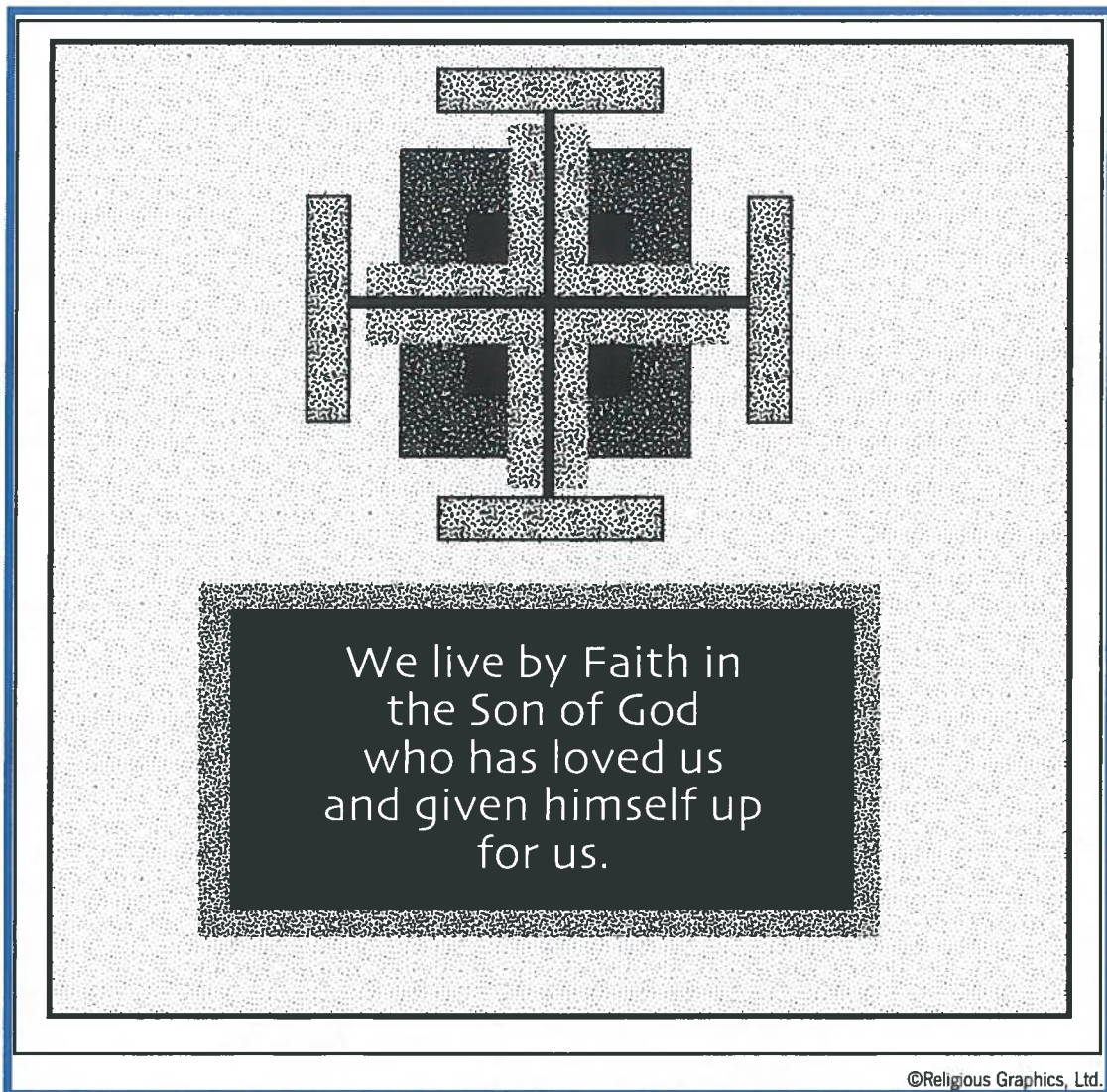


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JUNE 17-18, 2023**



**Weekend Masses:**

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun 9:00 am	

**Confessions:**

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

**Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550**

Quotable: "My Father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me."  
 ~Jim Valvano

