



May 3, 2015

New Vision

Easter is a time of grace, renewal, and new vision. The second reading reminds us to, “Love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” Jesus urges, “Remain in me, as I remain in you.”

Paul, newly converted, saw things in a new way but others remained suspicious of him. It would take time for people to accept that he had changed his ways. Barnabas gave Paul the support he needed so he would not be discouraged or persecuted.

- Have you ever been suspicious of someone who made a dramatic turnaround in their life?
- Have you ever made a drastic change and experienced the suspicion of others?
- Who do you shy away from - beggars, the homeless, alcoholics, prickly co-workers?

The Scriptures call us to continuous conversion. As a community of believers, we are called to support each other on this journey. Perform a loving deed. Offer the gift of encouragement by complimenting someone trying to make a positive change. Inspire others to do the same.

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May 10, 2015

Unconditional Love

God’s love is limitless, without conditions, and all-inclusive. As St. Peter says, "...God shows no partiality.”

In many ways, the calling of motherhood reflects God’s love for us. Mothers endure hardships, pain, disappointment, frustration, and fatigue so their children thrive. Our Lord does the same. How much hurt does He suffer while we ‘figure ourselves out?’

Motherhood can be a most rewarding vocation. There is pure joy watching your children grow to become successful adults and hopefully, love you in return. Similarly, our God loves us unconditionally in the hope that we will love Him too.

Many children in our world are motherless. Too many lose their mothers to domestic abuse, mental illness, war, violence, and diseases like HIV/AIDS.

As we celebrate Mother’s Day today, ask God to identify children who need our love. Whether born to us biologically, through adoption, or brought into our lives by someone else, may we be shower them with the unconditional love every human being needs.

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May 17, 2015

Ascension

The disciples were concerned about Jesus' departure. How would they stay connected with Him? Who would guide them? Jesus sent the Advocate to help them find Jesus in the people they encountered and in their surroundings. The Spirit was their connection to Jesus.

Two thousand years later, though our world seems very different, the Advocate remains with us, helping us to bring justice and peace to our troubled world. It can be difficult to find Jesus in the midst of struggles, strained relationships, violence, war, desperate poverty, racism, etc. Yet, Jesus is still present in our midst.

Would you like to increase your awareness of the presence of God? The Examen of Consciousness: Finding God in All Things is a prayer method by St. Ignatius of Loyola. This prayer helps you grow in spiritual sensitivity and recognize and receive God's care and assistance.

To learn more about this method of prayer visit <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-examen>

May 24, 2015

Pentecost

Today's Scriptures remind us that salvation belongs to all God's people. When the Spirit descended at Pentecost, each one heard in their own language! No one was excluded.

We too are called to spread the good news, speak boldly in the face of injustice, and bring the Spirit of Christ to our broken world – just like the disciples at the time of Pentecost.

In a world filled with injustice, religious persecution, war, and poverty, a culture of death, etc., it can be difficult to figure out where to begin.

Is there an issue you feel passionate about? Are you actively involved as a volunteer or advocate? If not, join others working to build God's Kingdom on earth.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' www.usccb.org website is filled with resources to help you learn more about the Church's teachings on injustice. Just click on the Get Involved tab and to access information about issues and action steps you can take.



May 31, 2015

Relationships

On Trinity Sunday, we celebrate the wonder of relationship. Catholic Social Teaching invites us to work together to create healthy relationships between all of God's people leading toward justice and peace.

Our prolonged global economic problems challenge us to examine our values. Relationships and economic systems have gotten "off kilter." Some people make excessive salaries while others work long hours in low income jobs and more and more people have no jobs at all.

Our relationship with the earth has also gotten "off kilter." The climate is changing. Species are dying out. Our way of living is not sustainable.

We read today from Deuteronomy: "You must keep his statutes and commandments that I enjoin on you today, that you and your children after you may prosper, and that you may have long life on the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you forever." We need the wisdom of God and the way of Jesus Christ to get our relationships back in order.

