

ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

May 14, 2017 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

dear Padre

Are we required to disobey or break an evil law?

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, a just law has four characteristics. It must be (1) an ordinance of reason, (2) for the common good, (3) properly promulgated, (4) by a legitimate authority. If one of these elements is lacking, then the law is an unjust law and need not be followed.

According to St. Augustine, evil is a lack of something that should be there. When applied to law, if one of the four characteristics is missing, the law lacks something that should be there and is evil. An unjust law, in other words, is an evil law.

As Christians, we are generally encouraged to obey the laws of the state. As the Apostle Paul states, "Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God" (Romans 13:1). At the same time, we also have the responsibility of forming our consciences according to God's revelation in Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the divinely ordained teaching authority of the Church. Although we are not bound to follow an unjust law, the degree to which we should actively disobey it depends on the level of evil the law promotes. Because of its serious nature, a law promoting abortion, for example, should be actively resisted through peaceful protests and appropriate legal and civil activism.

Laws that promote lesser evils need to be carefully evaluated by Church authorities and our own well-informed consciences.

Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Parish Office:

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Hours: Monday - Friday

8:00am - Noon, 1:00 - 3:00pm

Email: stromuald@bbtel.com

www.stromuald.org

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor, Father Brian Johnson

Email: Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org

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Deacon, Mike Wiedemer

Administrative Asst, Jane Haynes

CRE: Adult, Rosa Hockenberry

CRE: RCIA, Lyvenia Anthony

CRE: 7-12, Gayle Poole

CRE: K-6, Kim Brumfield

Pastoral Council:

Dana Bland, Harry Mattingly,

Janet Bland, David Morton

Christi Brooks, Kevin Oelze

Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,

Jerry Dowell, Gail Pollock

Betty Heavrin, Pam Pollock

St. Romuald

Interparochial School:

Phone: 756-5504

www.stromualdschool.org

Principal, Rob Cox

School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

Masses for the Week

May 15th - 21st

Tues	1:00 pm	Special Intention (AP) (Extended Care)
Wed	9:00 am	SRIS Students
	5:00 pm	Tim Hardesty (JH)
Thurs	9:30 am	Donna Manning (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Victor Henning
Sat	5:00 pm	Tom Priest
Sun	7:00 am	Harold Beard
	10:00 am	Linda Carwile (RC)

Stewardship of Finance

May 6th & 7th Collection

Sunday Collection	\$6,784.50
Building Fund	\$300.00
Children	\$0
Loose change for the Poor	\$61.15

Parish Financial Summary

July-April, 2017

Total Income	\$450,000
Total Expenses	\$404,300
	\$ 45,700

Thank you for your financial stewardship!

Worship and Sacrament

Anointing of the Sick: Anointing of the Sick is celebrated with the parish community every first Wednesday at 5:00 pm Mass. Yet, anytime, anointing is available for illness, preparation for surgery or for recovery, by calling Fr Brian.

Baptism: Congratulations on the birth of your child! Your Church Family is excited about your family growing and our family growing! We look forward to celebrating your child's baptism! Preparation for new parents or those new to the parish is held by appointment. Call Fr Brian.

Marriage: Congratulations on your engagement! Your Church Family wishes to help you fully prepare spiritually and walk with you into this lifetime commitment to each other. In order to allow sufficient time, couples must contact the parish office at least 6 months before the anticipated wedding date.

Confession/Reconciliation: Every Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm; every Saturday 4:00-5:00 pm, every first Saturday after 8:00 am Mass, or anytime by simply asking or calling Fr Brian for appointment.

Visitation of the Sick: Please notify Father or the office upon admission of a family member into nursing homes or hospital. Often we rely upon word from the family about illnesses of a member. Please call.

RCIA: Interested in the Catholic Faith? The RCIA process is a "spiritual journey" that fully initiates those who are not baptized or who have baptism from another tradition and wish to join fully the Catholic Church. Classes are offered through the year culminating at Easter! Please call the office for details!

Membership in the Parish: Welcome to all new families or persons moving into our parish. We are glad that you are joining the parish community. We want to visit with you and help you settle into the church. Please register in the parish office as soon as possible.

