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The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions For This Month

General Intention:

That World Youth Day in Madrid may encourage young people throughout the world to have their lives rooted and built up in Christ.

Mission Intention:

That Western Christians may be open to the action of the Holy Spirit and rediscover the freshness and enthusiasm of their faith.

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Disciple

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Breaking Open the Word—Notes on the Sunday Gospels

Aug. 7 (Mt. 14:22-33)

In today's Gospel Jesus walks on the waves to the amazement of the disciples. "His majestic strides over the waves, the even clearer superiority over the forces of nature exhibited when He permits Peter to climb out of the boat and come to Him, and His eye-opening sovereignty over wind and waves all reveal to the disciples far better than His teaching and miraculous healings how loftily He exceeds their poor humanity without proving that He is, as they thought, a ghost."

Aug. 14 (Mt. 15:21-28)

The scene in today's Gospel is similar to Jesus' encounter with the Gentile centurion in Capernaum (Mt. 8:5-13). In both instances Jesus shows that His primary mission is to the lost sheep of Israel, but the woman's

"trusting faith in the Lord conquers His heart and her request is granted. In Capernaum it was 'Lord, don't trouble yourself; I am not worthy,' here it is a willingness to occupy the lowest position, under the table. In each case there was faith: 'Such great faith I have not found in Israel' (Mt. 8:10)."

Aug. 21 (Mt. 16:13-20)

In today's Gospel Jesus gives Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. The importance of the keys is mentioned in the first reading for today as well (Is. 22:19-23). There we learn that the transfer of keys by the king to an individual demonstrates the authority he is investing in them to govern in his place. "In the New Covenant it is Jesus 'who has the key of David, who opens and no one can close, who closes and no one can open' (Rev. 3:7). ...And now

Christ gives the man, Peter, upon whom the Church is to be built a share in this power of the keys that penetrates to the other world: what he binds or looses on earth shall be bound or loosed in heaven."

Aug. 28 (Mt. 16:21-27)

"When, in the Gospel reading, Jesus conclusively presents His intended mission, not only the world but even the Church (initially) takes offense at the Cross....Christ became man in order to suffer, to suffer more than any other person ever has suffered. Whoever hinders Him is His opponent. And instead of hearing Christ say, 'Rejoice that I suffer for you,' the one who would hinder Him hears, 'Take up your own cross out of love for me and on behalf of your brother, for whose salvation we must suffer.'"

Faith Foundations—Basics of Catholic Christian Belief

The Pope and Bishops

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

The following is a brief overview of Catholic belief about the Pope and Bishops.

What is the mission of the Pope?

The Pope, Bishop of Rome and the Successor of Saint Peter, is the perpetual, visible source and foundation of the unity of the Church. He is the vicar of Christ, the head of the College of bishops and pastor of the universal Church over which he

has by divine institution full, supreme, immediate, and universal power.

What is the competence of the college of bishops?

The college of bishops in union with the Pope, and never without him, also exercises supreme and full authority over the Church.

How do the bishops carry out their mission of teaching?

Since they are authentic witnesses of the apostolic faith and are invested with the authority of Christ, the bishops in union

with the Pope have the duty of proclaiming the Gospel faithfully and authoritatively to all. By means of a supernatural sense of faith, the people of God unfailingly adhere to the faith under the guidance of the living Magisterium of the Church.

When is the infallibility of the Magisterium exercised?

Infallibility is exercised when the Roman Pontiff, in virtue of his office as the Supreme Pastor of the Church, or the College of Bishops, in union with the Pope especially when joined together

(continued on next page)

Faith Foundations...Continued

in an Ecumenical Council, proclaim by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals. Infallibility is also exercised when the Pope and Bishops in their ordinary Magisterium are in agreement in proposing a doctrine as definitive. Every one of the faithful must adhere to such teaching with the obedience of faith.

How do Bishops exercise their ministry of sanctification?

Bishops sanctify the Church by dispensing the grace of Christ by their ministry of the word and the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, and also by their prayers, their example and their work.

How do the Bishops exercise their function of governing?

Every bishop, insofar as he is a member of the college of bishops, bears collegially the care for all particular Churches and

for the entire Church along with all the other bishops who are united to the Pope. A bishop to whom a particular Church has been entrusted governs that Church with the authority of his own sacred power which is ordinary and immediate and exercised in the name of Christ, the Good Shepherd, in communion with the entire Church and under the guidance of the Successor of Peter.



“The Pope, Bishop of Rome and the Successor of Saint Peter, is the perpetual, visible source and foundation of the unity of the Church.”

Faith and Media—Reading and Viewing Recommendations

Book of the Month:

Light of the World by Hans Urs von Balthasar

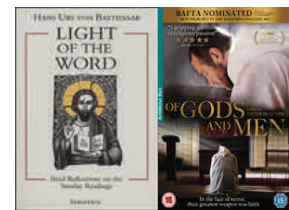
This book is subtitled “Brief Reflections on the Sunday Readings.” Von Balthasar was one of the most important Catholic theologians of the 20th century and much of his work is dense reading for the non-theologian. This book, however, is very accessible and written for a wide audience. Every week of the liturgical season for cycles A, B, and C can be found here. Von Balthasar comments briefly on

the main points of each week’s first and second reading and Gospel, which makes it ideal for private reading in preparation for Sunday Mass or lectionary based adult faith formation gatherings.

Film of the Month: **Of Gods and Men**

This French film won the prestigious Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2010. The film is inspired by the true story of a monastery of French Cistercian monks in Algeria and the events of their life that take place from 1993 until their

kidnapping in 1996. The film is beautifully made and, as someone who spends a week each year at a monastery, the portrayal of monastic life is accurate and convincing. The primary tension of the film revolves around whether the monks will leave their monastery when an outbreak of violence against foreigners takes place. Leaving, however, would deprive the impoverished locals of the medical and spiritual care the monks provide for them. A great movie for personal viewing or a Faith and Film night at your parish.



Left: *Light of the World* (Ignatius)

Right: *Of Gods and Men* (Sony Pictures Classics)

Catholic Calendar—Upcoming Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation

On Hobbits and Catholics: J.R.R. Tolkien’s Strangely

Christian World

Nathan Lefler, PhD
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church,
Peckville

August 3, 7:00p.m.

In this free presentation Dr. Lefler will examine how the Catholic faith influenced J.R.R. Tolkien’s life and writings (*The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, etc.).

To register please call
570.383.3244

The Eucharist and the Transfiguration: Living in the Glory of God

Rev. James Price, CP
Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton

**August 6
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Celebrating and participating in the Eucharist is not only a gift and obligation, but it is also meant to change us and transform us. When the disciples came to the mountain with Jesus to behold his glory, they were told to listen to the Son

because he was the Beloved of God. As we come together on this feast of the Transfiguration, we will reflect on the many ways the Eucharist can transfigure us and ultimately keep us focused on the mission of Jesus as we walk our journey of faith in today’s world. We too can behold the glory of God because the Eucharist centers our attention on God’s Beloved Son.

Fee: \$30.00, includes lunch. To register: Call 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