

## Sunday, Aug 14, 2022

### Make some noise for justice

Civil rights activist and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Congressman John Lewis hoped young Americans might get in trouble. "Good trouble, necessary trouble," he specified. Lewis wished that a passion for what's right might compel our young citizens to "find a way to get in the way" of injustice. A young prophet named Jeremiah once got in the way, winding up at the bottom of a well and nearly starving to death for causing trouble for his king. Jesus promises the same sort of trouble in our families if some members are baptized with fire while others don't feel the burn. Find yourself some good trouble.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53 (120). "He will die of famine on the spot, for there is no more food in the city."

## Monday, Aug 15, 2022

### Grief requited

Given that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was likely in her teens when she gave birth, she was probably only in her late 40s when Jesus died 33 years later. Life expectancy was a lot shorter then, but potentially Mary could have been alive for many years after seeing her son for the last time. One ancient historian wrote that she died 11 years later. It must have been a time of intense longing for her. Whether she died before she was bodily assumed into heaven or was assumed before she died is left open-ended by the church. Either way, it was an extraordinary reunion with the Lord befitting her status. Consider your own reunion with God. Plan ahead!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (NOT AN OBLIGATORY SOLEMNITY THIS YEAR)

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 looked with favor on his lowly servant."

## Tuesday, Aug 16, 2022

### Embrace the mystery of communion

Brother Roger Schütz, founder of the Taizé movement, died on this date in 2005. Brother Roger began Taizé in 1940 in the French countryside, envisioning a humble monastic community to respond to the needs of war-torn refugees—but also to welcome followers from all Christian denominations. The simple house he purchased eventually blossomed into a global place of pilgrimage, especially for young people. Taizé is especially known for beautiful chants still used in congregations all over the world. "The Church is a mystery of communion," Brother Roger wrote, where we "can discover an aurora of reconciliation and the practicing of a simple joy." Pray with Taizé through their website.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 28:1-10; Matthew 19:23-30 (420). "For God all things are possible."

## Wednesday, Aug 17, 2022

### To each is given a mission

On this day in 1887, Marcus Garvey, one of the most influential black activists of his generation, was born in Jamaica. Founder of Universal Negro Improvement Association, a fraternal organization that he grew into an international powerhouse after emigrating to the United States, he is credited with coining the term "Black is beautiful" to encourage racial pride. Though controversial in many of his views, he is remembered for his advocacy for racial

equality and economic justice. Be a voice for equality and justice as you live out your unique Christian mission.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:1-11; Matthew 20:1-16 (421). "You have made them equal to us."

## Thursday, Aug 18, 2022

### Be willing to look closely

On this day in 1998 the renowned Holocaust scholar Harry James Cargas died. Most of his teaching and writing focused on the Christian response to the Holocaust. What haunted him, he once said, was that "probably every Jew killed in the Holocaust was murdered by a baptized Christian." Cargas could have chosen an easier academic path, but instead he forced Christians to take stock of their complicity. Today's Psalm is a good help for examining our own cooperation with contemporary sin: "A clean heart create for me, O God."

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 36:23-28; Matthew 22:1-14 (422). "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

## Friday, Aug 19, 2022

### Keep it simple

Saint John Eudes, a 17th-century priest and mystic, worked tirelessly to spread the gospel message, which he feared was being corrupted by various heresies. For Saint John, Christianity wasn't complicated: "The Christian life is a continuation and completion of the life of Christ in us. We should be so many Christs here on Earth, continuing His life and His works, laboring and suffering in a holy and divine manner in the spirit of Jesus." And just what was Christ's work? Look no further than the two great commandments he gave us: "Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind," and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Matthew 22:34-40 (423). "The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

## Saturday, Aug 20, 2022

### Schism-saver

In 1130, Pope Honorius II was dying. In anticipation of his death, a group of cardinals agreed on Cardinal Gregory Papareschi as the next pope. Upon Honorius' death, Papareschi was elected Pope Innocent II. But another group of cardinals had another cardinal in mind for the position, Cardinal Pietro Pierleoni, and elected him as Pope Anacletus II. The church then had a pope and an antipope. Question was, which was which? Saint Bernard of Clairvaux threw his considerable weight and hard work behind Pope Innocent, who eventually prevailed, preventing what easily could have spiraled into a schism. Remember this lesson from Bernard: "If you are to do the work of a prophet, what you need is not a sceptre but a hoe."

MEMORIAL OF BERNARD, ABBOT, FOUNDER, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 43:1-7a; Matthew 23:1-12 (424). "The greatest among you must be your servant."

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



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