Ministers of the Liturgy - May 20th & 21st

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Jerry Jarboe Shelly Jefferies	Jennifer O'Reilly Melissa Oelze	C-Jim Bland* C-Sam Bland S-Will Bland S-Arnold O'Reilly	Preston Flood Cameron Geeding Claire O'Donoghue	Dayle Riley	Pippa
7:00 am	Amelia Anthony Cara Wilson	Cathy Lewis	C-Chuck Hardesty* C-Michael Whitfill S-Mike Whitfill S-Scott Wilson	Amber Woods Tabby Woods	Raymond Wethington	Pippa
10:00 am	Kathryn Ables LaDonna Barton Sharon Hale Mona Hinton	Nora Dailey Carlos Matthews	C-Patrick Critchelow* C-Mack Mattingly S-Chuck McGary S-Griffin Moore	Parker Davis Tyler Davis	JoAnn Henning	Deacon Tony
Radio Minister: Donny Wethington Children's Liturgy: Jessica Phillips & Jenny Pile						



"Do not let your hearts be troubled"(John 14:1) Assuring words such as these are often found on the lips of Jesus. A few years ago an article ran around the internet claiming that 'Fear Not' or similar phrases appears **365** times in the Bible (as if God was giving specifically His Word of **comfort to us for every day of the year!**) However it turns out that there are only about 80 actual references in the Bible calling us to 'fear not' or 'not be afraid' and

about 30 more examples that suggest the same thing using other words like 'Peace be with you' (John 20:19) or ;Cast your worries on Christ!' (1 Peter 5:7). So, while we may not have a different reference for each day of the year, I still believe that **if we read our bible every day** (even if for only ten minutes) God will work wonders, by taking away our anxiety and worry! I like the quick sayings or quotes (easy to repeat reminders), but instead of such little pep's or boosts some people may be helped more by recalling a parable story or miracle account of Jesus (like 'Jesus did it once, and He could do it again!') And depending on how tangled our lives become in worry/stress, we may feel like it takes divine intervention to take away our obsessive concerns. Yet, still, a good dose of daily reading and prayer is the best prescription for curing/coping with anxiety!

I am aware that some people react negatively to clichés like 'Don't worry, be happy!' Do you? We might want to say 'Easy for you, I am the one facing the IRS audit, or have to find a way to repair the car again to get another 40,000 miles out of it'. Aware of this time of year, many people may be saying, 'How am I going to complete the papers and exams before graduation, or how am I going to get to three graduation ceremonies in the same day?' If so, I bet you were tempted to say to the friendly neighbor who encouraged you to 'be happy', *'You stress me out more saying that, as I judge myself worse for not being able to handle it all!'* Maybe the more Christian response to our anxious neighbors/friends is to not say 'Don't worry' but instead to ask "How can I help you lessen that worry-what can I do to ease up some of the weight?" St Paul says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Or St James had said in his letter (2:15-16) "If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," **but you do not give them** the necessities of the body, **what good is it?"** We do need words and we need to talk with one another, but quickly we come to the point in relationships when action is needed. Words need to become flesh. I'm told by therapists that any actions, even the smallest steps can alleviate pressure, so going ahead and doing something physical as preparation to meet the stress, is better than stewing, paralyzed in the tension! **Maybe that first act can be to step aside** and dedicate time to pray/meditate about God's direction for you. **I think this is where Jesus takes his talk about 'Let not your heart be troubled'.** Action faithfully follows His Word. Jesus goes on to say, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." More than a just offering a comforting word about accepting death (going home to the Father) at the end of our lives, Jesus is offering for this moment right now, the assurance that with Him, there are

always options, always 'other ways' to make it through our trials. Jesus knows many 'rooms', many routes, multiple paths, other options, to make it to the Father's House. Don't we feel most frustrated when the **'one and only way'** is blocked to us? Well, Jesus is the Way, and with Him, we will make it! 'Many rooms in the Father's house' is like saying 'there are many options to arrive at the same end'. But He has to lead, so we have first to go to Him. "Where there is a will, there is a way" means God's Will, and it finds, becoming the Way! The Father's Plan has all contingencies accounted for, if we insert ourselves faithfully into His service! Jesus tells us, "Stay by me, and I will find you the way." Things may not look or feel anything like what we think they should, but Jesus will find us that way to/through one of those 'MANY' dwelling places in the Father's House/Plan! Loving Jesus, and loving His presence finds the Way for us!

