

**Sunday, Jun 25, 2023**

**With justice for all**

Politics is noble, among the highest forms of charity, Pope Paul VI once said. Pope Francis speaks often about the intersection of politics and justice. Yet Francis points out, "Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice.... This opinion ... expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system." Politics is noble, but regrettably, not all politicians are. Work for justice, both in the system and on the street.

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10:26-33 (94). *"Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!"*

**Monday, Jun 26, 2023**

**The journey of faith has surprising twists**

French missionary to the United States Simon Bruté, who died on this day in 1839, lived through major upheaval. His father came from a wealthy, aristocratic family. His mother often told him, "You were born to live in opulence." But Bruté later wrote, "God ordered it otherwise." His father died deeply in debt and his affairs in disarray. His mother saved the boy from military service during France's Reign of Terror. Disguised as a baker's assistant, he brought the Eucharist to imprisoned priests. He was eventually ordained, moved to Baltimore to teach, and later became the first bishop of the Diocese of Vincennes, Indiana. Life rarely turns out the way you plan, but if you surrender to God's will for you, you might find your faith takes you on an adventure you never could have imagined.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 7:1-5 (371). *"The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you."*

**Tuesday, Jun 27, 2023**

**It takes two**

When patriarch Nestorius refused to accept Mary as *Theotokos*—Greek for "God bearer"—it was Cyril of Alexandria who took him on. Nestorius insisted that Mary, as human, could only bear another human—not God—thus disputing the Incarnation. Cyril would insist upon the "hypostatic union" of human and divine in Jesus. Or, as proclaimed by the Council of Ephesus: Jesus is always and ever "one person" with "two natures." But another type of union also stirred Cyril. Use his words as your meditation today: "As two pieces of wax fused together make one, so [the one] who receives Holy Communion is ... united with Christ."

MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 13:2, 5-18; Matthew 7:6, 12-14 (372). *"How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life."*

**Wednesday, Jun 28, 2023**

**Room for everyone at the table**

Saint Irenaeus, living a scant 100 years after Jesus, was a staunch defender of orthodoxy and church unity: "The Church, having received this preaching and this faith, although scattered throughout the whole world, yet, as if occupying but one house, carefully preserves it." Yet he also made room for those who, through no choice of their own, lived and died without having heard the Good News: "Christ came not only for those who believed from the time of

Tiberius Caesar, nor did the Father provide only for those who are now, but for absolutely all [persons] from the beginning, who, according to their ability, feared and loved God and lived justly." Focus on loving God and living justly and there will be a place for you at the heavenly feast.

MEMORIAL OF IRENAEUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Matthew 7:15-20 (373). *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them."*

**Thursday, Jun 29, 2023**

**Let your life be transformed**

It's hard to imagine the development of the church we know today without Saints Peter and Paul. Saint Peter was among the 12 apostles, one with a starring role in the gospels. Saint Paul's spiritual encounter with Jesus transformed him into a tireless Christian evangelizer and likely author of what eventually became half of the New Testament. Peter and Paul were contemporaries who were leaders in the church and both were martyred around the year 64 as a result. Jesus utterly transformed their lives, leading them to build up the fledgling Christian church. What can you do today to help build the church?

SOLEMNITY OF PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19 (591). *"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."*

**Friday, Jun 30, 2023**

**Water the seeds that have been planted in you**

The early followers of Jesus found themselves in a strange new world. Sure, it was the same dusty streets and ebb and flow of life they always had known. Yet nothing was the same. The disciples had to navigate a world in which they found life in the risen Christ but also persecution and even death at the hands of those determined to punish and erase Christianity. Today the church remembers these protomartyrs as being "seeds of life," as early Christian author Tertullian noted. Their faith and witness continue to grow the church. What seeds of life have been sown in your faith journey?

MEMORIAL OF THE FIRST MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH OF ROME

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22; Matthew 8:1-4 (375). *"Walk in my presence and be blameless."*

**Saturday, Jul 01, 2023**

**We leave a mixed legacy**

When we think of 1776, we think of Anglo colonists up in arms along the East Coast. But on the other side of what is now the continental United States, a very different process was taking place. Spanish Franciscans led by Junípero Serra were establishing missions along what is now the California coast, then Spanish territory. While the legacy of the missions is a mixed one, and rightfully open to scrutiny, near the end of his life Serra made an arduous trip from the California coast to Mexico City and demanded legislation protecting the indigenous people and the missions from military abuse. The result was the first step toward a bill of rights for Native Americans. It might have been Saint Teresa of Ávila who said, "God writes straight with crooked lines."

MEMORIAL OF JUNÍPERO SERRA, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 18:1-15; Matthew 8:5-17 (376). *"Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith."*

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



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