



Ministry of Praise

6-12 September

Weekly Intentions:

~For those who go hungry or without, may we find a way to help those who are in need.

~For those who are traveling over the Labor Day weekend.

~For those who make prayer shawls for the parish, may they know that their worthwhile ministry is much appreciated by those who receive a blanket.

~That those who are thinking about going through the RCIA process hear the call of God this year.



Be
strong,
do
not
fear!

Is 35:4

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Take it all in

In religion class an indignant little boy, hands on hips, declares, “I don’t think it’s fair that blind people have better hearing than the rest of us!” Recognizing an opportunity, the teacher instructs her students to sit down, close their eyes, and listen. For the next ten minutes the children hear the sounds they usually tune out—birds chirping outside, a door closing down the hall, the drone of an airplane overhead—and come away with a renewed sense of wonder and appreciation for their sense of hearing. Today is a good day to celebrate our senses. We might close our eyes for a few minutes in order just to listen, hold a loved one’s hand, or stop to *really* smell the coffee—and taste it, too.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

LABOR DAY

A labor of love

Labor Day is a good day to reflect on the Catholic Church’s extensive body of social encyclicals. *Rerum novarum* (Of New Things) issued in 1891 is the granddaddy of them all. Authors Tim and Jean Unsworth wrote in *Upon This Rock* (ACTA, 1991): “This was the most significant of all the encyclicals before or since. *Rerum novarum* broke down the barriers that separated the church from the worker. Never before had the church spoken on social matters in such an official and comprehensive fashion.” Pope Benedict XVI recently added his contri-

bution to the tradition of social teachings with *Caritas in veritate* (Charity in Truth). Read up!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Colossians 1:24-2:3; Luke 6:6-11*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Great expectations

Disappointments come in all varieties: in finance, romance, parenting, and professional fulfillment. Some of us dream big dreams only to reap what seem humble returns. Should we set our sights lower, then, to keep disappointment at bay? For his part Saint Paul does recommend an attitude adjustment: Aim for love. Those who orient their actions and intentions toward love of God will not be disappointed because God is glad to employ all things, successes and failures together, to fulfill divine purposes. Just ask Saints Joachim and Anne, aged parents of a late-arriving child soon to be called “full of grace.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

FEAST OF PETER CLAVER, PRIEST

No need to seek approval

The Spanish Jesuit priest Saint Peter Claver spent 40 years ministering to African slaves arriving in the port of Cartagena, in what is now Colombia. Many thought he was wasting his time and even opposed his work with people whose welfare was almost entirely neglected. In the last few years of his life,



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“He even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

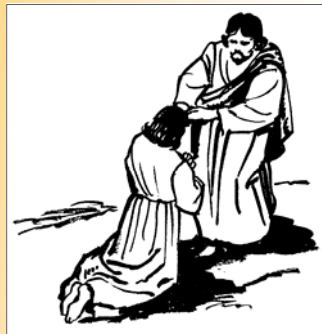
“Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?”

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God.”

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you . . . on account of the Son of Man.”

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love.”

“A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher.”



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Peter himself was nearly forgotten, having become ill and confined to his room. Yet his death in 1654 prodded the city into the realization they had lost a saint. Even if your efforts to help others go unnoticed—or if noticed, perhaps criticized—know it’s likely that the beneficiaries of your assistance do realize what you’ve done, and that God certainly does.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

You are what you wear

Clothing has a dual purpose: to protect the fragile body from harsh weather and to adorn and identify ourselves and what we are about: the business suit of an executive, the torn jeans of a teenager, the uniform of a soldier. So it makes sense that Saint Paul says we should “put on” virtue; we should wear compassion, kindness, patience, gentleness—colorful and obvious as our outfits. Paul wants us to wear our allegiance to Christ—“on our sleeves” if you will—not as a boast like a Gucci or Prada logo, but as a simple, humble sign that this woman, this man, this youngster belongs to Christ, and you’ll know it because you can see that she or he is dressed in love.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 6:27-38*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Becoming like the teacher

Remember that frightening moment when you first realized: “Oh, my gosh, I’m becoming my mother!”—or your

father or whoever it was staring back at you from the mirror of your life? We do tend to grow up to become like our parents in many ways, whether we like it or not. Perhaps an even *more* frightening realization is that someday our kids will be saying the very same thing. We put a lot of time and effort into trying to control our kids when, if the above is true, we ought to spend at least as much energy controlling ourselves. That way, when the student becomes like the teacher, we will have made some progress.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Readings: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Luke 6:39-42*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

A name you can trust

Dating back originally to the 16th century, the feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary was reinstated on the Catholic calendar in 2000 by Pope John Paul II. It celebrates the gift of Mary’s name for when we are in need of a mother’s care. So in the Mass for this feast the priest says: “Grant that we who call upon the holy name of Mary, our mother, with confidence in her protection may receive strength and comfort in all our needs.” Today keep the name of the Blessed Virgin on your lips, so as to be prepared for the moment you are in need.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49*