

Sunday, Aug 13, 2023

Value your vocation

Immigrant Catholic families faced the nightmare of living one step away from ruin in the 19th century, when only the least desirable and most dangerous jobs were available to them. Knights of Columbus founder Michael McGivney had to leave seminary to support his family after his father's death. Ordained later, McGivney determined to build a community dedicated to protecting vulnerable families and spent his priesthood promoting the valuable vocation of the laity. Continue the legacy with your own vocation, religious or lay, equally valued and necessary.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33 (115). *"At once Jesus spoke to them, 'Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.'"*

Monday, Aug 14, 2023

Holiness becomes you

Maximilian Kolbe is best known for the manner of his death—he volunteered to die in the place of a stranger, who was a man with children, at Auschwitz during World War II. But his path to sainthood began at the age of 10 when his exasperated mother said to her troublemaker son, "I do not know what will become of you!" The Blessed Mother stepped in with a couple options—appearing to the boy in a vision and offering him purity or martyrdom. He gave her the surprising answer: "I choose both." Remarkable conversion, however unlikely, is possible—in others and yourself. Believe it!

MEMORIAL OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Matthew 17:22-27 (413). *"The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."*

Tuesday, Aug 15, 2023

Without a doubt, love reigns

Thanks to Thomas the Apostle—that so-called "Doubting Thomas"—Catholic tradition has its earliest account of Mary's Assumption. This tradition holds that, just as Thomas was elsewhere when the other apostles were visited by a resurrected Jesus, he'd likewise been away when Mary, surrounded by the apostles, drew her last earthly breath. As Thomas returned to Jerusalem, three days after Mary's burial, it is said that he saw her gloriously lifted into the heavens. This time, it was the other apostles' turn to doubt Thomas. With great skepticism, tradition tells us, they opened her tomb and found it empty. Pope John Paul II, quoting Saint Francis de Sales, insisted that Mary died "in love, from love, and through love." Love like Mary today.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57; Luke 11:27-28 (621); Day: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56 (622). *"He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly."*

Wednesday, Aug 16, 2023

Infectious faith

An oft-forgotten holy figure, Saint Roch died on this day in the 14th-century Holy Roman Empire, having lived a distinctive life from his birth. He is traditionally regarded as having been conceived by a miracle and later became an ascetic said to have

worked miracles. The patron saint of dogs, he is said to have been healed from the plague by a dog that brought him bread while he was recovering. He modeled for the world a divine confidence in the face of pestilence, which inspired great faith in God among his peers. Having survived a pandemic ourselves, will we trust God with our future as Saint Roch did?

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 18:15-20 (415). *"Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

Thursday, Aug 17, 2023

Harvest is plenty

Farmers and home gardeners are often busy in mid-August if their crops have done well. It is a time of intense work: harvesting, processing, selling, canning. The spiritual parallel is often made: Our missionary impulse is to plant the seeds of faith in word and action, in hopes that the seeds bear fruit. When times seem difficult, it is heartening to look around for signs of fruit, of God's love made manifest. Take a moment to revel in the witness of a Christian you know who makes God's love visible.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Matthew 18:21—19:1 (416). *"How often must I forgive [my brother]?" ... Jesus answered, 'I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.'"*

Friday, Aug 18, 2023

Moved by movies

As the weekend emerged in the last century as a two-day break in the workweek for leisure and spiritual pursuits, filmgoing became a major form of recreation. At its height in the 1930s, 65 percent of the U.S. population went to the movies weekly. "Going to the movies" may now simply mean clicking on a streaming app, but watching films remains a popular weekend pastime. Over the years the Vatican has recognized film as a valuable art form deserving of "praise and support." With that in mind, in 1995, in honor of the 100th anniversary of cinema, the Vatican named 45 important films worthy of watching. Make your way through this fascinating list on a given weekend, and enjoy a guilty pleasure, without the guilt.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joshua 24:1-13; Matthew 19:3-12 (417). *"They fought against you, but I delivered them into your power."*

Saturday, Aug 19, 2023

It's humanitarian nature to help

According to the U.N., this year a staggering 117 million people will be driven from their homes by war, violence, and poverty. Two billion people don't have access to sanitary water at home. World Humanitarian Day, celebrated today, commemorates the lives of the men and women serving in some of the most challenging situations in the world. The voiceless victims of war and poverty need help to alleviate their suffering and draw attention to their plight. Donate to a humanitarian organization like Catholic Relief Services. Do some humanitarian work in your community. Contact your elected leaders and let them know you're concerned.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joshua 24:14-29; Matthew 19:13-15 (418). *"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

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



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