

I WILL ASK THE
FATHER
AND HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER
ADVOCATE
TO BE WITH YOU ALWAYS

John 14:16

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 17, 2020

Weekly Scripture

Sunday, May 17

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

1 Pt 3:15-18

Jn 14:15-21

Monday, May 18

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:11-15

Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b

Jn 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday, May 19

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:22-34

Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8

Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday, May 20

Easter Weekday

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1

Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14

Jn 16:12-15

Thursday, May 21

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:1-8

Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

Jn 16:16-20

Friday, May 22

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:9-18

Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Jn 16:20-23

Saturday, May 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:23-28

Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10

Jn 16:23b-28

Access *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*
(NABRE) online at
<http://cms.usccb.org/bible/index.cfm>

I WILL NOT
LEAVE YOU ORPHANS;
I WILL COME TO YOU.

JOHN 14:18

“If You Love Me...”

Gospel Reflection Based on John 14:15-21

We have just heard the words of Jesus: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth” (Jn 14:15-17a). With these words Jesus reveals the profound link between faith and the profession of Divine Truth, between faith and dedication to Jesus Christ in love, between faith and the practice of a life inspired by the commandments. All three dimensions of faith are the fruit of the action of the Holy Spirit. This action is manifested as an inner force that harmonizes the hearts of the disciples with the Heart of Christ and makes them capable of loving as he loved them. Hence faith is a gift, but at the same time it is a task.

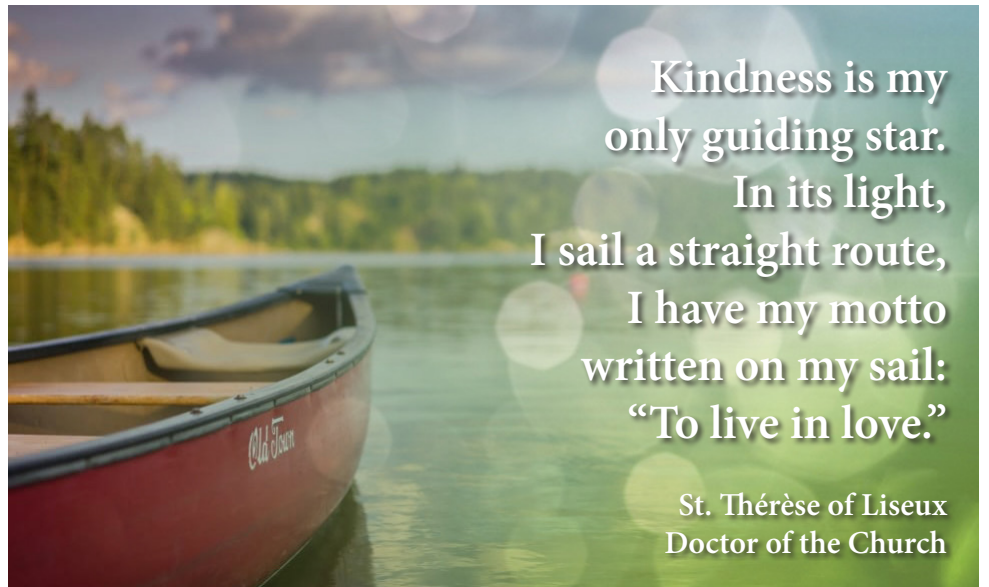
Christ says: “If you love me ...” Faith does not just mean accepting a certain number of abstract truths about the mysteries of God, of man, of life and death, of future realities. Faith consists in an intimate relationship with Christ, a relationship based on love of him who loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:11), even to the total offering of himself. “God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). What other response can we give to a love so great, if not that of a heart that is open and ready to love?

But what does it mean to love Christ? It means trusting him even in times of trial, following him faithfully even on the Via Crucis, in the hope that soon the morning of the Resurrection will come. Entrusting ourselves to Christ, we lose nothing, we gain everything. In his hands our life acquires its true meaning.

Love for Christ expresses itself in the will to harmonize our own life with the thoughts and sentiments of his Heart. This is achieved through interior union based on the grace of the Sacraments, strengthened by continuous prayer, praise, thanksgiving and penance. We have to listen attentively to the inspirations that he evokes through his Word, through the people we meet, through the situations of daily life. To love him is to remain in dialogue with him, in order to know his will and to put it into effect promptly.

Excerpted from Homily by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Warsaw, 26 May 2006

http://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/homilies/2006/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20060526_varavia.html



On the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths of faith".⁵⁶ The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men "and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin".⁵⁷ (CCC, 234)

The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the "mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God".⁵⁸ To be sure, God has left traces of his Trinitarian being in his work of creation and in his Revelation throughout the Old Testament. But his inmost Being as Holy Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to reason alone or even to Israel's faith before the Incarnation of God's Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit. (CCC, 237)

"O blessed light, O Trinity and first Unity!"⁹³ God is eternal blessedness, undying life, unfading light. God is love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God freely wills to communicate the glory of his blessed life. Such is the "plan of his loving kindness", conceived by the Father before the foundation of the world, in his beloved Son: "He destined us in love to be his sons" and "to be conformed to the image of his Son", through "the spirit of sonship".⁹⁴ This plan is a "grace [which] was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began", stemming immediately from Trinitarian love.⁹⁵ It unfolds in the work of creation, the whole history of salvation after the fall, and the missions of the Son and the Spirit, which are continued in the mission of the Church.⁹⁶ (CCC, 257)

Catechism of the Catholic Church, https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p1s2c1p2.htm



St. Rita of Cascia

Feast Day May 22

Rita was a very religious child and visited the Augustinian nuns in Cascia regularly. But her call to serve the Lord was abandoned when her parents arranged her marriage to an abusive and angry man who worked as the town watchman. She and her twin sons lived under her husband's abuse for eighteen years, until he was killed in an ambush. She taught her sons forgiveness, and when they died she was grief-stricken. She entered the convent and lived there for forty years. The patroness of loneliness was a sad wife, a grieving mother, and, in the end, a bedridden nun. However, through it all she was devoted to the Lord.

Prayer in Loneliness

Sweet and loving St. Rita of Cascia,
I entreat your prayers in battling this loneliness. Ask the Lord to enable me to seek out those who need me, the many who love me. Ask God to help me feel that love and hold it close to my heart so that I never feel alone in His grace.
Amen.

Philip Lief Group, Inc. (2004). *Saintly Advice: A Prayer for Every Problem*. Capodanno, J. (Ed.). Kansas City, MO: Barnes and Noble

A Twenty-Four-Hour Prayer

from Mother Teresa: In My Own Words

There are some people who, in order not to pray, use as an excuse the fact that life is so hectic that it prevents them from praying.

This cannot be. Prayer does not demand that we interrupt our work, but that we continue working as if it were a prayer.

It is not necessary to always be meditating, nor to consciously experience the sensation that we are talking to God, no matter how nice that would be. What matters is being with him, living in him, in his will. To love with a pure heart, to love everybody, especially to love the poor, is a twenty-four-hour prayer.

Mother Teresa (1996). Prayer. In J. L. González-Balado (Ed). *Mother Teresa: In My Own Words*, Gramercy Books, New York.



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