June 24-25, 2023		12th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Saturday, June 24 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Sunday, June 25 7:30 am</b>	<b>St. James Sunday, June 25 9:00 am</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Sunday, June 25 10:30 am</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron		Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Roger Jensen Gery Wright Todd Datweiler Dave Emling	Daryl Ferris Kyle Ferris	Dennis O'Connor Dallas Ferris Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke	Joe Smolkovich Wayne Bisailon Brent Fulton Marko Smolkovich
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Emling	Mike Hertz	Carrie Abrassart	Dana Masching
<b>Servers</b>				Sydney Weldon
<b>Greeters</b>			<b>Greeter— Dallas Ferris R. Leader—The Peerboltes</b>	Stacy Powers

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, June 19 (SMM)**  
 8:00 am +Ron & Marie Anderson (Jackie Eberle)

**Tuesday, June 20 (SH)**  
 8:00 am +Connie Denault (Joe/Rhonda Berns)

**Wednesday, June 21 (SJ)**  
 8:00 am No Mass

**Friday, June 23 (SMM)**  
 8:00 am No Mass

**Saturday, June 24 (SMM)**  
 5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

**Sunday, June 25**

7:30 am (SH) +Joann Anderson (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)  
 + Jim Webber (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)

9:00 am (SJ) +Mark Benoit (His Family)  
 +Geri Tobenski (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

10:30am (SMM) +James Feller (Dennis/Janice Schneider)  
 +Harold Fournier (Pat Irle)

**A Look Ahead**

June 17/18—2nd Collection for Retired/Infirm Priests  
 July 1/2—2nd collection for Peter's Pence  
 Friday, July 7—First Friday Adoration at Sacred Heart



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 Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com  
 Home—815-933-4077

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 TriParish web page – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)  
 Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities  
**Tri Parish Church office** –Barb Riker 426-2550  
 Julie Bisailon 426-2550

**Bulletin** – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550  
 debjen04@gmail.com

**Religious Education** –  
 St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)  
 St. James – Carolyn Levyclevystjames@gmail.com  
 Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

**Prayer Line**– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773  
 SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com  
 St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

**Question of the week:**  
 How am I called to be a laborer for the harvest? What concrete thing can I do this week to carry out Jesus' mission?

## Collections Week of June 10-11, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,916  
 St. James—\$2,373  
 Sacred Heart—\$1,109

Thank you for your generosity!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of  
**+William Neitzke**



father of Father Ron Neitzke

May he and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.  
 Our sincere sympathy to Father Ron, his family and friends.

### REFLECTION

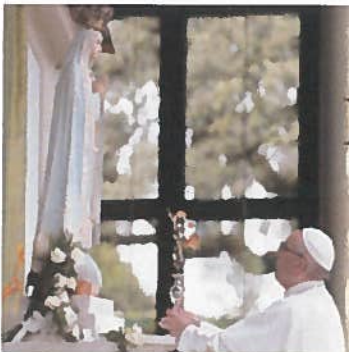
### THE MAGISTERIUM

The *magisterium* is a term that refers to the teaching authority given to the apostles by Christ, an authority handed on through the ages to their legitimate successors. The apostles laid the foundation for our church's faith life; each generation builds on that foundation. The magisterium guides this gradual building.

### Gospel Shorts

### Master Class

Jesus, after teaching, proclaiming the Good News and curing "every disease and every sickness," called his disciples to that same ministry. We are called to that same ministry as well.



SUPPORT THE WORKS OF THE  
 HOLY FATHER THROUGH THE  
**Peter's Pence  
 Collection**  
*Be a sign of  
 mercy.*

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, a humanitarian crisis began for Ukrainians, whose lives were shattered by the violence of war. Many left their homes in eastern cities in Ukraine for cities in the west, such as Lviv, further from the most intense fighting. From the beginning of the war, the Holy Father pleaded for an end to the violence and expressed his love and concern for the Ukrainian people who were its victims. In solidarity with the victims of war, the papal abbot, Cardinal Kenan Kiroska, made two visits to Ukraine in March 2022. He first visited the cities of Rivne and Zhytka and other regions directly affected by the early conflict. He returned to Ukraine to celebrate Mass in the cathedral in Lviv and to deliver an ambulance donated by the Holy Father to the Center for Mother and Child Health to most children displaced by the war.

The Holy Father's charitable outreach to victims of war, migrants and refugees, and the poor affected by illness and natural disasters is supported by contributions to the Peter's Pence Collection. When you participate in the collection, you join Catholics across the globe in supporting the pope's mission of mercy as well as the activities of the Holy See's dicasteries that sustain his ministry.

