

## Sunday, Sep 18, 2022

### Tell the greatest stories ever

On this Catechetical Sunday, we lift up those who give instruction as religion teachers, homilists, RCIA directors, spiritual writers, and retreat leaders. Catechism doesn't have to be dull. Fantasy writer George McDonald made spiritual realities come alive. His stories inspired C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Mark Twain, and J.M. Barrie to do the same. Want better leadership in government, businesses, parishes? Look for good storytellers. As Pope Francis said in his 2020 address to communicators, "Each of us knows different stories that have the fragrance of the Gospel, that have borne witness to the Love that transforms life. These stories cry out to be shared!"

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13 (135). "I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered . . . for kings and for all in authority."

## Monday, Sep 19, 2022

### See the miracles in everyday life

Little is known about the life of Januarius, a bishop and martyr who died in the year 305, but he's famous for a miracle that continues to happen all these centuries later. Three times a year in the cathedral in Naples, Italy, the faithful gather to witness a sample of his blood, kept in sealed glass, liquify and even bubble. There is no definitive explanation, and the blood cannot be studied since the vial is not allowed to be opened out of fear of permanent damage. Sound incredible? Some say yes. But does it even compare to the extraordinary tenets of your faith? Now that's something much more consequential to marvel—every day of the year.

MEMORIAL OF JANUARIUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 3:27-34; Luke 8:16-18 (449). "For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light."

## Tuesday, Sep 20, 2022

### Companions on the journey

South Korea has one of the largest Catholic populations in all of Asia. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn—the first Korean priest—played a role. As did Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, a lay Catholic born of a martyr who was martyred himself. In fact, the birth of the Korean church is a laypeople's triumph. Pope John Paul II stressed this fact during his 1984 canonization of Tae-gŏn, Ha-sang, and 101 other martyrs: "Even though the Christians in the first half century had only two priests from China to assist them for a time, they deepened their unity in Christ through prayer and fraternal love. . . . The splendid flowering of the Church in Korea today is indeed the fruit of the heroic witness of the Martyrs." We, too, are called to be companions to the martyrs in building up the Body of Christ.

MEMORIAL OF ANDREW KIM TAE-GŎN, PRIEST, AND PAUL CHŎNG HA-SANG, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13; Luke 8:19-21 (450). "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."

## Wednesday, Sep 21, 2022

### Even tax collectors need a patron

Though we don't know much about the apostle Matthew—even whether he was the actual author of the gospel that bears his name—we do know that he was a tax collector. And because of

this, he was *persona non grata* in the Jewish community. It was the occupying Romans who demanded those taxes, so Matthew and his fellow taxmen were seen as collaborators. From the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus laid out the invitation to break out of righteous categories and see beyond narrow prejudices. A reminder for us to do the same.

FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13 (643). "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

## Thursday, Sep 22, 2022

### Celebrate Earth, our common home

Many Catholics are still getting used to the Season of Creation, which spans the period from September 1 (World Day of Prayer for the Care for Creation) to October 4 (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi). Initiated in 1989 and embraced by Catholics in 2015, this ecumenical season is meant to celebrate care for our common home. Leaders encourage the faithful to pray and take action to honor and preserve our planet. With more than a week left of the season, there's time to celebrate in your own style: be it a prayerful outdoor time, an environmental letter to a legislator, or a look at the ecology encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Seasonofcreation.org offers even more ideas.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Luke 9:7-9 (452). "But Herod said, 'John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?'"

## Friday, Sep 23, 2022

### Scripture makes Billboard's Top 10

We don't often see Bible songs hit the pop music charts. But a song by singer-songwriter and social activist Pete Seeger did just that. Written in the late 1950s, the song "Turn! Turn! Turn!" would explode to international popularity in 1965 when recorded by the Byrds. Not bad for lyrics written well over 2,000 years ago! The song is based on the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Not every popular use of the Bible turns out well, but Seeger's did, perhaps because he left the verses largely intact. Consider other scripture passages that are music to your ears.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Luke 9:18-22 (453). "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every thing under the heavens."

## Saturday, Sep 24, 2022

### The clock is ticking

The Spanish philosopher Miguel de Unamuno is quoted as having said the entire gospel came down to this phrase: "Wake up!" That's something we can all keep in mind and take to heart when we find ourselves simply going through the motions, sleepwalking through the day. The Benedictines put it another way: "Keep death ever before you." Now that's a wake-up call if there ever was one! Do something good, kind, generous—and do it today, while there is still time!

TODAY'S READINGS: Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8; Luke 9:43b-45 (454). "Pay attention to what I am telling you."

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



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