"I will show you a more excellent WAY", St Paul says, before ending his thoughts, with these words, **"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails"**(1 Corinthians 12:31, 13:7). Great hearts feel alike, as St John knows **"Perfect love casts out all fear"** (1 John 4:18). Love takes away fear because Love is its own cause and end. Love is not attached to one result, other than sharing Itself. **With Jesus, faithfulness (staying with Him) overcomes everything.** Every failure, every frustration, even defeat and death mean nothing: this world passes, Jesus is forever. As Christians we are fully committed to acting now, but detaching our egos from results. We serve and wait, for Jesus to reveal what is next! We do our best, and trust God for the rest. The Cross teaches that, for who saw the cross coming, as the Way to the Kingdom! Yet, Jesus said, on the cross, **"This day you will be with me in paradise!"**(Luke 23:43). The Cross Paradise? **Every Day with Jesus, is paradise!** Keep in mind 'Many Rooms!' We do what we can, and then detach, surrendering to God's Will (it is only ego and self-importance that clings to glory/results). Consider God's eternal perspective. As Mother Teresa showed through her every gesture, "God didn't ask me to be successful, he just asked me to be faithful!" Maybe I won't do 'great things', but in all the things I do, love great!

Here are some daily questions to consider in our prayer time!

Sunday: What stayed with me from Mass today? Did any words, any experiences or any commitments to action stick with me for the coming week?

Monday: 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast your worries on Him, for He cares for you!" Have you started your week by turning over the outcomes and results of your labors to God?

Tuesday: Seek above all today, to follow Jesus' Way! Speak His words, do his deeds!

Wednesday: Did I dedicate time today to read God's word, pray and seek the will of God?

Thursday: Has anyone asked directions of me today? If so, how did I interact with them? Was I helpful as a good guide? Or did I ask for direction from anyone today? Why not?

Friday: Perform an act of sacrifice or penance for someone you do not know.

Saturday: Consider coming to Mass early and pray the Rosary with others for world peace!

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

Picnic News

Picnic Time is here again. We need donations for the beautiful Green "Nothing Runs Like A Deere" Booth, The New Sporting Goods Booth, Stuffed Animal Booth and The Memory Wagon. This year we will be debuting our new booths thanks to T.G.H.

Drop off items at the parish office.

Picnic Meeting: Picnic time is growing closer and closer! Please join us on Thursday, May 25th at 5:00 pm for our next meeting. We still need lots of help and we are looking for help from our parish family. Please plan on attending this meeting to help us get ready for our annual picnic. We are just weeks away from our summer celebration, come join us!

The Blessing of the Child in the Womb: On May 20th & 21st, Father Brian will be offering a special blessing to any expectant mother who would like to participate. We invite the mother and other family members to stand and experience the "Gift of Joy." The blessing is bestowed upon you and you will receive a booklet as a point of reference to read during the time you carry your child.

All expectant mothers are welcome to receive the blessing at any of the Masses during this weekend.

Nuts, Nuts, Nuts: On the weekend of May 20th & 21st the Altar Society will be selling nuts after each mass. Black and Light Walnuts, along with almonds and cashews will be sold at the discount price of \$8.00 per bag. Pecan halves and pieces will be \$10.00 per bag. Stop by after mass and stock up for your summer baking needs.

Ministry Schedules: New Ministry Schedule for June, July & August will be available soon. Please contact the church office by May 15th if you would like to volunteer for any ministry or any changes to your schedule that need to be made. If you have a new email address please contact the office.

Celebration

BRITHDAYS: Lillian Henning, May 19th

ANNIVERSARY: Earl & Rita O'Reilly will be celebrating 55 years of marriage on May 19th.

