

**Sunday, Nov 05, 2023**

### Vocation 101

It's National Vocation Awareness Week! What's your parish or Catholic organization doing to promote the call to ordained and religious life in your community? Consider the threefold tasks of "prayer, invitation, and education": to *pray* for vocations, *invite* likely candidates to consider them, and *educate* others about the joy of service to Christ and his church. Also check out the website of the National Religious Vocation Conference. They offer Conversation Cards to keep handy: business-style cards that say "You would make a great priest/ sister/ brother/ nun" on the front. The back reads: "Imagine the possibilities."

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13; Matthew 23:1-12 (151). *"With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well."*

**Monday, Nov 06, 2023**

### All paths designed to lead to holiness

Some people hear their call early in life, and it's loud and clear. Others grapple longer and harder with figuring out their vocation. Regardless of where you fall on that spectrum of discernment, and no matter what state of life God intends for you, keep in mind during this National Vocation Awareness Week (Nov. 5-11) that we are all called in essence to the same thing. Let the words of Carmelite nun Saint Thérèse of Lisieux to her friend upon her marriage reassure you: "The road we are following is different, however, the goal is the same purpose: to become holy in the way God has traced out for us."

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 11:29-36; Luke 14:12-14 (485). *"You will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

**Tuesday, Nov 07, 2023**

### Honor wise council

On this day in 680, the Third Council of Constantinople convened. Ecumenical councils summon a representative constituency of church leadership to settle important questions and fine-tune church teaching. Earliest councils, beginning in 325, solidified basics of Christian faith, often tackling heresies about the true nature of Jesus Christ. Later councils wrestled with institutional growing pains. Let us be grateful that our ancestors cared about the deposit of faith enough to gather and debate at length in order to hand down to future generations such as ours the best the tradition has to offer.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 12:5-16b; Luke 14:15-24 (486). *"We, though many, are one Body in Christ and individually parts of one another."*

**Wednesday, Nov 08, 2023**

### Act decisively for justice

Today, we remember our forebear Joseph Rummel, the longtime archbishop of New Orleans during the era of Jim Crow segregation in the Deep South. As head of the diocese with one of the largest black populations in the nation, Rummel set out to desegregate local Catholic parishes and schools, including the archdiocesan seminary, beginning in 1948. After a letter from local segregationist Catholics to the pope was rebuffed by the holy father, Rummel declared all parochial schools desegregated in 1962. Famously, he later excommunicated several vocal holdouts

who protested his move. Where is such decisive action against racism among bishops today? We are all responsible for opposing injustice. How will you act for the common good?

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 13:8-10; Luke 14:25-33 (487). *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law."*

**Thursday, Nov 09, 2023**

### Let the good times roll

Catholics have lots of words with their own twists, and one of them is "feast." While we don't all sit down to a giant meal for every "feast," in some corner of the world, Catholics may well be doing just that. In church language, "feast" means something special is celebrated on a particular day. Feasts range from the death days of saints, to events in Jesus' life, to the foundation of a church with a special history (such as today's feast of the Lateran Basilica). Many feasts have special followings in particular cultures. Let feast days remind you that sometimes devotion also calls for a good party!

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22 (671). *"His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me."*

**Friday, Nov 10, 2023**

### You are simply divine

Known for his accessible preaching style, Pope Leo I helped his fifth-century flock and Christians down through the ages understand more fully the true nature of Christ and his saving gifts. By becoming human, explains Leo, "Jesus assumed the form of a servant without the stain of sin—enhancing what was human, not detracting from what was divine." As children of the light, we share in God's own nature. Therefore, our heads and hearts should reflect this holy inheritance. Or put simply by Leo: "Christian, remember your dignity."

MEMORIAL OF LEO THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 15:14-21; Luke 16:1-8 (489). *"I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me."*

**Saturday, Nov 11, 2023**

### A veteran worthy of his day

Because Saint Martin of Tours (c. 320-397) was the son of a Roman army officer, he was required by law to serve in the Roman military. Two years after his conversion to Christianity he announced, "I am the soldier of Christ: it is not lawful for me to fight." He was arrested and charged with cowardice. So he volunteered to go into battle unarmed. Before he could make good on his offer, he was discharged from the military. This Veterans Day, we can remember those, like Saint Martin and Venerable Emil Kapaun, Army chaplain, who, for the sake of Christ, go into battle armed only with the love of Christ.

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Luke 16:9-15 (490). *"No servant can serve two masters."*

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



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