

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

August 2018

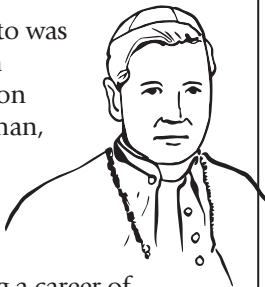
St. Raphael Catholic Church

Rev. John M. Connell, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Pius X

Giuseppe Sarto was born in Italy in 1835. The son of a postman, he was ordained a priest in 1858, beginning a career of successfully serving in Church leadership positions. As pope, he was ahead of his time. St. Pius reformed his own administration, spoke out against the dangers of Modernism, worked for peace in a world preparing for war, and encouraged the practice of receiving Communion frequently. He died in 1914 and was canonized in 1954.



"Me" Last

Society makes it acceptable to pursue our own happiness without concern for others. As followers of Christ we know that God holds us responsible for meeting others' needs. When we care for the poor and needy, God will take care of us.

Give it to God

"Never forget that God loves you deeply and cares for you passionately. 'Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you'"
(1 Peter 5:7).



Make Jesus' Mother your own

Catholics reserve worship for God, but Mary has a special place of honor in our hearts. When we follow Jesus' request to take his Mother as our own, we are sheltered by her maternal protection, share in the love between Mother and Son, and take a unique route to the heart of Our Lord.

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord" (Luke 1:38). From the first "Yes" to her unique role in God's plan to the final moments at the foot of the Cross, Mary cooperated with faith, hope, and charity in her Son's plan to restore supernatural life to us. She is ready to protect our new

life and help us grow in love of her Son, if only we ask.

"Woman, behold your son" (John 19:26). Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross was the ultimate act of love. Out of love, too, he offered to share his beloved Mother with all of us as our own Mother.

Heeding Jesus' words, *"Behold your mother"* (John 19:27), we can take Mary into our hearts and homes.

"Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Mary brought others to Jesus by bringing him into the world and talking about him. Bringing others to

Jesus is our job, too. We can follow her example, ask for her help, and be obedient like her.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe the Church is Apostolic?

We call the Church, "Apostolic," because it is founded on the Apostles whom Jesus appointed to carry on his work.

Before he ascended, Jesus commissioned the Apostles to baptize and preach the Gospel in his name (Matthew 28:19-20). The

Apostles ordained others to carry on this mission, and they ordained others. The Catholic faith has been preserved and handed down to us from the Apostles through their successors, our bishops, who can trace their "priestly lineage" back to the Apostles.

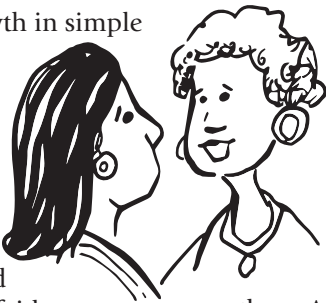


Show others the way to God

God has called all of us to follow him but we are also called to lead. Aiding another's spiritual growth in simple ways can lead others to Christ.

Be on the watch. Ask God to reveal to you those who don't know him. Record their names and commit to praying for them daily.

Go to Mass together. Inviting a friend or someone seeking a spiritual home to attend Sunday Mass with you is a great way to spend time together and show commitment to the faith.



Offer prayer cards. Promote prayer and a devotion to the saints by sending an occasional prayer card featuring a saint relevant to his or her life issues.

Build bridges. Spend time with those seeking God. Show them what a life with him looks like. Invite seekers to dinner, go for coffee, listen to their problems. In other words, be a friend.

Share his love. God's love breaks down barriers and removes prejudices. Act with love toward others. A little kindness may open the door for the Gospel.

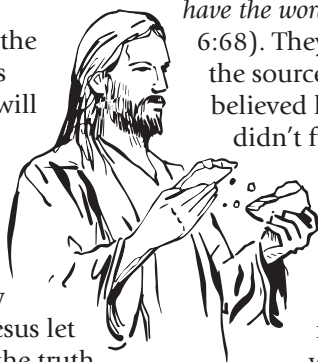
from Scripture

John 6:60-69, To whom shall we go?

This reading comes at the end of Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse, in which he explained the meaning of the Eucharist. Jesus said that he is the Bread of Life. Unless we eat his flesh and drink his blood, we will not have eternal life. Many of his listeners left, horrified.

The Apostles were also shocked. The day before, enthusiastic crowds were ready to make Jesus king. Now they were running away and Jesus let them go. He understood that the truth is more important than popularity.

Jesus turned to the Apostles and asked if they wanted to leave, too. Peter,



speaking for the group, replied, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). They all recognized Jesus as the source of eternal life. They believed him, even though they didn't fully understand him.

Followers of Christ know that there is always hope even in times that appear hopeless. We remember Peter's words: "Master...you have the words of eternal life." With God, we all can have hope. He can bring us eternal life.

Q & A Is it okay to tell a "white lie"?

The Eighth commandment directs us to tell the truth always (Exodus 20:16). While a "white lie" told to avoid hurting



someone else's feelings may seem harmless, telling lies is never acceptable. Here are some suggestions to help:

"Does this look good on me?" A dishonest "yes" creates the wrong impression in the wearer's mind. Instead of brutal honesty - "You look fat!" - offer a truthful positive - "It's a great color on you." This is "mental reservation," and is better than lying.

"That's personal..." Questions about your personal life, family, and financials don't require explanations, if the seeker has no right to know. A simple, "That's personal," should get the message across. This goes for seeking others' personal information as well (CCC #2489).

Tell the truth with love. What is right and wrong is not decided by popular vote. Admonishing the sinner is actually a spiritual act of mercy. "Whoever fears the Lord directs his friendship aright, for as he is, so his neighbor [will be] also" (Sirach 6:17).

Feasts & Celebrations

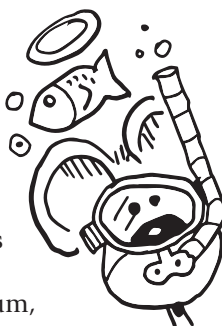
Aug. 7 - St. Cajetan (1547). St. Cajetan worked to reform the Church by founding the Theatines, a religious order modeled on the teachings of the Apostles.

Aug. 11 - St. Clare of Assisi (1253). Born to a noble family in Assisi, Italy, St. Clare followed St. Francis of Assisi into poverty at age eighteen and founded a sister order to the Franciscans called, the "Poor Clares."

Aug. 15 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1950). Declared a dogma of our faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates

Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. **Aug. 24 - St. Bartholomew (1st Century).** One of the Twelve Apostles and the son of Tolomai,

Bartholomew is thought by some scholars to be the Apostle, Nathanael, who went with Philip to see Jesus. After Jesus's ascension, he spread Christianity to India and in Armenia, where he was martyred. He is the patron saint of Armenia and Belgium, among other places.



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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)