

Sunday, Apr 25, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Live with purpose

Collecting a paycheck may be important to make a living, but will it alone make a life? Some Catholics hear the invitation to choose a different path. They're nudged by family members, religion teachers, and homilists. They have opportunities to learn about priesthood and apostolic life, about missions and monasteries and cloisters. They'll encounter members of Third Orders and engage in service projects that put them in touch with those consecrated to spreading the Good News. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, let's be sure to issue the invitation—and to receive it.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18 (50).
"No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down on my own."

Monday, Apr 26, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Nothing need limit your devotion

The life of Saint Rafael Arnáiz Barón was interrupted by illness. Having endured a pandemic, we know what that's like—we've seen lives cut short by disease and we ourselves have had to put some of our own living on hold. Rafael was born in Spain in 1911 and died at 27. He was a talented artist and studied architecture, then decided to become a Trappist. Severe complications from diabetes prevented him from taking vows as a monk. He accepted God's will, joined as an oblate instead, and died young of his illness. In him you can find an example of surrender, trust, and devotion in the face of loss and disappointment that makes him a model for our times a century later.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10 (279). *"Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture."*

Tuesday, Apr 27, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Plant the seeds of belief

The Syrian city of Antioch played a pivotal role in the growth of the early church. A cross-cultural safe haven, it was here that many of Jesus' first followers—all of them Jewish—took refuge after Stephen was martyred, fleeing Jerusalem as they too became targets. Antioch was a cosmopolitan hothouse, its Jews enjoying friendly interactions with the city's many Gentiles. Once new Jews arrived, bearing witness to Jesus, local Gentiles couldn't help but be intrigued. Soon, the fledgling church of Antioch began evangelizing Gentiles intentionally, planting the seed of belief in unexpected places. Where might you plant such seeds?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 (280). *"It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians."*

Wednesday, Apr 28, 2021

MEMORIAL OF PETER CHANEL, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY, MARTYR

Let your life bring light to others

There is good reason that Peter Chanel (1803-41) is the patron saint of Oceania. A parish priest from France who later joined the Marist missionaries, Peter was missioned to Western Oceania to convert people who worshipped other gods. Peter's missionary method was low key: He learned the language of the people and cared for their sick. For a few years, all was fine until small groups of native people began to be baptized, in particular, the son and daughter of the island king. Peter was then considered a threat to

the island's power elite. On this day in 1841 he was murdered. That is not the end of Peter's story, however. Within two years of his death, the entire island had become Catholic. How do you bring the light of faith to people around you?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 12:24—13:5a; John 12:44-50 (281). *"I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness."*

Thursday, Apr 29, 2021

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Not how long a life is, but how good

Saint Catherine of Siena led a remarkable life for a person of any era but particularly for a woman of the 14th century who only lived 33 years. Mystic, nurse, Dominican, counselor, arbitrator, writer, ambassador—she was all these things. Ordinary people came to her for spiritual council and advice in conflicts, leading her to eventually settle fierce church disputes, becoming a confidante of popes. Central to her strength was her union with Christ, which she wrote about in the classic, *The Dialogue*. Find a quiet moment today to—like Catherine—commune with Jesus, who offers wisdom and strength to all.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20 (282). *"Whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."*

Friday, Apr 30, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Try a little tenderness

When God became flesh and dwelt among us, a revolution was started. Not a military coup that some people expected, but a revolution that would strike deep at the heart. This "revolution of tenderness," as Pope Francis called it in *Evangelii Gaudium*, urges each and every one of us to give of ourselves, to be part of community, to serve, and to be reconciled in our relationships with others. In what ways can you respond to Jesus' call to a revolution of tenderness?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6 (283). *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me."*

Saturday, May 01, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH THE WORKER

Wanting for a job

Today's memorial honors Saint Joseph the carpenter, standing in solidarity with all working people on the traditional "May Day" dedicated to laborers around the world. At this time last year, more than 30 million Americans had lost their jobs due to the pandemic, the largest unemployment crisis in the country's history. Many of those jobs have not returned and likely are gone forever. What can you and your faith community do to support those whose livelihoods were lost to the virus?

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 1:26—2:3 or Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Matthew 13:54-58 (559); Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14 (284).
"If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it."

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



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