Senior Day, May 18th at 10:00 am: Come join in the fun as we share our day with Jean Aull and Jade Meador from the Breckinridge Extension Master Gardeners. They will be joining us and will present a talk on straw bale gardening and container gardening. Invite your friends and neighbors for a day of gardening tips and good fellowship! We will be serving fried chicken and ask that you bring a dish to pass. Oh yeah, don't forget to bring those green thumbs along with you!

Family Movie Night: "A Strange Brand of Happy" is the story of David who is pushed into hiring a life coach named Joyce. Joyce invites David to join a volunteer group only to find to his dismay that his ex-boss is a part of the group. Watch as David's life turns into a hilarious and zany mishap, one after the other. So, come join us on Saturday, May 20th, at 6:15 pm for a laugh out loud good time. Enjoy a drink and some popcorn on us and a little family time together.

Flags over the Veterans' Memorial will need to be changed soon. If you would like to donate a new set in memory of a loved one please contact the church office.

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
Wed	9:00 am	School Mass
	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	10:00 am	Senior Day
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
	6:00 pm	SRIS 8th Grade Graduation
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
Sat	5:00 pm	Blessing of Expectant Mothers
Sun	7/10 am	Blessing of Expectant Mothers

UPCOMING:

May 23	6:00 pm	Pastoral Council
May 25	5:00 pm	Picnic Meeting
May 29	8:00 am	Memorial Day Mass

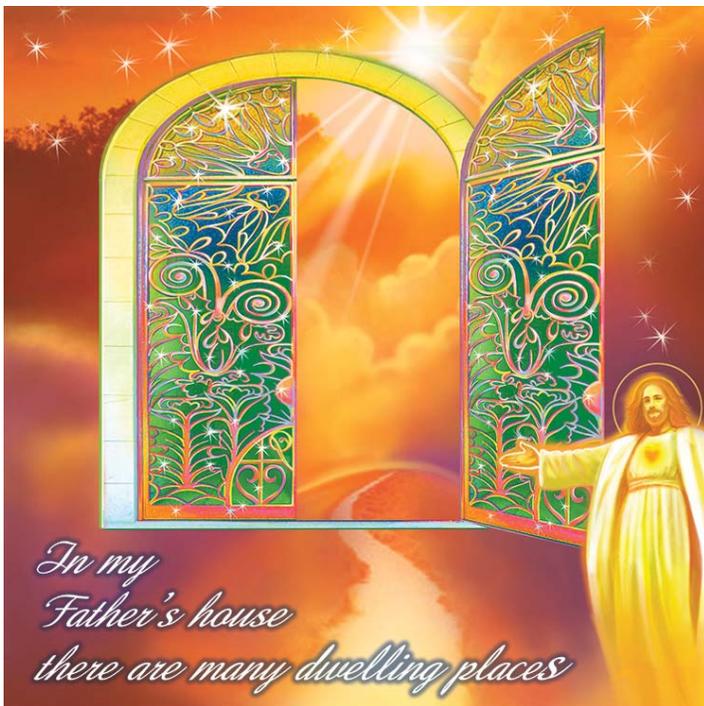
PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"The Two disciples on the road to Emmaus were disappointed and discouraged, and they could not believe that their Master and Savior, who had raised others from the dead and healed the sick, would end up hanging on the cross of shame. They could not understand why Almighty God had not saved him from such a disgraceful death. The cross of Christ was the death of their own ideas about God; the death of Christ was the death of what they thought God to be. **But in fact, it was they who were dead**, buried in the tomb of their limited understanding. How often do we paralyze ourselves by refusing to transcend our own ideas of God, a god-idea we create in our own likeness? How often do we despair by refusing to believe that God's omnipotence is not one of power and authority, but rather of love, forgiveness and life! (Homily 4-30-2017)

Made For More Summer Camp for High School Men

What are you supposed to do with your life? What does God want you to do with your life? This camp is for young men (high school) who have the courage to begin asking those questions and who want to give their lives to the One who first gave His life for us. Made for More is about giving your life to God. Seek more to life than just getting by, this camp is for you. Scholarships are available for those who need assistance. Contact the Vocations Office: 270-683-1545, www.owensborovocations.com, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org, for more information.



