

Sunday, Apr 22, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Your turn to serve

Wise. Brave. Humble. Seekers of the common good above personal ambition. The world can't get enough good leaders, and the best way to acquire the leaders we need in every aspect of modern life is for all of us to strive to be leaders right where we are. On this 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the church particularly seeks leaders in ordained ministry, religious life, societies of apostolic life, secular institutes of service, and for the missions. Take a chance. Ask the question. How can you best put your gifts at the disposal of God's purposes?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18 (50).
"A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Monday, Apr 23, 2018

MEMORIAL OF GEORGE, MARTYR

Ready to don your armor?

Old maps would indicate the end of the known world with the phrase, "There be dragons here." It was a way of saying, "It's probably not a good idea to go there." In a legend of Saint George, he did not shy away from doing battle with a dragon. In the only story of a canonized saint fighting such a creature, he not only killed this menacing animal that an army could not slay but also saved a princess, preached to the grateful people, distributed his reward money to the poor, and went on his way. Not a bad day's work. What dragons of the unknown—of ignorance and the fear that accompanies it—can you slay? What good word or gift can you pass along as you go your way?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10 (279). *"Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."*

Tuesday, Apr 24, 2018

MEMORIAL OF FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRIEST, MARTYR

Born again to the same job

Lawyers are traditionally the butt of jokes for their ability to take any side of an argument. But many put their skills to use in the cause of justice. Saint Fidelis (d. 1622), nicknamed the Poor Man's Lawyer, decided to speak out only for the sake of the gospel. He joined the Capuchins and persuaded many through his preaching, his kindness as a confessor, and his devotion to the sick. Consider how your words and actions today have the power to testify for or against the gospel you believe.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 (280). *"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*

Wednesday, Apr 25, 2018

FEAST OF MARK, EVANGELIST

Worth another read

Written about 40 years after Christ's Resurrection, the Gospel of Mark is our closest and freshest gospel on the events of Jesus' life. Like any great reporter, the evangelist does not insinuate himself into the story, which leaves us uncertain as to who he was. He could be the John Mark who was a cousin of Barnabas and associate of Paul, the Mark who is a later assistant to Peter, or both. One thing we do know is that he heeded Jesus'

commission to proclaim the Good News to all the world. Generations of believers have heard or read Mark's story. Even if you've read it a hundred times, Mark's gospel is worth another read.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 (555). *"Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News!"*

Thursday, Apr 26, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Wash up for supper

In the ancient world, when sandals were common footwear, foot-washing was an act of hospitality offered by a host when guests arrived at a house. Typically guests washed their own feet or a servant washed them, but a host wishing to show great respect for guests might do the washing him- or herself. Jesus sends us a clear signal by washing his disciples' feet at the Last Supper. If we are willing to serve others with the same spirit of humility and hospitality, there will be a place at the eternal banquet for us as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20 (282). *"When Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, he said to them: 'Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master.'"*

Friday, Apr 27, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Find your own path

Modern gurus abound on talk shows and blogs, full of advice about how you should live your life. Some of their suggestions may be helpful; the best ones are borrowed from folk wisdom, good psychology, or even scripture, once or twice removed. Jesus has already issued the invitation to illuminate your path by following his way. Saint Anthony Claret (1807-70) underscored this invitation with a telling directive: "Choose now what you would wish to have chosen at life's end." At every fork in the road, keep this suggestion in mind.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6 (283). *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'"*

Saturday, Apr 28, 2018

MEMORIAL OF PETER CHANEL, PRIEST, MARTYR

Let God work in God's ways

Saint Peter Chanel was martyred in 1841 at the age of 38 on the island of Futuna in Oceania. He anticipated such an end to his life, hoping that it would bring about the conversion of the island's inhabitants to Christianity. It did. And while some may have initially converted due to fear of reprisal by the French for killing their missionary, this also shows how God works in mysterious ways, ways most of us cannot expect. Peter expected God to work his wonders. How often do you let go and let God take control? Indulge in some great expectations today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14 (284). *"Whatever you ask in my name, I will do."*

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



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