Support for such papal efforts is secured in the scriptural message to take care of the poor and express mercy with

the Holy Father in two ways: through the ongoing activities of the Holy See and through the charitable works of the Holy Father on behalf of those most in need.

### How You Can Help

**PRAY**  
 Pray for the Holy Father, for those he reaches out to serve in compassion, and for the ongoing activities of the Holy See, all of which benefit from the Peter's Pence Collection.

**SHARE**  
 Share this bulletin insert with anyone who might be interested.

**GIVE**  
 Give generously to this collection as a sign of mercy to those who suffer around the globe and in support of the ongoing work of the Holy See. By doing so, you help build up the Church so that it will continue to minister to all for generations to come.

For more information on Peter's Pence, please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website: <https://www.vatican.va/peter-pence/en/index.html> (English) or <https://www.vatican.va/peter-pence/uk/en/index.html> (English).

### Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—  
 St. James—  
 Sacred Heart—

◆ The week of June 18th, the St. Joseph candle burns in prayer for all father's - living and deceased.

### All Parishes—

◆ The rosary makers are asking for your help to buy supplies. We have made and sent 26,485 rosary's please make donations to St James CCW in a separate envelope.  
 We appreciate any help you can give so that we can continue our ministry. Thank you



We are excited to invite all parishioners with wedding anniversaries in 2023 for **10, 25, and 50 yrs. and above** to the 2023 Wedding Anniversary Mass, celebrated by Bishop Ronald Hicks! The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St Raymond in Joliet at 2pm on August 27, 2023.

If you are interested in attending, please call the TriiParish office with the following information:

### A Stewardship Moment Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 17/18, 2023

In this weekend's Gospel reading from Saint Matthew, we hear of Jesus calling his disciples to enter into a partnership with him to advance his mission of healing, reconciling and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Good stewards understand this mission to begin with gratitude and trust and a willingness to share the wonderful hospitality of God to all human beings. A good reflection for this week: How do we understand our call to enter into a closer partnership with Jesus and to bring the Good News to neighbors and strangers alike?

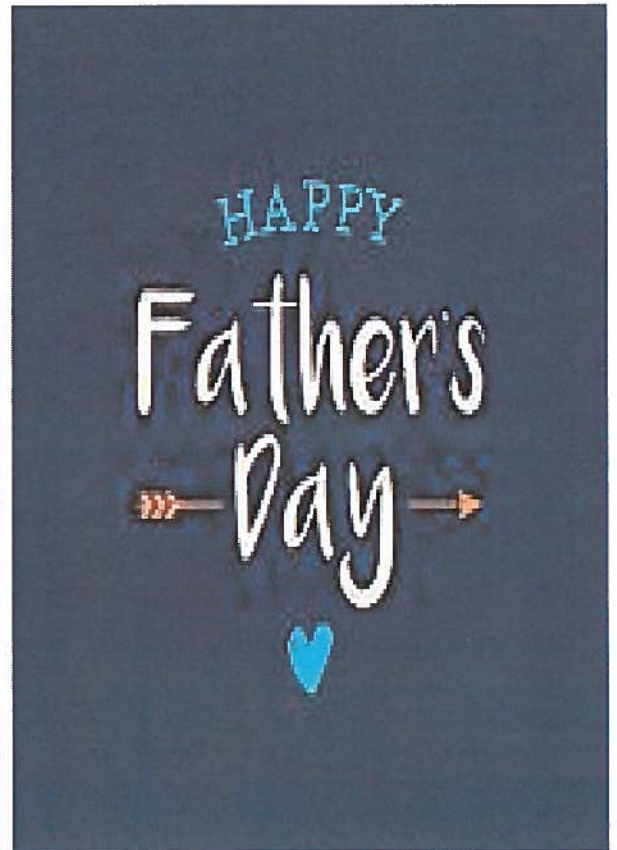
Your faith has saved you. Go in Peace.



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Welcome into the faith to  
**Grady Wayne Spraggon**  
 son of Benjamin and Molly Spraggon  
 who was baptized at  
 St. Margaret Mary on June 11, 2023



### A Fathers' Day Prayer

Dear God, we come before You today with a heart of thanksgiving for all fathers in the world. Thank you, Father, for designing fathers to be the pillar of support in families, the breadwinners, and the essential support in child-rearing. Whether they have been good or bad fathers, may we find it in our hearts to forgive them because no one is perfect. You always have a reason for creating families the way they are, and every father in every household has been placed there according to Your will.

