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### The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions For This Month

#### General Intention:

That priests, united to the Heart of Christ, may always be true witnesses of the caring and merciful love of God.

#### Mission Intention:

That the Holy Spirit may bring forth from our communities numerous missionary vocations, willing to fully consecrate themselves to spreading the Kingdom of God.

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# Disciple

A monthly resource for adult Catholics of  
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## Breaking Open the Word—Notes on the Sunday Gospels

### Jun. 5 (Jn. 17:1-11a)

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks of eternal life. "To possess life is to know the living God in His triune glory. Although this knowledge has a cognitive and intellectual dimension, it also includes a relational bond of love, friendship, and communion with God that grows steadily until our union with Him is complete in Heaven (Eph. 1:17; 1 Jn. 4:17)."

### Jun. 12 (Jn. 20:19-23)

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus breathed upon the Apostles. This "anticipates the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost, which will take place 50 days later (Acts 2:1-4). Here we see that the risen humanity of Jesus has become a sacrament of the divine Spirit (6:53-58; CCC

1116). John uses an expression that recurs in significant contexts in the Greek Old Testament. It appears in Genesis 2:7, where the Lord breathes life into Adam; in 1 Kings 17:21, where the Greek version specifies that Elijah resuscitated a boy with his breath; and in Ezekiel 37:9, where God raises an army of corpses to new life by the breath of the Spirit."

### Jun. 19 (Jn. 3:16-18)

In today's Gospel Jesus says that he who does not believe "is condemned already." What does this mean? As one scholar explains, "Unbelief is a form of rebellion that puts offenders outside the safety of the covenant. To reject the Son of God is to reject the light of faith in preference to spiritual darkness, death, and disinheritance (3:20;

CCC 679).

### Jun. 26 (Jn. 6:51-58)

In today's Gospel Jesus says that those who do not eat His Flesh and drink His Blood will have no life in them (He is referring to divine life). "Drinking the blood of animals is forbidden under the Old Covenant (Gen. 9:4; Lev. 17:10-13; Deut. 12:16). To do so is to consume 'life' that is merely natural and of a lower order than human life. Jesus' injunction does not fall under these prohibitions. The 'life' He imparts is not natural, but supernatural; it does not pull us down to the level of animals; it elevates us to become sharers in His divine nature (2 Peter 1:4; CCC 1391).

## Faith Foundations—Basics of Catholic Christian Belief

### Everlasting Life

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

The following is a brief overview of Catholic belief about Eternal Life.

#### What is life everlasting?

"Eternal life is that life which begins immediately after death. It will have no end. It will be preceded for each person by a particular judgment at the hands of Christ who is the Judge of the living and the dead. This particular judgment will be con-

firmed in the final judgment."

#### What is the particular judgment?

"It is the judgment of immediate retribution which each one after death will receive from God in his immortal soul in accord with his faith and works. This retribution consists in entrance into the happiness of heaven, immediately or after an appropriate purification, or entry into the eternal damnation of hell."

#### What is meant by the term "heaven"?

"By 'heaven' is meant the state of supreme and definitive happiness. Those who die in the grace of God and have no need of further purification are gathered around Jesus and Mary, the angels and the saints. They thus form the Church of heaven, where they see God 'face to face' (1 Cor. 13:12). They live in a communion of love with the Most Blessed Trinity and they intercede for us."

#### What is purgatory?

"Purgatory is the state of those

(continued on next page)

## Faith Foundations...Continued

who died in God's friendship, assured of their eternal salvation, but who still have need of purification to enter into the happiness of heaven."

### In what does hell consist?

"Hell consists in the eternal damnation of those who die in mortal sin through their own free choice. The principal suffering of hell is eternal separation from God in whom alone we can have the life and happiness for which we were created and for which we long. Christ proclaimed this reality with the words, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire' (Mt. 25:41)."

### How can one reconcile the existence of hell with the infinite goodness of God?

"God, while desiring 'all to come to repentance' (2 Pt. 3:9), nevertheless has created the human person to be free and responsible; and He respects our decisions. Therefore, it is the human person who freely excludes himself from communion with God if at the moment of death he persists in mortal sin and refuses the merciful love of God."

### In what does the final judgment consist?

"The final or universal judgment

consists in a sentence of happiness or eternal condemnation, which the Lord Jesus will issue in regard to the 'just and unjust' (Acts 24:15) when He returns as the Judge of the living and the dead. After the last judgment, the resurrected body will share in the retribution which the soul received at the particular judgment."

### When will this judgment occur?

"This judgment will occur at the end of the world and only God knows the day and the hour."



The Final Judgment "will occur at the end of the world and only God knows the day and the hour."

## Faith and Media—Reading and Viewing Recommendations

### Book of the Month:

#### Youcat

*Youcat* is short for Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church. I received a complimentary copy from Ignatius Press, but I wasn't exactly sure what I would do with it. Once it arrived I flipped through it and I am officially hooked. This is the most appealing catechism I have ever seen. It is great not only for teens and young adults (towards whom it is directly aimed) but for *all* Catholics—maybe even especially adults who don't know the basics of

the faith, or have found the primary Catechism too daunting. The format is spectacular and it is augmented by quotes in the margins—some of whom are by people I had never heard of before. I highly recommend this book to everyone.

### Film of the Month:

#### Les Misérables

This is not the kind of movie I would typically watch of my own free will. Recently, however, a friend loaned it to us and my wife assured me that it was not a musical version of the story. I found the story very

compelling. I think most people have at least a basic understanding of the plot of *Les Misérables*, but if you don't here are some major themes to look for that would make it worthy of a Catholic "Faith and Film" night: The power of mercy to transform lives; the recognition of the dignity of the human person; the love of one's enemies (in this case, *persistent* enemies); the struggle to stick to your convictions when your pressured to abandon them. Well acted and memorable.



Left: *Youcat* Ignatius Press)

Right: *Les Misérables* (Sony Pictures)

## Catholic Calendar—Upcoming Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation

### Reflection Day "Our Call to Holiness"

#### Presented By:

Sister Cor Immaculatum, IHM

#### Where:

Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton

#### When

June 18 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. How am I called? To whom am I called? These are the questions that will guide us in the first conference. In the second conference we will consider Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta's message, "I will give saints to Holy Mother Church." Her words

and example will challenge us to be more attentive to the grace of living our personal call to holiness more vibrantly and more effectively.

#### 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**