

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Opening a door to the poor

Valuing families is a Catholic imperative. Yet on this International Day of Families, we face the reality that between 20 and 30 percent of the world's homeless include entire families. In the United States, nearly 60,000 families with children are without shelter on a given night. De La Salle Brother Peter Maurin co-founded the Catholic Worker Movement with Dorothy Day because he couldn't, as he said, be crazy the way the world is crazy. "What we give to the poor for Christ's sake, is what we carry with us when we die," Maurin reflected. Today, on his death date, reflect on what you will carry with you at your passing.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 14:21-27; Revelation 21:1-5a; John 13:31-33a, 34-35 (54). *"It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."*

Monday, May 16, 2022

Bear witness

The Holy Spirit is called the "Advocate." An advocate is someone who defends, counsels, guides, and comforts. As Saint Paul said, the Advocate bears witness that we are children of God. As Catholics, we're called to advocate for others as well. Catholic Relief Services encourages "advocating for changes in existing unjust policies and the creation of new policies that benefit the common good." Want to put your faith into action through advocacy for the poor? Visit the website of Catholic Relief Services to learn how to become a voice for those whose voices have been ignored.

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26 (285). *"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything."*

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Erase racism

On this day in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously against racial segregation in public schools. Four years later, the U.S. Catholic bishops issued their first pastoral letter on racism, *Discrimination and Christian Conscience*. It wasn't the first time the bishops denounced the scourge of racial injustice—nor the last. "Racism is a sin: a sin that divides the human family, blots out the image of God among specific members of that family, and violates the fundamental human dignity of those called to be children of the same Father" they wrote in 1979. Commemorate Brown vs. the Board of Education by revisiting the pastoral letter *Brothers and Sisters to Us*.

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a (286). *"My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you."*

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Rise to the challenge

Not every pope was first a bishop, much less a cardinal, as is the custom these days. Pope and martyr John I, who we memorialize today, was an archdeacon when called to the papacy in the year 523. An archdeacon acts as an intermediary between a bishop and the clergy of a diocese, often administering a portion of the diocese called an archdiaconate. The office has been described metaphorically as that of *oculus episcopi*, the "bishop's eye." John

I must have excelled in his role to have been called to the papacy at a time of great upheaval. He responded courageously, even with his life. Be ready to be called to some surprising roles in your faith journey. Turn to John I for the inspiration to respond fully.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN I, POPE, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8 (287). *"I am the vine, you are the branches."*

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Disagree agreeably

Today's first reading recalls the first recorded argument in the church—over whether men entering the Christian church needed to be circumcised according to Jewish tradition. During our 2,000 years of wrangling, this maxim arose: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity." Christians don't even agree on who said that, but it was Pope John XXIII's guiding principal for the important discussions of Vatican II, which modernized the church. Do you bring charity to your disagreements?

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11 (288). *"I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete."*

Friday, May 20, 2022

Engage with epistles, emissaries, and emails

A tweet from the pope. An email newsletter about the Synod. The internet and social media are normal sources of information and conversation these days. This is especially true given our recent experience with social distancing. In the early church, mass communication was done primarily through epistles and emissaries. Epistles were letters written by notable folks, and emissaries were people sent on behalf of a notable person or group. Both were intended to communicate to a large number of people in far-flung areas. Given this Easter season, what message would you choose to broadcast far and wide?

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17 (289). *"So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth."*

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Pray for one nation under God

Today is Armed Forces Day, a holiday that pays tribute to men and women who serve across all six branches in the United States military. The United States is blessed with well trained and disciplined armed forces, dedicated to defend not only the people but also the principles on which the nation was founded, including the free exercise of religion. Cherish the right that is yours to worship freely, and take a moment today to give thanks for those who are sworn to protect it and all our cherished liberties.

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21 (290). *"If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."*

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



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