We also pray for all single fathers out there. Thank You for their strength, for their perseverance, and love to raise their children despite the difficulty they faced in parenthood. We ask that God, bless them with wisdom, discernment, protection for their health, and faith in You to become even better fathers for their children.

We pray for the distant fathers who have been alienated from their children because of their jobs or due to other circumstances. Father, please change them and allow them to see how they can build a healthy relationship with their children. Remove all barriers that prevent their union, Lord. For fathers that are serving on the frontlines, we ask God that Your sovereign hand be upon them and protect them from all things that may harm or threaten their lives. Grant them the chance to reunite with their families one day.

Finally, we pray for all soon-to-be dads or new dads. We pray that they will follow in Your footsteps for God, You are their greatest role model as a father. May they grow to become more and more Christ-like each day, leading their household to draw closer to You. Remove all fear and worries that they have about fatherhood, and let them focus on Your faithfulness and providence for them.

We lift all fathers in the world to You. Work in them oh Lord to be who You want them to be. Amen.

**Saint of the week: St. Romuald (June 19)** was a member of the Italian nobility. He spent a wild youth. Acting as second, he witnessed his father kill another man in a duel, and Romuald sought to atone for the crime by becoming a Benedictine monk at Classe, Italy. He was the abbot there from 996 to 999. A wanderer by nature, he established several hermitages and monasteries in central and northern Italy. He tried to evangelize the Slavs, but met with little success. He founded the Camaldolese Benedictines and spent the last fourteen years of his life in seclusion at Mount Sitria, Bifulco, and Val di Castro. He was the spiritual teacher of Saint Wolfgang of Ratisbon.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Gervase (June 19)** a second century martyr, was the son of Saint Vitalis of Milan and Saint Valeria of Milan. He and his beheaded twin brother Protase are considered the first martyrs of Milan as Saint Ambrose, guided by a vision, unearthed their remains in 386. Saint Paulinus of Nola says the martyrs appeared to Saint Ambrose in an apparition. Even when the relics were discovered, nothing was remembered about them except their names and that they were martyrs in an early persecution, perhaps under Nero. The surviving Acts of Gervase are worthless as biography as ancient writers invented details to fill in the missing details.

#### Questions Catholics Ask

**"I feel called to be a sister, but I am not yet 18 years old. Should I follow in the footsteps Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (who entered religious life) early, or wait?"**

It can be challenging to know what to do with feelings of being called to religious life when you are younger than the typical minimum age requirements to enter a community. What should you do? What is God saying to you? How could this possibly be for real?

You are not alone in feeling this way, and there is no doubt in my mind that God is calling you into deeper relationship. That is very exciting and also probably a bit scary because it can be tough to know what to do, especially because most religious communities require that a candidate for membership be at least 18 years old—and it's also tough when your friends and classmates might not be thinking the same thing!

I am glad to hear that you are a friend of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. She is a very good companion for you during this time because she herself desired to become a Carmelite nun even though she was too young to formally enter. But Thérèse did not take "too young" as the end of the story. She followed through on the calling she felt. Writes Father James Martin, S.J. on the blog *In All Things* in honor of the feast day of Thérèse:

"Faced with the sad prospect of having to wait until the age of 16 to enter the monastery, an adolescent Thérèse travels to Rome with her father to petition the pope for a special dispensation to enter earlier. Her request is granted a few months later by the local bishop, and Thérèse enters the 'Carmel' on April 9, 1888, at age 15."

What is important is not necessarily *how* Thérèse followed through on her calling but *that* she followed through. As we follow in the footsteps of Thérèse and other saints, we are called to take their stories to heart and prayerfully consider how their stories can illuminate our own. One of the biggest messages in Thérèse's story is that she didn't give up even though others would say it was impossible or foolish or childish of her to think she could be called to become a nun.

So what are some steps that you can take in order to be faithful to the calling you feel? You don't have to petition the pope to get moving on responding to God's call! Here are a few resources to help get you going:

- "Four steps to hearing your call" by Sister Anita Louise Lowe, O.S.B.
- "How to become a Catholic nun" by A Nun's Life Ministry
- "Nine ways to open up God's will for you" by Father Michael Scanlan, T.O.R

So keep on the path of Saint Thérèse by pursuing your calling, praying, seeking counsel from others, and exploring how you can most fully be yourself in God.

