

Sunday, Jun 02, 2019

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Narratives of unity

We tell stories that unite us—and others that divide us. Around the table of our Eucharist, we share a story that once brought Jews and Greeks, men and women, slaves and free people together in a common hope. Our modern media climate often obscures truth and polarizes society. On this World Communication Day, we pray for guidance for those who tell the story of our times through words and images, whether in news stations or in Hollywood, on social media, in politics, and in preaching. We all share the responsibility to affirm the narrative that makes us one in dignity.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 7:55-60; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; John 17:20-26 (61). *“So that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you.”*

Monday, Jun 03, 2019

MEMORIAL OF CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Embolden the young and the restless

Young people often get a bad rap. They're apathetic, entitled, superficial, and underachieving, older folks sometimes say. But cut them some slack—it isn't easy being young, and each new generation faces challenges and pressures the previous ones didn't. And the young, by virtue of their youth, have admirable qualities—idealism, energy, and fearlessness, to name a few—that everyone could emulate. Saint Charles Lwanga, martyred in Uganda in 1886, is a patron of youth because he helped them resist an abusive ruler. Embolden the young to do the right thing by encouraging the strengths that come with their age.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33 (297). *“In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”*

Tuesday, Jun 04, 2019

EASTER WEEKDAY

All together now

With Pentecost drawing near, the disciples of Jesus went to a room to pray and wait for the coming of the Spirit that Christ had promised before he ascended to the right hand of God. In one sense they were hiding in fear, but in another the small community was gathering the energy that would burst forth in tongues of fire and the tongues of all nations to fill the world with the gospel of Jesus. Gathered together, they were beginning to understand what it would mean to follow one who would now be present to them in a different way than they had known, and to learn how to be at one with Christ and one another—a call to communion and action we still hear today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a (298). *“I pray for . . . the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours.”*

Wednesday, Jun 05, 2019

MEMORIAL OF BONIFACE, BISHOP, MARTYR

Meet hostility with kindness

Boniface (675-754) was an English monk who spent most of his life as a missionary in present-day Germany. Although nominally Christian, many Germanic people had returned to pre-Christian beliefs and practices. Commissioned as a bishop by Pope Gregory II, Boniface was sent to counter the work of lax missionaries who

had offered poor instruction. Boniface's missionary success inspired many others to join him as he opened monasteries throughout the country. Facing resistance later in life, he was martyred in 754. Boniface's correspondence gives testament to a loving man devoted to the gospel. Inspired by Boniface's kindness and work to change people's hearts, listen thoughtfully today to someone who thinks differently than you do.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 20:28-28; John 17:11b-19 (299). *“I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you.”*

Thursday, Jun 06, 2019

MEMORIAL OF NORBERT, BISHOP

Encounters of the third kind

Did you know there are members of Catholic religious orders who are laypeople? Some of them belong to what are called third, or tertiary, orders, and most major religious orders include them. Members are men and women who do not necessarily live in community (though some do) but nonetheless participate in the good works of the larger order to which they belong. Saint Norbert was one of the first church figures to initiate a third order. He prepared a set of religious practices that those in secular life could follow. If you feel yourself drawn to a religious lifestyle despite being firmly anchored in a secular life, explore the possibilities third orders offer.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26 (300). *“I wish that where I am they also may be with me.”*

Friday, Jun 07, 2019

EASTER WEEKDAY

Breakfast is served

The gospel contains a lovely story we can take with us from this Easter season, which ends this Sunday with the celebration of Pentecost. Peter and the other disciples were at a loss as to what to do with themselves after Jesus' death, so they did the only thing they knew how to do: They went fishing. After a fruitless night on the sea, they returned to shore to find the risen Christ cooking breakfast for them over a charcoal fire. Jesus serves the hungry fishermen and they share a meal. Wouldn't you love to have been there? The fact is, we have a standing invitation. The kitchen is open, the cook is available. Have a seat at the table.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19 (301). *“Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’”*

Saturday, Jun 08, 2019

EASTER WEEKDAY

The beloved is . . . you!

The identity of the anonymous “Beloved Disciple” is one of the great mysteries of the New Testament. He is mentioned only in the Gospel of John, which states this disciple is also its author, leading many to assume the author was John the Apostle. Scholars have debated who else it might be: Lazarus, Mary Magdalene, Jesus' brother James, among others. But ponder this: Maybe it's you. Anglican author Martin L. Smith suggests, “Perhaps the disciple is never named . . . so that we can more easily accept that he bears witness to an intimacy that is meant for each one of us.”

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25 (302). *“What concern is it of yours? You follow me.”*

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



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