



Feast Day: April 30

## St. Pius V: Contemplative and Conquering

**Introductory Prayer:** Lord Jesus, speak to my heart! I believe that you are present to each of us, with all the graces we need right now, in the current circumstances of our lives. I hope in you Lord, because I know I cannot place my hope in the things of the world. I love you Lord and I know how much you love me. When I look at the crucifix I am reminded of how great your love is. Thank you for the gift of St. Pius V to the church. Help us to learn from his example of devotion and courage. As St. Pius himself did, I place all I do in Mary's hands. I ask her to teach me how to pray and especially how to listen to your words, contemplating them in my heart.

**Fr. Kelleher video #1** ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqTBN-iKIKs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqTBN-iKIKs))

### **Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20** Sending out the 72.

At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town. The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power 'to tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

**Fr. Kelleher video #2** ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6x1Ix-g79o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6x1Ix-g79o))

**Discussion questions** (credit to Father Jason Smith, LC for framework of reflections and questions):

**1. A Lamb without Sandals:** Christ's comparison almost seems cruel: "I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals..." If he considers the apostles to be like lambs, why on earth would he send them among wolves? As always, Christ wants to stretch the faith of the apostles. "My Father's providence will take care of you and protect you" is the message he wants them to accept and live. He wants us to rely on him, not on our own skills or talents. When St. Pius V formed the Holy League (on the feast of St. Dominic), a small army to beat back the overwhelming forces of Islam, he and all of Christendom turned to God in the Rosary to pray for victory.

- Have you ever faced a situation that seemed hopeless, but after asking God for help, it was resolved?
- Have you ever put yourself out on a limb, because you believed God was calling you to do so?

**2. Lambs Taking on Demons:** The disciples were given the power to expel demons and tread upon serpents. In other words, the forces of evil are no match for an apostle of Christ. But how can this be, since evil is so powerful and overwhelming? A Christian "treads upon serpents" and "expels demons" by living the virtues of kindness and charity. The best response—indeed the only worthy response—to the evil of sin, is charity. A lamb's goodness is more attractive and wins more hearts than a wolf's malice. Goodness wins souls for Christ's Kingdom. St. Pius V reformed the Church in a time of great upheaval by turning to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Christ's first and most perfect disciple. She was spotlighted as the model of charity to a divided and war-hungry world.

- In today's divisive world, how can we live charity and goodness?
- How can Mary be a model to Christians and an aid?

**3. The Lamb's Strength Comes from His Shepherd:** Today's harvest is abundant and spilling over. Laborers are desperately needed, and each of us have been called to help. As we work, we need to be sure we do not stray far from the one for whom we are working, nor forget that we are laboring for him, for his cause. The disciples can expel demons because they are united to Christ; their power and authority derive from him. St. Pius united himself to Jesus through the heart of Mary. He penetrated the mysteries of Christ's life, death, and resurrection hand-in-hand with the Mother of God through praying the Rosary.

- a) How can our frequent reception of the Sacraments unite us to Christ and help form a "band of brothers" committed to a common goal? What is our common goal as a parish?
- b) What fruits have you experienced in Eucharistic Adoration?

**Men's / Women's parish team resolution for the month** (choose one or suggest your own):

- Commit to an hour of Eucharistic Adoration every week this month.
- Give away a Rosary, Miraculous Medal, or a Holy Card to at least 5 people during the month.
- Do a daily examination of conscience (usually done at bedtime).

**Closing Prayer:** One decade of Scripture Rosary: the second Glorious Mystery, the Ascension.

Verses to be recited before the Hail Mary's:

1. Now He led them out toward Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. (Luke 24:50)
2. Saying, "All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me." (Matt. 28:18)
3. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matt. 28:19)
4. "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)
5. "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:20)
6. "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16)
7. "But he who does not believe shall be condemned." (Mark 16:16)
8. "And behold, I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world." (Matt. 28:20)
9. And it came to pass as He blessed them, that He parted from them. (Luke 24:51)
10. And was taken up into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God. (Mark 16:19)

(Taken from [www.ourcatholicprayers.com](http://www.ourcatholicprayers.com))

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