



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

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2011

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I've got you under my skin

Near the end of his earthly life Jesus spoke to his disciples about his living on in the Father as well as in them, and them in him. This notion of indwelling is a unique feature of Jesus' message, bringing a deep intimacy to our life in faith. Jesus has taken up residence within us, and we in Jesus. Talk about having a "personal relationship" with our Savior—it doesn't get more personal than that! Take a moment today to appreciate how great it is to be considered worthy of such intimacy.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21 (55)*

"... I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you."

MONDAY, MAY 30 EASTER WEEKDAY

In the name of God, stop killing one another

For all the good that religion has done and continues to do in the world, from time to time all the great religious traditions have been distorted and misused to justify intolerance and violence. Such violence was used against Jesus' early followers, and in every century since it has reared its head in some corner of the world or another. Let's help put a stop to it forever so that it passes into the annals of history alongside all the great plagues that have afflicted humanity and have been overcome.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a (291)*

"The hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God."

TUESDAY, MAY 31 EASTER WEEKDAY

FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Rejoice and be glad

Feeling happy for the good fortune of others can be very challenging at times, particularly when you're down on your luck, or worse yet, when it comes to one who has hurt or betrayed you. But rejoicing with those who rejoice is part of the sincere love that Saint Paul tells us we must embrace if we are to be followers of Christ. There is no better expression of sincere love than Elizabeth and Mary's joy for one another and Mary's song of praise for the greatness of the Lord. Both women could have bemoaned their fate or passed judgment on the other as being either too old or too young for carrying a child. Instead they rejoice in God's glory and in the faithfulness they each have shown to God's plan for salvation.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zephaniah 3:14-18a or Romans 12:9-16; Luke 1:39-56 (572)*

"Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good."

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1 FEAST OF JUSTIN, MARTYR

Let truth be your guide

Saint Justin was the first Christian philosopher and is the patron saint of philosophers. Early in his career he studied many philosophers and philosophies, notably Plato and the Stoics, but none could offer him what he was really searching for: knowledge of God. The story goes that one day he met an old man while walking along a deserted stretch of seashore and fell into a long conversation with him. The man helped him understand that God cannot be known only through philosophy or human knowledge

but through divine revelation as well. Before he disappeared, the old man concluded by saying, "Pray that the gates of light may be opened to you." That is a good prayer for us as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; John 16:12-15 (293)*

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth."

THURSDAY, JUNE 2 EASTER WEEKDAY

That's a lot to hope for

Hope, along with faith and love, is one of the key Christian virtues for a reason. Without the sense that the future has positive possibilities, the present would be dismal indeed. Hope is a necessary condition for life; it's the spiritual oxygen people need to move from day to day and year to year. Jesus presents the ultimate reason to hope. His victory over sin and death and his promise to come again assures us of the hope in living forever with God and in the full coming of God's reign. Have some hope!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 18:1-8; John 16:16-20 (294)*

"A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while later and you will see me."

FRIDAY, JUNE 3 EASTER WEEKDAY

Then, now, and later

Faith can seem like a time-travel video game. We look to the past, but the past is also present, and the present always looks to the future (for an example, think of the Mass). We learn the kingdom of God is within and among us—but not yet fulfilled. We worship and follow a Lord who appeared in human flesh, left in body but remained in Spirit, and will come again to usher us into the eternal. No wonder we get a little lost sometimes! Here's your compass: The world is broken but God still thinks it's good. Through Jesus, God calls us to help restore that goodness in ways large and small. And, finally, one day that work will be done.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23 (295)*

"I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you."

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 EASTER WEEKDAY

Give the benefit of your experience

Priscilla and Aquila were friends of Paul the Apostle and missionaries who were instrumental in the life of the early church community. There's a great scene in the Acts of the Apostles where they take Apollos, newly instructed in the faith, under their wings to mentor him in his faith and his work. Apollos was bursting with zeal for the gospel, and Priscilla and Aquila could have easily chastised him for being a bit too bold and a bit too shaky in his theology. Instead they engaged with him personally, one-on-one, offering their wisdom and experience. We, too, can be mentors to the young and to those experiencing a new chapter of their lives. What experience and encouragement can we gift them with? What might we gain in return?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28 (296)*

"When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the Way of God more accurately."

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