## Catholic Snacks Get Fed

Which young venerable took his religious vows as he was dying?  
Nicola D'Onofrio did not let cancer stop him from consecrating himself to God.

Little Nicola D'Onofrio neatly hung his altar-boy cassock and surplice on their rack and exited the sacristy. His day had begun—as usual—with a two-mile walk to the church and the quiet duties of assisting Father at Mass. As he left the sacristy, looking forward to the walk home and breakfast, Nicola caught sight of a visiting priest waiting for him.

"You're Nicola?" said the priest. "I've seen you serving at Mass the last few days. I'm a priest of St. Camillus. I wonder if you'd consider joining the Camillian students in Rome?"

Nicola's heart beat quickly. "Yes, I would," he said. "I'd like that very much."

The Camillian priest's invitation was the turning point in Nicola's life. He knew that he wanted to be a priest, and the beautiful, self-sacrificing vows of the Camillians captivated him.

His parents had other ideas. Nicola was too young, for one—he was ten years old—and they wanted him to take over the farm, for another. But God's call cannot be ignored, and eventually Nicola went to Rome.

For six years, he studied in the Camillian school. Joyfully, he made his temporary promises.

Then God introduced another turning point. Nicola experienced severe pain for months. At last he went to a doctor and was told he had cancer. Everyone prayed for his healing. His superiors sent him to Lourdes. Nicola himself asked for life and the beautiful path of the priesthood—but above all, he prayed for God's will to triumph, whatever it might be.

After two years it was clear that Nicola's life was slipping away. He was allowed to make his final vows early. Two weeks later—smiling and calling out to Jesus, Mary, and his patron, Thérèse of Lisieux, that he loved them—he passed away at the age of just twenty-one.

From an early age, Nicola's uncommon virtue impressed those about him. Virtue is something we all need to grow in.

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Venerable Nicola (phot credit: Thebaptiste/CC BY-SA 4.0)

### Humor

### Domestic Bliss

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His three children were outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house.

Proceeding to the entry, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over, and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room, the TV was loudly blaring a cartoon channel, and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over the toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she may be ill, or that something serious had happened. He found her lounging in the bedroom, still curled in the bed in her pajamas, reading a novel.

She looked up at him, smiled, and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?"

She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work and ask me what in the world did I do today?"

"Yes," was his incredulous reply.



"Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples..."

MT. 10:1



Renew our strength  
in this Eucharist

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June 18, 2023

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 19:2-6a | Rom 5:6-11 | Mt 9:36-10:8

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

As a teenager, I was someone you might call “Suzy high school.” I played sports, was president of my class, had many friends, etc. But there were times I made some bad choices and ended up having to face my parents with the truth. I remember being afraid of what they would think, even wondering if my actions would make them love me less. Thankfully, I was blessed with incredible parents whose loving lessons throughout my life pointed me toward our Father’s love. St. Paul gives us a glimpse of how deep the love of our Father is in the second reading: “But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” God loves us so completely that even before we approach him to ask for forgiveness, his arms are open wide. Look up at the cross and let that abundant, unending love wash over you. Reflect on what is said in the first reading from the Book of Exodus: “Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine.”

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How can we respond to this great love we have been shown by our heavenly Father? Jesus is pretty clear on this topic, isn’t he? “Love one another as I have loved you.” Not a lot of ambiguity or nuance there. Daunting? Doesn’t need to be. The words of today’s responsorial psalm proclaim: “Know that the Lord is God; he made us, his we are; his people, the flock he tends.” His flock is all of us - including the poor, the depressed, the lonely. Perhaps we can challenge ourselves this summer to step out in service to God’s flock by calling on someone in our own lives who may feel marginalized, frightened, or anxious, and be the hands and feet of our Father to them. Perhaps they do not know the depth of our Father’s love and we can reassure them of this. In today’s Gospel Jesus says: “Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.” We have been blessed by the sacrifice of the Lamb, and it is our responsibility to share that blessing with others.

**ACTION** One of the ministries I enjoy contributing to in my area is a Foster Closet. It stocks blankets, clothing, backpacks, toys, and many other products to allow foster children to have quality shopping experiences. If there is one near you, you might find that supporting these vulnerable children is a simple way to let them know they are infinitely worthy of God’s love.

