

Sunday, Jun 11, 2023

We are one

Unity is what our sacrament of Communion is about: oneness with God and each other. Yet, because we're human, that communion is necessarily paired up with another sacrament that does the work of reconciling. When unity gets torn, reconciliation repairs the damage. Lately, toxic polarization has been shredding our national unity, creating an illusion of insurmountable division. Media sources sharpen the knives of contrasting worldviews, leading to anxiety and depression, fear and violence. Trust in unity. Resist being recruited in the polarization game.

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Lauda Sion; John 6:51-58 (167). *"We, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."*

Monday, Jun 12, 2023

Unexpected blessings

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus offers the Beatitudes, a list of those who are blessed—some of whom are not who listeners would expect to hear are blessed: the poor in spirit, the mournful, the meek, and the persecuted. In some Bible versions, "blessed" is translated as "happy," which makes it even harder to believe that those named could possibly be that! Jesus was always turning conventional wisdom inside out and upside down—enlightening and enraging people alike. Two thousand years later, we're still trying to figure out how to be happy. If pursuing what the world says "should" make you happy doesn't, take a cue from Jesus and try flipping that faulty logic on its head!

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 1:1-7; Matthew 5:1-12 (359). *"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."*

Tuesday, Jun 13, 2023

Go for the grandeur

Church historian Sophronius Clasen liked to say Saint Anthony preached the "grandeur of Christianity," using allegory and symbolic explanations to convey biblical wisdom. Anyone can spot such examples in the Sermons of Saint Anthony, including: "Genesis says: The spirit of God moved over the waters Just as the mind of a craftsman broods over the work he is going to do, and as the bird broods over the egg from which her young will be hatched, so the Spirit of God brooded over the waters, from which were to be made all things." Let Anthony's words stir your heart today.

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY OF PADUA, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Matthew 5:13-16 (360). *"Just so, your light must shine before others."*

Wednesday, Jun 14, 2023

A salute to justice

On this day each year, the United States commemorates the adoption of the national flag, our venerable Stars and Stripes. "A new constellation," it was said to represent, in the vast array of the world powers. But as we, in Christian charity, work for a better world as good and faithful Americans, we must be careful to live as citizens of heaven first and foremost, workers of light rather than earthly empire, children of God and not of worldly dominion. May our Flag Day commemorations also remember those who have been forgotten in the American project and whose cries for justice

may still be unanswered. May our waving of "Old Glory" be for the glory of the God above all.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11; Matthew 5:17-19 (361). *"For if what was going to fade was glorious, how much more will what endures be glorious."*

Thursday, Jun 15, 2023

The law as Jesus taught it

Matthew uses the word "righteousness" seven times in his gospel. What is he getting at? The U.S. bishops boil it down to this: "While righteousness in the new age will continue to mean conduct that is in accordance with the law, it will be conduct in accordance with the law as expounded and interpreted by Jesus." In other words, we need to absorb the full example and teachings of Jesus to live a righteous life. That's a tall order, which is precisely why we need each other for support and guidance. How can you support a fellow disciple today?

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 3:15—4:1, 3-6; Matthew 5:20-26 (362). *"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the Kingdom of heaven."*

Friday, Jun 16, 2023

Put your heart into it

On May 25, 1899, Pope Leo XIII promulgated the encyclical *Annum sacrum*, which consecrated the entire world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Leo called this the "great act" of his papacy. In an interview with Catholic News Service, Father Ambrose Dobrozsi of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati says that this solemnity, "shows that humanity still needs and longs for a compassionate and all-powerful God. ... In a society where some live in decadence and prideful luxury while others are destitute, the burning love of Christ's Sacred Heart reminds us that the fires of his mercy are also fires of justice." Consecrate your own heart to the effort to create a more compassionate and just world.

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 7:6-11; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 11:25-30 (170). *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves."*

Saturday, Jun 17, 2023

A heartfelt conversion is possible

Most of us would rather not reveal our inner lives since we often harbor some measure of anger, judgment, prejudice, hatred, lust, envy, jealousy, bitterness, resentment, and fear. Jesus said that all evil in the world springs forth from the human heart. But the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a celebration of a different kind of inner life, with virtues beyond measure and beyond our imagination. Mary, the ultimate intercessor, will help us convert the vices of the heart into virtues.

MEMORIAL OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Luke 2:41-51 (364; 573). *"His mother kept all these things in her heart."*

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



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