In my Father's house there are many dwelling places

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Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18 or 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 14:15-21 or Jn 17:1-11a

First Communion Prayer Day Balloon Release



First Communion 2017



PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Juanita Burch, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Jim Curtis, Rick Dale, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Lottie Eauer, Carroll Ferguson, Rhett Flener, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Bill Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Clyde Hall, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Karen Herbert, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Rugene Hinton, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Tracy King, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Annette Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Red McClellan, Oleta McDaniel, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Sharon Morgan, Dorothy Morris, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Bobby Potts, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, John N. Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, Regina Walz, Buddy Weatherholt, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Rebecca Wilson, Robert D. Wilson, Anne Wolfe, Sandra Zanone.

Serving in the Armed Forces: Mandie Adams, Kevin Arnold, Fred Barham, Austin Brown, Timothy Cashen, Cody Garst, Parker Findlay, James Hanor, Jack Hayes, Stevie Higgs, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, SSgt Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Cody Simmons, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



Welcome and Congratulations to Our Newest Parish Members at **Easter** celebrating their first sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation or First Communion: **Chris Rebar** (Confirmation), **Sydney Heckman** (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion), and **Bryce Goatley** (First Communion). Continue to pray and support our newest Catholic members.

Pray to end abortion: Join other Catholics and those from other faiths that gather each Saturday at 2nd and Market in Louisville from 7:00-8:00 am (EST) to pray for families entering the abortion clinic. Many children have been saved and mothers spared future grief by this prayer action and support. With God, all things are possible! Archbishop Kurtz is known to show up and pray with everyone too!

Abortion Update: Last week 48 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

Thank you to our advertisers for making the bulletin possible! Please let them know that you are thankful for support of our parish bulletin.

Advertiser of the week

Trinity Heating and Cooling, LLC
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AROUND AND ABOUT

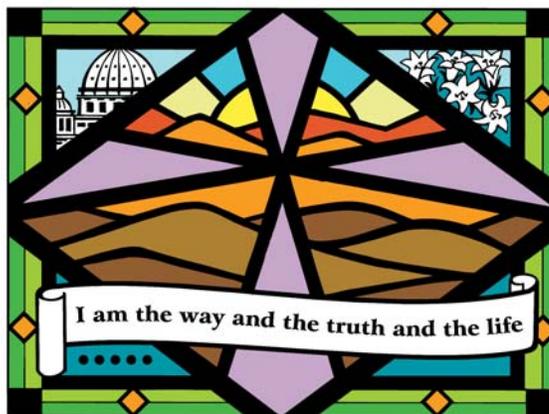
The Maryland to Kentucky & Beyond 2017 Genealogy Reunion/Conference will be June 22-25, 2017 at Brescia University in Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky. For more information, please visit our website <https://sites.google.com/site/mdtoky3> and Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/MDtoKYandBeyondInc/> Phone 502-366-4962/ email: marylandtokentucky@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (CLI):

Would you like to learn how to be a BETTER LEADER? Young people ages 15-19 (who have completed their freshman year of high school or who just graduated), The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office is sponsoring Christian Leadership Institute, June 25-June 30, 2017, at the Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center. If you: are or would like to be, a youth leader; would like to serve on a retreat team; are a class officer or student council member, CLI is for you. You will learn and use skills in leadership, communication, planning and decision-making. You will also help plan prayer and liturgical celebrations. For registration information contact your youth minister/youth ministry leader or campus minister today. Registration deadline is May 26th. Registrations after May 26th will cost \$10 more. Contact your Youth Minister or your Parish priest if you are interested or email robin.tomes@pastoral.com for more information.

Al-Anon Meeting: Mondays 7:00 pm St Romuald Parish Hall. Come find support and understanding to recover a sense of serenity in your life.

St Vincent DePaul April Report: St Vincent DePaul conducts works of mercy for our community. The Society is thankful for the generosity of parishioners who contribute monthly to their outreach ministry. Their monthly report for April included the following services and help given: Assistance was provided to a total of 19 families amounting to 38 persons (of which were 18 children). The aid totaled just over \$1,505.72 given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.



