEMORIAL OF CLARE, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Matthew 16:24-28 (411).

*"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."*

**Saturday, Aug 12, 2023**

### **Youthful endeavors**

According to the United Nations website, half the people on Planet Earth are under 30 years of age. Yet only 2.6 percent of government lawmakers worldwide are under 30. International Youth Day, observed annually on August 12, is designated by the United Nations to draw attention to cultural and legal issues surrounding youth. Pope Francis teaches in *Laudato Si'*, "What kind of world do we want to leave ... to children who are now growing up?" (#160). International Youth Day recognizes everyone's responsibility to hand on a sustainable, free, and secure Earth to the next generation. What's going on in your community to accomplish this goal?

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20 (412). *"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move."*

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



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