

Inside this issue:

Notes on Sunday
Gospel readings 1

Faith Foundations 1

Book and Film
Recommendations 2

Adult Faith For-
mation Opportu-
nities 2

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions For This Month

General Intention:

That victims of drugs or of other dependence may, thanks to the support of the Christian community, find in the power of our Saving God strength for a radical life-change.

Mission Intention:

That the Churches of Latin America may move ahead with the continent-wide mission proposed by their bishops, making it part of the universal missionary task of the People of God.

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Disciple

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Breaking Open the Word—Notes on the Sunday Gospels

Nov. 7 (Lk. 20:27-38)

In today's Gospel "the Sadducees challenge Jesus about His teaching on the afterlife. They are convinced that the Mosaic Law says nothing about a future resurrection and so present Him with a dilemma: If Moses permits a woman to remarry every time her husband dies (Deut 25:5), will this not bring confusion into the next life? How will she determine who is her legitimate spouse if all of them are raised? Jesus deals with His objectors on their own terms: first, by denying that marriage exists in the next life and, second, by deliberately citing the Mosaic Law against them."

Nov. 14 (Lk. 21:5-19)

In today's Gospel Jesus talks about the persecution that those who believe in Him will experience. "Disciples must fearlessly

identify with Jesus despite opposition. Persecution will provide opportunities to proclaim the Gospel. Luke recounts several such episodes where believers are locked up in prisons (Acts 4:3; 5:18; 8:3; 12:4; 16:23) and hauled before kings and governors (Acts 25:23-26:32)."

Nov. 21 (Lk. 23:35-43)

In today's Gospel Jesus tells the repentant thief that he will join Him in paradise. "Paradise" is "a Persian loan word meaning 'garden' or 'park,' used 3 times in the New Testament. The term makes its first biblical appearance in the Greek version in Genesis 2:8, where it refers to the Garden of Eden. Here, before his rebellion, man lived enfolded in the blessings and peace of God. Centuries later, the Prophets foretold that the blissful conditions of Eden would reappear in the future (Is 51:3;

Ezek 36:35). The NT sharpens this expectation, indicating that the true garden of paradise is supernatural and heavenly, not natural and merely earthly. It is nothing less than the eternal dwelling of God, where Jesus promised to accompany the good thief after death (Lk. 23:43)."

Nov. 28 (Mt. 24:37-44)

In today's Gospel Jesus talks about the need to be prepared and watchful in the living of the Christian life. If we grow lazy in the living of our Faith because we believe Jesus is not returning any time soon (or that we have a lot of life ahead of us), we will be caught unprepared should something sudden happen (unexpected death or the Second Coming). This is the point of the reference to Noah and the people of his day, who were caught off guard by the flood.

Faith Foundations—Basics of Catholic Christian Belief

The 9th and 10th Com- mandments

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

What is required by the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment requires that one overcome carnal concupiscence in thought and in desire. The struggle against such concupiscence entails purifying the heart and practicing the virtue of temperance.

What is forbidden by the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment forbids

cultivating thoughts and desires connected to actions forbidden by the sixth commandment ("Thou shall not commit adultery").

How does one reach purity of heart?

In the battle against disordered desires the baptised person is able, by the grace of God, to achieve purity of heart through the virtue and gift of chastity, through purity of intention, purity of vision (both exterior and interior), discipline of the imagination and of feelings and by prayer.

What are the other require- ments for purity?

Purity requires *modesty* which, while protecting the intimate center of the person, expresses the sensitivity of chastity. It guides how one looks at others and behaves toward them in conformity with the dignity of persons and their communion. Purity frees one from wide-spread eroticism and avoids those things which foster morbid curiosity. Purity also requires a *purification of the social*

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Faith Foundations...Continued

climate by means of a constant struggle against moral permissiveness which is founded on an erroneous conception of human freedom.

What is required and what is forbidden by the tenth commandment?

This commandment, which completes the preceding commandment, requires an interior attitude of respect for the property of others and forbids greed, unbridled covetousness for the goods of others, and envy

which is the sadness one experiences at the sight of another's goods and the immoderate desire to acquire them for oneself.

What does Jesus call for in poverty of spirit?

Jesus calls his disciples to prefer him to everything and everyone. Detachment from riches – in the spirit of evangelical poverty – and self-abandonment to divine providence free us from anxiety about the future and prepare us for the blessedness

of the “poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (*Mathew 5:3*).

What is the greatest human desire?

The greatest desire of the human person is to see God. “I want to see God” is the cry of our whole being. We realize our true and full happiness in the vision and beatitude of the One who created us out of love and draws us to himself with infinite love.



“Jesus calls his disciples to prefer him to everything and everyone.”

Faith and Media—Reading and Viewing Recommendations

Book of the Month:

He Leadeth Me by Walter Ciszek, S.J.

Whenever I am asked to teach college students theology at the local university, I begin by having them read this book. Why? Because it offers a concrete witness of the power of faith in the midst of terrible (unjust) trials. It deals with the great themes of Christian faith not in the abstract, but in the concrete application of them to the circumstances of life. A very inspiring, gut wrenching account of a priest's experience of being

falsely imprisoned in the Soviet Union during the communist regime. Fr. Ciszek addresses his temptations in frank terms and emerges as a humble hero.

[*This book is available at most new and used book retailers and local libraries, as well as the diocesan Resource Center in Scranton.*]

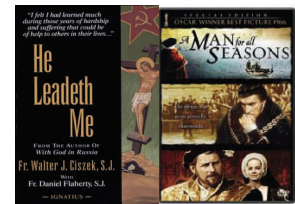
Film of the Month:

A Man for All Seasons

I've recommended this one before, but since it is election season, it's worth mentioning again. Winner of 6 Academy Awards, including Best Picture

and Best Actor, this film adaptation of Robert Bolt's play portrays the moral battle between St. Thomas More and King Henry VIII over the latter's desire to divorce his wife and proclaim himself head of the Church of England. Paul Scofield's portrayal of More is spectacular and worth the price of buying/renting the film alone.

[*Available at practically all retailers and video rental stores/mail services, as well as your local library system and the Diocesan Resource Center.*]



Left: *He Leadeth Me* (Ignatius Press)

Right: *A Man for All Seasons* (Sony Pictures)

Catholic Calendar—Upcoming Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation

Day of Reflection for Catechists

The Beatitudes: Core of Christian Teaching

Presented by Monsignor David L. Tressler

November 6, 2010
Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The Beatitudes, given by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount,

represent the core of Christian life. They are promises of true happiness made by Jesus to those who faithfully accept and follow his teachings. Monsignor Tressler will explain how the beatitudes represent for the catechist concrete ways in leading and teaching young people in the knowledge and truth of our faith in Christ and in service to his Church.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available and Mass will be

celebrated.

Cost: \$25.00 (catechist discount), 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