

Sunday, Jul 09, 2023

The unexamined life is not liberating

Interested in ministering, healing, and caring? Intrigued by dream analysis, speaking in tongues, or miracles? Seeking transcendence or the art of meditation? Does your attention reside at the intersection of faith and psychology? If any of the above concern you, there's a Morton Kelsey book with your name on it. Episcopal priest, Jungian therapist, and prolific author, Kelsey notes that we're controlled by what we assume and have never thoughtfully considered: "You can't come to a new point of view until you realize what your brainwashing has been." Take the first step toward inner freedom. Review your assumptions.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25-30 (100). *"Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones."*

Monday, Jul 10, 2023

Don't let setbacks throw you

The first bishop of Denver, Joseph Machebeuf, who died on this day in 1889, was the basis for the character Joseph Vaillant in Willa Cather's 1927 novel *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. Machebeuf was born in France and his character's French last name means "courageous"—for promoting the faith, in his case. In real life, Machebeuf was thrown from a carriage and disabled from his injuries, but went on to found schools and hospitals while overseeing the enormous growth of the Catholic population in Colorado. May his life inspire you to be valiant in overcoming challenges in your service to God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 28:10-22a; Matthew 9:18-26 (383). *"Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you."*

Tuesday, Jul 11, 2023

The Bible according to Benedict

When a team of theologians, medievalists, and artists began work on Saint John's Illuminated Bible in 1995, certain core values of Benedictine spirituality served as guiding principles. The finished product—the first hand-wrought copy of the Bible since the printing press in the 1400s—embodies some undeniable basics from Benedict's Rule, such as: the holiness of ordinary objects (simple goose quills for calligraphy) and the dignity of manual labor (vellum pages were hand-sanded repeatedly). But it's the larger themes of hospitality, transformation, and justice for God's people that make it a rich text for our time. Contemplate this Bible's full significance at the Library of Congress website.

MEMORIAL OF BENEDICT, ABBOT

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 32:23-33; Matthew 9:32-38 (384). *"I have seen God face to face," he said."*

Wednesday, Jul 12, 2023

Foundation for a just society

The Knights of Peter Claver was incorporated on this day in 1911, the fruit of a collaboration between three Josephite priests and three laymen in Mobile, Alabama. The black Catholic fraternal order was founded for African Americans in an age when much of the U.S. Church was still segregated and many Knights of Columbus councils refused to accept black members. Named for the historic Spanish Jesuit missionary to South America, the order has since gone on to incubate justice-minded Catholics in the United States and also in Saint Peter Claver's own mission base of

Colombia. The organization added a Ladies Auxiliary in 1922, which now outstrips the men in membership and activity. If you're interested in the intersection of the Catholic faith and social justice, support the Saint Peter Claver Foundation.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Matthew 10:1-7 (385). *"Go . . . to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"*

Thursday, Jul 13, 2023

Let it reign

The kingdom of God, or reign of God, means many things to many people. The term appears in today's gospel and in fact appears in the New Testament alone well over 100 times. Theologians have discussed its meaning over the centuries. They propose that in various contexts it refers to a heavenly reward, to Jesus himself, to the faithful as they pursue righteousness on Earth, to a culture based on love, mercy, and justice, and other variations on these themes. Like any big concept, there might not be one "right answer." How do you envision the kingdom of God?

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Matthew 10:7-15 (386). *"As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"*

Friday, Jul 14, 2023

A touch of faith

"She who gropes her way" is an English translation of the Mohawk name Tekakwitha, Saint Kateri's second given name. That epithet is likely related to the fact that an outbreak of smallpox left Kateri orphaned, scarred, and visually impaired at the age of 4. As Kateri felt her way through her short life, she experienced the glories of nature, the riches of Catholic teachings, and the dignity of every soul. With help from family, friends, and a host of strangers, she discovered her true calling: to dedicate her life to God and give voice to God's truths. Pray to Saint Kateri that your vocation becomes crystal clear.

MEMORIAL OF KATERI TEKAKWITHA, MOHAWK

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30; Matthew 10:16-23 (387). *"Do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say."*

Saturday, Jul 15, 2023

What we leave behind

History was not kind to the remains of Saint Bonaventure (1221-74), an Italian cardinal and minister general of the Franciscans. His many works of philosophy and theology are carefully preserved. But his body? Not so much. His torso was burned by invading Huguenots in 1562. His head, discovered to be uncorrupted 160 years after his death, was lost in the destruction of a church during the French Revolution. Only a lone arm has survived, resting in a church in Bagnoregio, Italy. Though your body will not last, your legacy can. Make it a good one.

MEMORIAL OF BONAVENTURE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Matthew 10:24-33 (388). *"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."*

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



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