

Sunday, Jun 28, 2020
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Welcome, prophet

Younger generations are quick to tell older ones how wrong they are about everything. But wise elders don't dismiss challenges to their perspective lightly—especially when they have some truth to them. A prophetic word may at times come more naturally to the young: free of the accretions of habit and with no comfortable niche to defend (yet). Take time today to talk across the age gap. Hear the words to another generation's songs, consider their protests, withhold instant judgment. Having a conversation partner, as we've learned from the time of isolation, is worth the investment.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a; Romans 6:3-4, 8-11; Matthew 10:37-42 (97). *"Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward."*

Monday, Jun 29, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

A matching set for all eternity

Saints Peter and Paul are together the patrons of Rome, where both were martyred around the same time. The two men had their differences, but they were central in establishing the Christian faith, which eventually won over the Roman Empire despite fierce opposition from officials. Saint Augustine wrote: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one. . . Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith." Amen.

TODAY'S READINGS: Day: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19 (591). *"Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

Tuesday, Jun 30, 2020

MEMORIAL OF THE FIRST MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH OF ROME

Holiness involves dying a little each day

Tertullian, one of the first Christian theologians, wrote: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." The church's first martyrs are commemorated a day after the feast of Saints Peter and Paul—who tradition says were also victims of Nero's slaughter, beginning in 64. And martyrs aren't meant to be just a memory but also a model. Look no further than first responders and essential workers to see modern examples of those following the model of self-sacrifice for the sake of others. Offer a sign of gratitude for their service.

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Matthew 8:23-27 (378). *"Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?"*

Wednesday, Jul 01, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JUNÍPERO SERRA, PRIEST

Live and learn

Missionaries in the age of the Iberian conquest of the Americas played a complex role, as protectors of the Indians but also projectors of the empire's power. Junípero Serra shares that mixed legacy—a mission priest who brought the saving power of Jesus but also was part of a colonization project that brought harsh treatment and epidemics. We know a little more about

indigenous rights today—and about epidemics too, for that matter. Keep the faith, but mix it with a healthy dose of respect for different traditions.

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 5:14-15, 21-24; Matthew 8:28-34 (379). *"Seek good and not evil, that you may live."*

Thursday, Jul 02, 2020

The healing power of compassion

Jesus healed in ways we consider miraculous, not because he had anything to prove about his power, but because his compassion urged him to alleviate suffering in whatever ways he could. His teaching and his healing went hand in hand: Both were focused on bringing us to wholeness. When he calls the paralytic man his son or child, it displays a mark of the tenderness he feels for all of us. Jesus draws us close in a healing embrace. Accept his healing today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 7:10-17; Matthew 9:1-8 (380). *"Courage, child, your sins are forgiven."*

Friday, Jul 03, 2020

FEAST OF THOMAS, APOSTLE

Beyond all doubt

Thomas may have started out doubting, but once he saw and touched the truth, his faith took him very far indeed. It is said he traveled to the southwest coast of India in the year 52 and spent the last 20 years of his life there planting Christianity. To this day, "Saint Thomas Christians" in India trace their origins back to the apostle. In fact, Thomas is so popular that India has issued a commemorative stamp in his honor! Doubt does not oppose faith, it makes faith possible.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29 (593). *"Thomas answered and said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'"*

Saturday, Jul 04, 2020

INDEPENDENCE DAY

'Tis of thee

It's not all that well known that at its founding, the United States was not a terribly tolerant collection of colonies when it came to religion. Every colony but Pennsylvania had some form of anti-Catholic law at the time of Independence. Thankfully, customs, attitudes, and laws have evolved. But freedom can never be taken for granted, lest it be taken for good! Celebrate your freedom today—as an American and as a Catholic!

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 9:11-15; Matthew 9:14-17 (382). *"The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."*