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The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions For This Month

General Intention:

That every national and international institution may strive to guarantee respect for human life from conception to natural death.

Mission Intention:

That the Churches in Asia, a "little flock" among non-Christian populations, may communicate the gospel well and give joyful witness to their faith.

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Disciple

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Breaking Open the Word—Notes on the Sunday Gospels

June 6 (Lk. 9:11b-17)

In today's Gospel we have the famous miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fishes. "Apart from the Resurrection, the multiplication of the loaves is the only miracle recounted in all four Gospels. It recalls previous miracles from the Old Testament and foreshadows the sacramental miracle of the Eucharist (which is why we read it today, the feast of Corpus Christi). It also connects with a larger theme in Luke where Jesus describes God's kingdom as a great feast (13:29-30; 14:7-14, 15-24). This messianic banquet is celebrated first at the Last Supper (22:14-23) and later in Heaven (Rev. 19:7-9).

June 13 (Lk. 7:36-8:3)

In today's Gospel we see Jesus

offering forgiveness to a woman whose sins are known to the people eating with Him, but left unsaid to us. This event highlights what the Catechism says in paragraph 545: "Jesus invites sinners to the table of the kingdom: 'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.' He invites them to that conversion without which one cannot enter the kingdom, but shows them in word and deed His Father's boundless mercy for them and the vast 'joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.' The supreme proof of His love will be the sacrifice of His own life 'for the forgiveness of sins.'"

June 20 (Lk. 9:18-24)

In today's Gospel Jesus feels out the disciples to get a sense of who people are saying He is.

The responses are varied, which leads Him to ask the disciples for their opinion. As in all the other Gospel accounts, Peter steps forward, by the light of grace, to correctly identify Jesus as the long awaited Messiah, the Son of God.

June 27 (Lk. 9:51-62)

In today's Gospel we see several examples of individuals who sought to follow Jesus, but had excuses for why they couldn't do so. In v. 62 He says that "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." Here Jesus is stating that putting off following Him is equivalent to rejecting Him. As one scholar says, "Here Jesus shows Himself more demanding than Elijah, who permitted Elisha to kiss his parents goodbye (1Kgs.19:19ff)."

Faith Foundations—Basics of Catholic Christian Belief

How the Liturgy is Celebrated

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

How is the liturgy celebrated?

The celebration of the liturgy is interwoven with signs and symbols whose meaning is rooted in creation and in human culture. It is determined by the events of the Old Testament and is fully revealed in the Person and work of Christ.

From where do the sacramental signs come?

Some come from created things (light, water, fire, bread, wine,

oil); others come from social life (washing, anointing, breaking of bread). Still others come from the history of salvation in the Old Covenant (the Passover rites, the sacrifices, the laying on of hands, the consecrations). These signs, some of which are normative and unchangeable, were taken up by Christ and are made the bearers of his saving and sanctifying action.

What is the link between the actions and the words in the celebration of the sacraments?

Actions and words are very closely linked in the celebration of the sacraments. Indeed, even if the symbolic actions are al-

ready in themselves a language, it is necessary that the words of the rite accompany and give life to these actions. The liturgical words and actions are inseparable both insofar as they are meaningful signs and insofar as they bring about what they signify.

What are the criteria for the proper use of singing and music in liturgical celebrations?

Since song and music are closely connected with liturgical action they must respect the following criteria. They should conform to Catholic doctrine in their

(continued on next page)

Faith Foundations...Continued

texts, drawn preferably from Sacred Scripture and liturgical sources. They should be a beautiful expression of prayer. The music should be of a high quality. Song and music should encourage the participation of the liturgical assembly. They should express the cultural richness of the People of God and the sacred and solemn character of the celebration. "He who sings, prays twice" (Saint Augustine).

What is the purpose of holy images?

The image of Christ is the liturgical icon par excellence. Other images, representations of Our Lady and of the Saints, signify Christ who is glorified in them. They proclaim the same Gospel message that Sacred Scripture communicates by the word and they help to awaken and nourish the faith of believers.

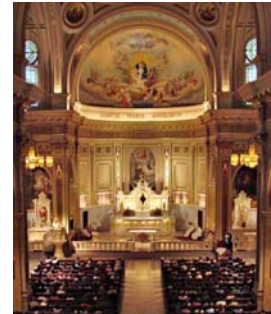
Who acts in the liturgy?

In the liturgy it is the whole Christ (*Christus Totus*) who acts, Head and Body. As our High Priest he celebrates with his body, which is the Church in

heaven and on earth.

How does the Church on earth celebrate the liturgy?

The Church on earth celebrates the liturgy as a priestly people in which each one acts according to his proper function in the unity of the Holy Spirit. The baptized offer themselves in a spiritual sacrifice; the ordained ministers celebrate according to the Order they received for the service of all the members of the Church; the bishops and priests act in the Person of Christ the Head.



"The Church on earth celebrates the liturgy as a priestly people in which each one acts according to his proper function...."

Faith and Media—Reading and Viewing Recommendations

Book of the Month:

Kristin Lavransdatter by Sigrid Undset

Last month I recommended Undset's biography of St. Catherine of Siena. This month I'm recommending her Nobel Prize winning trilogy *Kristin Lavransdatter*. Set in 14th century Norway this series follows the lives of several groups of families; focusing in particular on the title character. The book makes the time period come alive and is infused with Catholic piety and imagery, which makes it a great source for reflection and conversation on

human frailty and the desire to be holy. You can read this epic either by purchasing/borrowing the three individual novels or you can check out the excellent 3-in-1 published by Penguin. Kristin Lavransdatter is an ideal book for a long, lazy summer.

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

Film of the Month:

Les Choristes (The Chorus)

This charming French film was nominated for two Academy Awards in 2004. The film revolves around a new teacher at

an out of the way boys school after the conclusion of WWII. The school is primarily composed of troubled and/or orphaned boys. The new teacher decides to start a chorus to try and get the students to channel their energy. The plot is predictable, but surprisingly enjoyable. There are great themes which resonate with the Catholic worldview—the power of hope, the desire to be loved by another, the need for purpose, and the development of the gifts God has entrusted to us. [This film is available at most video rental/retail stores and libraries.]



Left: *Kristin Lavransdatter* (Penguin)

Right: *Les Choristes (The Chorus)* (Miramax)

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

201: Fundamental Teachings of the Church

St. John Neumann High School, Williamsport
June 14-18; June 21-25 9:00

a.m. - Noon

Rev. David W. Bechtel

301: Sacraments in General

Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg
June 17-18; June 21-25; June

28-30 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Mrs. Helen Findlay

401: Introduction to the Spiritual and Moral Life

St. Maria Goretti Church, Laflin
June 8-9; 15-16; 22-23; 29-30;
July 6-7 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Rev. James P. Dougher

501: The Catholic Church through the Centuries

Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre
June 14-18; June 21-25 9:00

a.m. - Noon

Deacon Robert Roman

Fees: Credit--\$150.00 Audit--\$65.00

To register: Call

570.207.2213, Ext. 1107

"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