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The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions For This Month

General Intention:

That in every nation of the world the election of officials may be carried out with justice, transparency and honesty, respecting the free decisions of citizens.

Mission Intention:

That Christians may strive to offer everywhere, but especially in great urban centers, an effective contribution to the promotion of education, justice, solidarity and peace.

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Disciple

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Breaking Open the Word—Notes on the Sunday Gospels

July 4 (Lk. 10:1-12, 17-20)

In today's Gospel we see "an episode only found in Luke. It is the second missionary tour, since Jesus has sent out the Twelve with similar tasks (9:1-6). Jesus patterns His missionary effort on Moses, who commissioned 70 elders to be prophets in Israel (Num 11:24-25). The 71 members of the Jewish court, the Sanhedrin, had already modeled itself after this leadership structure. At another level, the number alludes to Gn. 10, which describes the origin of the 70 nations of the ancient world, not including Israel. The ministry of the 70 disciples thus anticipates the Church's mission to the nations (24:47)."

July 11 (Lk. 10:25-37)

St. Augustine allegorically inter-

preted today's famous parable in the following way, "The parable signifies Christ's restoration of mankind. Adam is the man attacked by Satan and his legions; he is stripped of his immortality and left dead in sin. The priest and the Levite represent the Old Covenant and its inability to restore man to new life. Jesus Christ comes as the Good Samaritan to rescue man from death and brings him to the inn of the Church for refreshment and healing through the sacraments."

July 18 (Lk. 10:38-42)

St. Gregory the Great offered this mystical interpretation of today's reading, "The two women signify two dimensions of the spiritual life. Martha signifies the active life as she busily

labors to honor Christ through her work. Mary exemplifies the contemplative life as she sits attentively to listen and learn from Christ. While both activities are essential to Christian living, the latter is greater than the former. For in heaven the active life terminates, while the contemplative life reaches its perfection."

July 25 (Lk. 11:1-13)

The parable Jesus delivers after the Our Father in today's Gospel is intended to highlight the importance of persevering in our prayers. "It is not that God needs to be informed of our needs, but that we must realize our total dependence on Him for everything" (cf CCC 2613).

Faith Foundations—Basics of Catholic Christian Belief

The 8th Commandment:

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"

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

What is one's duty toward the truth?

Every person is called to sincerity and truthfulness in acting and speaking. Everyone has the duty to seek the truth, to adhere to it and to order one's whole life in accordance with its demands. In Jesus Christ the whole of God's truth has been made manifest. He is "the truth". Those who follow him live in the Spirit of truth and guard against duplicity,

dissimulation, and hypocrisy.

How does one bear witness to the truth?

A Christian must bear witness to the truth of the Gospel in every field of his activity, both public and private, and also if necessary, with the sacrifice of his very life. Martyrdom is the supreme witness given to the truth of the faith.

What is forbidden by the eighth commandment?

The eighth commandment forbids: false witness, perjury, and lying, the gravity of which is measured by the truth it defirms, the circumstances, the intentions of the one who lies, and the harm suffered by its

victims; rash judgment, slander, defamation and calumny which diminish or destroy the good reputation and honor to which every person has a right; flattery, adulation, or complaisance, especially if directed to serious sins or toward the achievement of illicit advantages. A sin committed against truth demands reparation if it has caused harm to others.

What is required by the eighth commandment?

The eighth commandment requires respect for the truth accompanied by the discretion of charity in the field of comm-

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Faith Foundations...Continued

unication and the imparting of information, where the personal and common good, the protection of privacy and the danger of scandal must all be taken into account; in respecting professional secrets which must be kept, save in exceptional cases for grave and proportionate reasons; and also in respecting confidences given under the seal of secrecy.

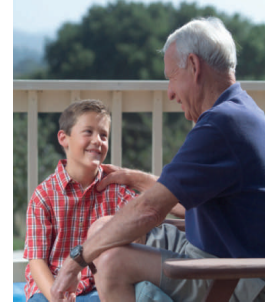
How is one to use the means of social communication?
The information provided by the media must be at the service of the common good. Its

content must be true and – within the limits of justice and charity – also complete. Furthermore, information must be communicated honestly and properly with scrupulous respect for moral laws and the legitimate rights and dignity of the person.

What relationship exists between truth, beauty and sacred art?

The truth is beautiful, carrying in itself the splendour of spiritual beauty. In addition to the expression of the truth in words there are other comple-

mentary expressions of the truth, most specifically in the beauty of artistic works. These are the fruit both of talents given by God and of human effort. Sacred art by being true and beautiful should evoke and glorify the mystery of God made visible in Christ, and lead to the adoration and love of God, the Creator and Savior, who is the surpassing, invisible Beauty of Truth and Love.



“A Christian must bear witness to the truth of the Gospel in every field of his activity, both public and private....”

Faith and Media—Reading and Viewing Recommendations

Book of the Month:

***Drinking from the Hidden Fountain: A Patristic Breviary* by Thomas Spidlik**

Subtitled “Ancient Wisdom for Today’s World,” this book would be a great addition to your prayer life. An excerpt from the writings of the Fathers of the Church, devoted to a specific theme, is presented for your reading/meditation for all 365 days of the year. A truly wonderful, simple book that will deepen your knowledge and love of Christ through the remarkable insights of these saints. My one quibble is with

its price (\$24.95) which I think is excessive given the size and paperback presentation of the book, but in the end I paid it because I knew I would use it. I’m glad I did.

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

Film of the Month:

The Reluctant Saint

This film, about the famous “flying monk” St. Joseph of Cupertino, is sure to be a hit with your family. Starring Maximilian Schell, the film shows how God can work through the most humble of His servants.

Joseph is a very simple soul—regarded by most in his village as a dunce and looked upon by his mother as little more than a burden. His uncle, a monk in the local monastery, is basically forced to take Joseph into his care. Within the monastery walls Joseph continues to face obstacles, including charges from some of his fellow brothers that his gifts are from the devil and not the Lord. Contains great themes such as simplicity, not judging by appearances, and patience in the face of persecution. [This film is available at most video rental/retail stores and libraries.]



Left: *Drinking from the Hidden Fountain: A Patristic Breviary* (Cistercian)

Right: *The Reluctant Saint* (Ignatius)

Catholic Calendar—Upcoming Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation

Pastoral Formation

Institute Courses

201: Fundamental Teachings of the Church
Diocesan Center, Scranton
July 12-16; July 19-23 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Mr. Brendan Murphy
Deacon Robert Roman
Fees: Credit--\$150.00 Audit--\$65.00
To register: Call 570.207.2213, Ext. 1107

Days of Reflection

“Our Call to Holiness”
Sr. Cor Immaculatum Heffernan, IHM
Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton
July 17 Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Through our Baptism we have been called to be Christ to the world. This day will lead us in prayer and reflection as we consider the meaning of that

call in our lives and with one another.

Fee: \$30.00, includes lunch. 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