

## Sunday, Oct 22, 2023

### Hearts on fire, feet on the move

Goal-setting is a normal part of life. We set a particular horizon in our education and profession, in domestic budgeting and in relationships. Pope Francis reminds us on this World Mission Sunday that sharing the Good News is the horizon for all church activity. Our aim isn't just to save our souls but to share in the rescue of the world God so loves. "Everyone has the right to receive the gospel. Christians have the duty to announce it without excluding anyone ... as one who shares a joy, signals a beautiful horizon, offers a desirable banquet" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 14). Embrace the mission!

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21 (145). "I am the LORD, there is no other."

## Monday, Oct 23, 2023

### Break new ground

When most people think of the Catholic Worker Movement, started by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in 1933, its "Houses of Hospitality" that help the urban poor often come to mind. But the movement also started farms that follow a similar model of communal living in voluntary poverty—and they are experiencing a resurgence throughout the country (see if there's one near you). Many Catholics, in parishes and lay or religious communities, make tilling the earth on farms or in community gardens a spiritual practice and are leading the way in sustainable living. Pitch in and help them bring forth bounty!

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST

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, 2023

### Live your vocation inspired by Mary

When Saint Anthony Mary Claret was appointed archbishop to Cuba in 1849, he initiated practical changes to help the working poor: He taught effective farming methods so families could feed themselves while making a living, began credit unions, and set up vocational training for disadvantaged youth. All of this angered wealthy land owners, who expected cheap labor to help them plunder the land for sugar as a lucrative cash crop. Remember Anthony during October's observance of Free Trade Month, supporting supply chains that honor workers instead of corruption and greed. But also remember Anthony this month as we honor Mary. His prayer: "O Heart of Mary, furnace and instrument of love, enkindle me with love of God and my neighbor."

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474). "Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks."

## Wednesday, Oct 25, 2023

### Stay a while

Chapter 1 of the Book of Ruth recaps the tragic decade that Naomi endured: A famine chased her from her home; her husband died; her sons died. She was alone—or so it seemed, until her daughter-in-law Ruth promises to stay with her. Little by little, with

Ruth at her side, Naomi can dig out of what must have felt like a living hell. Who has been like Ruth for you? When have you been like Ruth for someone? This week, as we celebrate Pastoral Care Week, we give thanks for the people who provide spiritual care to those struggling with grief, trauma, and other difficult situations. Learn more at the Pastoral Care Week website.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475). "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much."

## Thursday, Oct 26, 2023

### All creation divinely sings

We're entering the cold season in the North, and nature's show has become more subtle. But the natural world is an ongoing expression of God that anyone can embrace simply by paying close attention. The work of poet Mary Oliver celebrates this. She writes: "Why do people keep asking to see God's identity papers when the darkness opening into morning is more than enough?" Look around. Listen. How is God showing up in your natural surroundings right now?

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476). "Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!'"

## Friday, Oct 27, 2023

### Breathe in the blessing

Being human is a gift, but sometimes it can feel like a curse. As humans, we are *imago dei*, made in the image and likeness of God. This includes having free will, which oddly enough, we can use to hide or deny our *imago dei*. When we struggle, we might pause and pray with Saint Augustine: "Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy."

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477). "For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want."

## Saturday, Oct 28, 2023

### Help is at hand

The gospels do not elaborate on the life of Saint Jude, but he must have had a reputation for a sunny disposition to later come to be known as the saint of hopeless causes and desperate situations. Which, in a sense, makes him the saint of us all. The human condition, prone to illness, aging, and death, would be fairly desperate if it were not for redemption. Saint Jude is worthy of a daily "thank you" for being there when the chips are down.

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666). "He called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve."

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



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