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The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions For This Month

General Intention:

That those who are unemployed, homeless, or in any serious need may find welcome, understanding, and help in overcoming their difficulties.

Mission Intention:

That the Church may be a home for all people in need, opening its doors to any who suffer from racial or religious discrimination, hunger, or wars forcing their emigration.

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Disciple

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Breaking Open the Word—Notes on the Sunday Gospels

Aug. 1 (Lk. 12:13-21)

In today's Gospel we have the parable of the rich fool. Jesus' words at the conclusion of the parable that, "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" points us to the lesson He wishes to impart. Three interpretations of what it means to be "rich toward God" are possible: 1. the use of personal wealth for the service of God; 2. laying up treasure in Heaven in the form of spiritual goods; 3. using our wealth to assist the poor and needy among us. St. Ambrose favored this last interpretation, saying, "The hands of the poor, the houses of widows, are storehouses that endure forever."

Aug. 8 (Lk. 12:32-48)

The 1st Commandment:
"I am the Lord your God, You Shall Not Have Other Gods Before Me"

(From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

What is implied in the affirmation of God: "I am the Lord your God" (Exodus 20:2)?

This means that the faithful must guard and activate the three theological virtues and must avoid sins which are opposed to them. Faith believes in God and rejects everything that is opposed to it, such as, deliberate doubt, unbelief, heresy, apostasy,

Today's Gospel focuses on being faithful to Jesus while we await His return. We are not to be like the lazy and unfaithful servants who take their master's delay in returning as an invitation to neglect their work. We too must not think that it is alright to willingly sin, with the intention of later repenting, for Jesus can return at any moment, which would be to our detriment if that was our mindset.

Aug. 15 (Lk. 1:39-56)

In today's Gospel we have the famous Magnificat of Mary (vv. 46-55), "a hymn of praise and a recital of God's covenant faithfulness. Mary extols humility and rejoices in God's blessings on the lowly. The song also introduces the theme of God's mercy, which flows into the

following scene (the birth of John the Baptist).

Aug. 22 (Lk. 13:22-30)

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks of the narrow door which leads to salvation. "Salvation depends first on God's grace, then on our cooperation and obedience (Eph. 2:8-10). Jesus here stresses the difficulties of the spiritual life, where few will enter God's glory while the door remains open (Mt. 22:14).

Aug. 29 (Lk. 14:1, 7-14)

In today's Gospel we are taught a lesson in humility. In the eyes of God, greatness is measured by our concern for others and a modest vision of ourselves. We are not to presume that we are automatically God's friend because of our social status.

Faith Foundations—Basics of Catholic Christian Belief

and schism. Hope trustingly awaits the blessed vision of God and his help, while avoiding despair and presumption. Charity loves God above all things and therefore repudiates indifference, ingratitude, lukewarmness, sloth or spiritual indolence, and that hatred of God which is born of pride.

What is the meaning of the words of our Lord, "Adore the Lord your God and worship Him alone" (Matthew 4:10)?

These words mean to adore God as the Lord of everything that exists; to render to him the individual and community wor-

ship which is his due; to pray to him with sentiments of praise, of thanks, and of supplication; to offer him sacrifices, above all the spiritual sacrifice of one's own life, united with the perfect sacrifice of Christ; and to keep the promises and vows made to him.

In what way does a person exercise his or her proper right to worship God in truth and in freedom?

Every person has the right and the moral duty to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and his Church.

Once the truth is known, each

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Faith Foundations...Continued

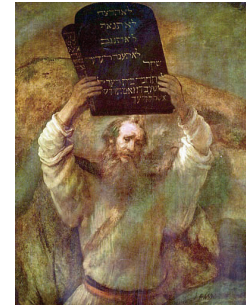
person he has the right and moral duty to embrace it, to guard it faithfully and to render God authentic worship. At the same time, the dignity of the human person requires that in religious matters no one may be forced to act against conscience nor be restrained, within the just limits of public order, from acting in conformity with conscience, privately or publicly, alone or in association with others.

What does God prohibit by his command, "You shall

not have other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2)?

This commandment forbids: *Polytheism* and *idolatry*, which divinizes creatures, power, money, or even demons. *Superstition* which is a departure from the worship due to the true God and which also expresses itself in various forms of divination, magic, sorcery and spiritism. *Irreligion* which is evidenced: in tempting God by word or deed; in sacrilege, which profanes sacred persons or sacred things, above all the Eucharist;

and in simony, which involves the buying or selling of spiritual things. *Atheism* which rejects the existence of God, founded often on a false conception of human autonomy. *Agnosticism* which affirms that nothing can be known about God, and involves indifferentism and practical atheism.



The First Commandment forbids polytheism, idolatry, superstition, irreligion, atheism, and agnosticism.

Faith and Media—Reading and Viewing Recommendations

Book of the Month:

Take Five: On-the-job Meditations with St. Ignatius by Mike Aquilina and Fr. Kris Stubna

This little book contains 74 daily meditations which are a fantastic way to start your day (or to refocus at lunch). The purpose of the reflections are to provide the average person with fruitful spiritual reflections from the writings of St. Ignatius of Loyola that apply to the working life. Each day's reflection has a theme and begins with a short selection from St.

Ignatius' writings. There are then 3 points provided for your reflection and a brief passage of Scripture for you to visualize yourself being a part of (in the Ignatian tradition). There is then a line from that day's Ignatian excerpt that you are encouraged to memorize and recall at various points of the day. This is an unassuming, but very fruitful book for your spiritual life.

[This book is available at most new and used book retailers.].

Film of the Month:

Under the Same Moon

This film revolves around the relationship between young Carlitos and his mother, Rosario, who lives illegally in the U.S. to provide her son with a better life in Mexico. Circumstances lead Carlitos to set off on a journey to the U.S. to find his mother. This touching film contains great themes for Christian reflection, such as the importance of family, the nature of sacrifice, the right to emigrate, and power of hope. [This film is available at most video rental/retail stores and libraries.]



Left: Take Five: On-the-job Meditations with St. Ignatius (Our Sunday Visitor)

Right: Under the Same Moon (Creando Films)

Catholic Calendar—Upcoming Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation

Days of Reflection

"The Eucharist—'Source and Summit' of Our Christian Lives"

Rev. James Dougher
Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton
August 7 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
The Second Vatican Council speaks of the Eucharist as the "source and summit" of the Christian life. This means that the primary role of the Eucharist is to unite and nourish the Christian community and to serve as the center of every

person's spiritual life. **Fee: \$30.00 (includes lunch).**

Continuing Education

"The Caregiver: Love with a Mission"

Nancy Menapace
Diocesan Center, Scranton
August 10 6:00-8:00p.m.
Caring for the well-being of someone you love is an awesome and sacred responsibility. In addition to the adjustments and difficulties one encounters in caring for another, feelings of

frustration, fatigue and even loneliness often accompany the caregiving. This presentation will assist the caregiver in dealing with these experiences, and provide ways in which the caregiver renews and revitalizes himself/herself so that the responsibility of caring for another is rewarding and fulfilling. **Fee: \$20**

To register: Call Fatima Renewal Center at 570.563.8500

"Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you..."

~1 Pt. 3:15