



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### The pro-life banner covers all life

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago called life a “seamless garment,” referring to the “tunic without seam” stripped from Jesus at his Crucifixion to remind us that a pro-life position is broader than vigorously protecting the life of the unborn. He called people to also oppose capital punishment, euthanasia, economic injustice, and unjust war. In an election year, one may wish to vote on the basis of a single issue, but the Catholic citizen should prayerfully and thoughtfully consider the whole picture. Pope Francis said, “Politics . . . though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good.” Vote for those who embody this vision.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10 (141)*. “*We have done what we were obliged to do.*”

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

### Refugees in search of Samaritans

We live in the midst of a terrible refugee crisis. Migrants by the millions are fleeing war, drought, famine, dead-end economies, drug gang violence, and terrorism. Yet, as Jessey Carey points out in [Relevant magazine](#), nearly half of Christians recently polled expressed fear about the idea of refugees coming into the United States. One only needs to tune into political coverage to hear distrust and even hostility in discussions about refugees. But our faith tradition is clear on the mandate to help the stranger, the foreigner, to remember that we too were once “strangers in a strange land.” Don’t just *admire* the Good Samaritan who stopped to help someone he had been taught was the “enemy.” Be that good Samaritan!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Galatians 1:6-12; Luke 10:25-37 (461)*. “*A Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.*”

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4 MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI

### Sing a hymn of creation

Francis is a saint for all seasons, without a doubt, but never more so than in this age of global warming and climate change. In 1979, Pope John Paul II declared Saint Francis the patron saint of ecology. In 1990, he said that Francis “offers Christians an example of genuine and deep respect for the integrity of creation. . . . As a friend of the poor who was loved by God’s creatures, Saint Francis invited all of creation—animals, plants, natural forces, even Brother

Sun and Sister Moon—to give honor and praise to the Lord.” Be a friend of the environment on this day dedicated to its patron.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Galatians 1:13-24; Luke 10:38-42 (462)*. “*Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing.*”

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

### Meet at the corner place

If you want to get to know someone better or discuss something with a friend, you find a comfortable setting where you can talk. It’s no different when you want to talk and listen to God. You find a site that feels inviting and secure so that it’s easier to tell God what’s on your mind and in your heart. Religious educators suggest a “prayer corner” with some sacred objects and a copy of the Bible ([CCC 2691](#)). If you don’t already have one, make a prayer corner somewhere in your home.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Luke 11:1-4 (463)*. “*One day, Jesus was praying in a certain place.*”

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

### MEMORIAL OF BLESSED MARIE-ROSE DUROCHER

#### You are called to be a saint!

At 18, Rose Marie Durocher began to act as housekeeper for her brother, a priest. Her generosity and kindness earned her the nickname, the “Saint of Beloeil” (a district near Montreal). Later she formed a community of sisters using her natural compassion, intelligence, strong will, and common sense. You’d recognize such a woman on the street as a saint, not because of a halo but by the good she does. You are called to be nothing less than a saint like her. Saints are not made first by piety, but by walking in Christ’s footsteps and abandoning what gets in the way. You can do that much, can’t you?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 11:5-13 (464)*. “*God chose us in Christ to be holy before him.*”

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

### MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### Blessed are you

It’s one of the most memorable visits in history: An angel greets a young girl and says, “Blessed are you among women.” And so she is, because Mary trusts God’s word to her will be fulfilled. In this she follows in the footsteps of her great father in faith, Abraham. But Mary’s not just a follower. She’s also a leader, offering her maternity to the church as the first best example of discipleship. When we pray the Rosary, we study in the school of Mary. Spend a decade (of the Rosary) with your Mother today.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Galatians 3:7-14; Luke 11:15-26 (465)*. “*Those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham who had faith.*”

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

### Joy is a holy mystery

Good news arrives at our doorstep, out of the blue and marvelous. A beloved visitor comes to lend support, enfolding us in a happy embrace. A baby is added to the family circle, buoying up our hearts. A child shows the first signs of promise, and we’re in awe of what the future may hold. One who seemed lost to us is gratefully restored, and we all learn important lessons from the separation. These are the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Consider praying them this week in honor of Rosary Month.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Galatians 3:22-29; Luke 11:27-28 (466)*. “*Blessed is the womb that carried you . . .*”



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

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