

Sunday, May 27, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Blessed are the single-hearted

One Beatitude we routinely misinterpret is the one about being “pure of heart.” Purity of heart isn’t about sex but rather about loyalty and fidelity, what we call single-heartedness. From Moses to the prophets to Jesus, fidelity to God alone has been the ideal. We worship a Triune God with a solitary heart. We can’t afford to divide our loyalty or it will be no more than a farce.

Houseclean your heart from competing loyalties.

TODAY’S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:32-34; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28:16-20 (165). *“Know, and fix in your heart, that the LORD is God . . . and that there is no other.”*

Monday, May 28, 2018

Be happy!

“How happy is our sacrament of water!” This enthusiastic appraisal of Baptism comes from church Father Tertullian around 203 A.D. The first epistle attributed to Saint Peter certainly agrees. It is sometimes described as a homily delivered to cheer on a first-century baptismal class “graduating” to full Christian initiation. It includes a hymn of thanksgiving, encouragement for holy living, instructions for the Christian household, urging to persevere in hard times, and the duties of members to the community as a whole. Take time to read 1 Peter this week, and give thanks for the happy sacrament.

TODAY’S READINGS: 1 Peter 1:3-9; Mark 10:17-27 (347). *“Although you have not seen him, you love him . . . for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

In praise of mission

There was a time when mission work was about “saving the heathen” and “converting the pagans.” Contemporary Catholic missionary work has undergone profound change since the Second Vatican Council, and today those in mission work are much more conscious of issues of social justice and the dangers of cultural imperialism in the guise of religious conversion. Many modern missionaries speak of “reverse mission”—of being converted by the generosity and wisdom of those they serve, who may be poor in material goods but rich in spirit and tradition. Invite a returned missionary to your parish or faith community to share his or her stories. It can be an eye-opening experience.

TODAY’S READINGS: 1 Peter 1:10-16; Mark 10:28-31 (348). *“There is no one who has given up . . . lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more.”*

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

What do you see?

When the light is right, usually around dusk, the glass on a train acts as both a window and a mirror. Depending upon where you focus your eyes as a passenger, you can see either the relatively motionless interior of the car or the scenery outside passing by in a blur. This “double vision” reflects the duality of time and your human experience. There is the unchanging, eternal now where God resides and the rush of encounters and experiences in which you usually live. Just as passengers on the train can choose which side of the window to observe, you also have that same choice in your daily life. Where will you focus your attention today?

TODAY’S READINGS: 1 Peter 1:18-25; Mark 10:32-45 (349). *“The grass withers, and the flower wilts, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”*

Thursday, May 31, 2018

FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

You visited me

Where is the presence of God? In celebration of the Eucharist, certainly, in the transformed bread and wine, the word proclaimed and preached, the people gathered. When we pray, yes, God is there, too. And each of us bears the image of God, our creator, so we can “see” God in another, even in the hungry, thirsty, sick, naked, imprisoned, and stranger. In all of creation we can see the traces of God’s intricate handiwork. Today we recall the story of the pregnant Mary’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth, who was expecting John the Baptist. It is through the presence of Jesus in Mary that we have our faith. Remember Mary, who visits us with the presence of God.

TODAY’S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-18a or Romans 12:9-16; Luke 1:39-56 (572). *“The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.”*

Friday, Jun 01, 2018

MEMORIAL OF JUSTIN, MARTYR

Life lessons

“There are three kinds of people,” wrote Blaise Pascal, the famous religious philosopher: “Those who have sought God and found him . . . these are reasonable and happy. Those who seek God and have not yet found him . . . these are reasonable and unhappy. And those who neither seek God nor find him . . . these are unreasonable and unhappy.” Justin Martyr appealed to reason, trying to persuade Roman rulers that it was pointless to persecute early Christians. He kept stressing the lessons of Jesus, most notably: “Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.” Which of Jesus’ lessons do you quote the most?

TODAY’S READINGS: 1 Peter 4:7-13; Mark 11:11-26 (351). *“Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours.”*

Saturday, Jun 02, 2018

MEMORIAL OF MARCELLINUS AND PETER, MARTYRS

Gone but not forgotten

We hardly know the names of Marcellinus and Peter from the early fourth century (d.304), who were persecuted during the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian. But in their day, these men were honored by poems and feast days, and over their tombs a church was built. Their bones were prized relics as late as the ninth century and miracles were attributed to them. The gift of our lives is the greatest gift we can offer to God. Though our names may be all but forgotten on earth, our fidelity is eternally rewarded.

TODAY’S READINGS: Jude 17, 20b-25; Mark 11:27-33 (352). *“Was John’s Baptism of heavenly or of human origin? Answer me.”*

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



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