**Sunday, Jun 18, 2023**

**Your name here**

At county fairs there always seems to be a stand where someone offers to write your name on a grain of rice. As novel a proposition as that is, perhaps there are better places to have our names inscribed. Scripture mentions a "Book of Life" eight times. It's described as the registry of the just—a desirable place to be listed. Martyrdom is one sure way to make the registry and promoting the gospel is another. Simply put, bring Jesus to others. Witness with your values, decisions, and resources. Add your name to the book.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 19:2-6a; Romans 5:6-11; Matthew 9:36—10:8 (91). *"The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew."*

**Monday, Jun 19, 2023**

**Take your place in paradise**

A thousand years ago, Italian monk Saint Romuald founded a religious order, the Camaldolese, that blended the Christian hermit tradition into monastic life. His monks lived in individual cells but participated in some communal activities. Romuald's rule of life put solitude and contemplation and meditation on the Psalms at the center of his order's spirituality. He wrote, "Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish. The path you must follow is in the Psalms—never leave it." Tap into this tradition and try finding a place of solitude and, with the Psalms handy, carve out some quiet time for contemplation in your busy day.

MEMORIAL OF ROMUALD, ABBOT

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Matthew 5:38-42 (365). *"But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil."*

**Tuesday, Jun 20, 2023**

**We are one vast body in this one vast Lord**

On this day in 1926, the 28th International Eucharistic Congress opened in Chicago, the first one held in the United States. Mass at Soldier Field attracted an estimated 400,000 people gathered in and around the stadium and featured a "Nuns and Women's Choir of 10,000 Voices." At its conclusion, 750,000 pilgrims joined a 40-mile eucharistic procession—on foot or by car, bus, and rail—to St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. A logistical marvel of mass transit, this gathering was as important for Chicago as it was for the U.S. church. Let these words, from 2021's international congress, be your meditation today: "He is our Lord and our Master, our friend and our food, our healer and our peace."

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; Matthew 5:43-48 (366).

*"They gave themselves first to the Lord and to us through the will of God."*

**Wednesday, Jun 21, 2023**

**Your mission**

The brief life of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga (he died at 23) is instructive for all who hope to raise or nurture young faith. Though he was raised in royal privilege, a book about the experiences of Jesuit missionaries in India inspired Aloysius to leave his comfortable world behind and dedicate his life to God. As it turned

out, his mission field would be closer to home, as he gave his life serving the sick during a terrible plague in Rome in 1591. Young people are inspired by heroic examples of service. Be that inspiration.

MEMORIAL OF ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (367). *"Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them .... your Father who sees in secret will repay you."*

**Thursday, Jun 22, 2023**

**Discipleship still can be costly**

Sir (and Saint) Thomas More, the British humanist and statesman, stared down King Henry VIII and paid the price. He was beheaded in 1535 for refusing to support the king's desire to control the Catholic Church. The 1960 play (and later film) *A Man for All Seasons* kept alive More's considerable reputation as martyr and man of letters. More's final words affirmed that he was the "king's good servant and God's first." Most of us won't have to die for our faith, but many will pay a price for doing the right and faithful thing in a difficult situation. What has your faith cost you?

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS MORE, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 11:1-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (368). *"Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."*

**Friday, Jun 23, 2023**

**'Tis a gift**

The classic rock song "Simple Man" was written by two musicians who had recently lost loved ones: a grandmother and a mother. As the two were sharing stories and advice from these women, the verses of a song began to emerge. The women's advice was simple: Remember God, slow down in life, follow your heart, and find everything you need in your soul. Living simply was key for these women, and it is key for our life as Christians. As you encounter the gospels in your prayer and during Mass, what values of simple living do you hear woven into its verses?

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30; Matthew 6:19-23 (369). *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth."*

**Saturday, Jun 24, 2023**

**Find your voice**

Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, stands in for all of us who fall silent when our doubt overcomes our faith. Along the path of life where we sometimes lose our way, it's difficult to trust that God is with us always. When Zechariah comes to his senses and realizes God is indeed active in his life through the wondrous birth of John, he is able to speak again. So it is with us. We find our authentic voice when we trust in God.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80 (587). *"He asked for a tablet and wrote, 'John is his name,' and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God."*

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



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