

Sunday, Sep 25, 2022

Blessed are the wanderers

Biblical prophets warn the comfortable not to overlook the suffering of those less fortunate. Today on World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we support the church's solidarity with uprooted people since the Second World War. A mass exodus to the West of Soviet bloc refugees prompted Pope Pius XII, future Pope Paul VI, and layman James Norris to form the International Catholic Migration Commission. The ICMC continued its response to the "boat people" of Vietnam, Bosnian Muslims, Afghani refugees, and more. Their efforts restore dignity, inspire change, and companion the displaced. Welcome the stranger.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31 (138). *"Thus says the LORD the God of hosts: Woe to the complacent in Zion!"*

Monday, Sep 26, 2022

Give them a healer's welcome

Believed to have been twin brothers, Cosmas and Damian were third-century Christian Syrian physicians who accepted no payment for caring for the sick—and made many converts as a result of their selfless service. They were eventually martyred by the Romans. Many of us know "saints" in the healthcare profession who work physically and emotionally demanding jobs, make personal sacrifices (including endangering their own health during the pandemic), and have a seemingly endless supply of compassion despite it all. The next time you or someone you love needs medical help, ask Cosmas and Damian to support the professionals coming to your aid.

MEMORIAL OF COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50 (455). *"Whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."*

Tuesday, Sep 27, 2022

Enrich the faith of others

Before co-founding the Daughters of Charity—serving the "poorest of the poor"—Saint Vincent de Paul began the Congregation of the Mission in 1625. Priests who joined had three requirements: to live in imitation of Christ, to take the gospel to the rural poor, and to educate fellow priests in the practical matters of being a priest. When he realized peasants knew so little about the faith and that local priests were poorly trained in administering the sacrament of Penance, Vincent preached such a stirring parish mission that priests from a nearby town had to be called in to help him hear confessions. How can you help others practice their faith?

MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST, FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). *"He resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem."*

Wednesday, Sep 28, 2022

Carry on the work of the dead among the living

At the time of Jesus, the Jewish custom was to bury a person in the family burial cave the same day they died. The body was left for a year while the family mourned, the first seven days in *shivah*, followed by a less intense 30-day period of *shloshim*. The burial rite was not complete, however, as the family would return to the cave a year later for the "second burial," the collection of remains to be placed with the bones of other ancestors in the family ossuary. It is theorized that when Jesus commented, "Let the dead

bury their dead," he may have been referring to this second burial, suggesting to his disciples that there was more urgent work to be done among the living. Pray for the dead but serve the living!

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Luke 9:57-62 (457). *"Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God."*

Thursday, Sep 29, 2022

Angels watching over us

Today we honor the only three angels in scripture who have names. Michael is cited in the books of Daniel and Revelation and is known for being a protector. Gabriel is most famously a messenger, having relayed information to Daniel, but best known for giving Mary the news that she would be mother to our Savior. Raphael is associated with healing and appears in a series of adventures in the Book of Tobit, including his cure of Tobit's blindness. At various times, each of us needs protection, a message from God, or healing. May these three archangels lift our prayers when we and our communities most need these things.

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS
TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; John 1:47-51 (647). *"Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

Friday, Sep 30, 2022

Get to know the word

If you are a fan of scripture, then right next to your Bible should be *The Jerome Biblical Commentary*. The 2,000-plus-page book is a treasure trove of insight about the Bible written by Roman Catholic scholars from across the globe. It is a great resource for helping people to engage more deeply with scripture through study and reflection. The book is named after Saint Jerome, who is best known for his biblical commentaries and translations. Jerome believed that "Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ." It's never too late to increase your knowledge. What would be the first scripture passage you'd look up if you had the book in hand? Why?

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
TODAY'S READINGS: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Luke 10:13-16 (459).
"Whoever listens to you listens to me."

Saturday, Oct 01, 2022

In loving color

Though she only lived 24 brief years, Thérèse of Lisieux, the "little flower," was so spiritually mature she was asked to guide novices who were entering her Carmelite order. She used vivid metaphors, comparing the Trinity to a kaleidoscope because the three mirrors transform simple images into colorful designs. She wrote: "As long as our actions, even the smallest, do not fall away from the focus of Divine Love, the Holy Trinity, symbolized by the three mirrors, allows them to reflect wonderful beauty. Jesus . . . always sees beauty in everything we do."

MEMORIAL OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, CARMELITE NUN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
TODAY'S READINGS: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Luke 10:17-24 (460).
"Turning to the disciples in private he said, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.'"

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



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