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SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Meet Jesus once again

At a certain point in every person's life, there comes a time when everything that used to make sense no longer does. Perhaps it comes at a time of major loss—such as losing a job or the death of a loved one. Or maybe it comes at a milestone in your life such as turning 50 or having your youngest child leave the nest. As uncomfortable as this may feel, it can be a great spiritual opportunity, because you have a chance to encounter Jesus as if for the first time.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12 (52). "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

MONDAY, MAY 15 MEMORIAL OF ISIDORE

Table blessings

The feast of Saint Isidore the Farmer provides us—even city-dwellers—with an opportunity to remember our link to the land and to all those who provide our food. Not only are we in debt to them for endless and often thankless labor but also for most of what we consume to stay alive. Food is for our bodies what the Eucharist is for our spirits: nourishment. It sustains us. In his little poem "Prayer After Eating," American farmer and poet Wendell Berry makes that connection clear. "I have taken the light / that quickened eye and leaf. / May my brain be bright with praise / of what I eat, in the brief blaze / of motion and of thought. / May I be worthy of my meat."

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26 (285). "He brought them up into his house and provided a meal."

TUESDAY, MAY 16 EASTER WEEKDAY

Work for justice, peacefully

Jesus promised peace to those who love him. But there has not been a single generation of worldwide peace in recorded history. Why is peace so elusive? Pope Paul VI noted that we are missing the necessary precondition: "Peace is more than the absence of war," he wrote. "If you want peace, work for justice." Until the balance of health, wealth, and opportunity puts the good life within reach of all people, the want that yawns between the powerful and the powerless will continue to brew pain, anger, and violence the world over. Pledge your support to an agency dedicated to providing opportunity to the socially disadvantaged.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a (286). "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 EASTER WEEKDAY

Time for some personal pruning

Gardeners know the importance of pruning. By cutting away some of a plant, you help it to direct its energy into flowering and fruitful growth. It's the same when it comes to the spirit. Trim from your life what is sapping your connection to the true vine, Jesus Christ. We all have aspects of our personality and character that need to change and develop. Is it a bad habit, a destructive situation, a negative attitude? What's separating you from God and neighbor? Cut it away. Making a clean break and strengthening your soul will let the good and healthy parts of your spirit bear much fruit.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8 (287). "Every branch that bears fruit my Father prunes to make it bear more fruit."

THURSDAY, MAY 18 EASTER WEEKDAY

Follow the joy

Ever wonder if you were born for misery? If so, cancel that concern: Jesus says we are destined for joy. Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (along with love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) that demonstrate how well we are living under the Spirit's guidance. The more we surrender to the wisdom of the indwelling Spirit, the more joy will flower in our lives. If you're looking for a good role model in this, follow people whose joy has no end and is not dependent on their circumstances.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11 (288). "I have said these things so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete."

FRIDAY, MAY 19 EASTER WEEKDAY

Can you get that call?

There's a lot of holiness in the church, and it's not only leaders or the women and men in consecrated life but all of us. Too often we think that the "chosen" of God are the ones who are in vowed religious life or ministry positions. Yet the gospel truth is that God calls each of us. Every one of us is invited to respond to God in faith and love and to serve God in all that we are and do. Ask yourself how God has been calling you. In what ways have you responded? How might the Spirit be encouraging you to tend to a newly emerging need or possibility?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17 (289). "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you."

SATURDAY, MAY 20 MEMORIAL OF BERNARDINE OF SIENA, PRIEST

Cultivate saintly smarts

No wonder Bernardine (1380-1444) is a patron saint of public relations—professionals who use a positive spin to persuade people. Though he embraced the poverty and humility of Saint Francis of Assisi, he was "sensitive to the demands of secular life, and tried to negotiate between Christian ethics and a conflicting code of honor that stressed retaining face in a public world," says a biographer. A persuasive preacher, he got Italy's warring families to replace their coats of arms with tablets bearing "I.H.M.," the Holy Name of Jesus. When a painter of playing cards went bankrupt because Bernardine turned people off gambling, Bernardine made him wealthy by persuading him to paint I.H.M. tablets. Can we be as savvy, bringing Jesus' way to worldly ways?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21 (290). "You do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world."

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