

OCTOBER 2019

Extraordinary Missionary Month

1 TUESDAY
St Therese of the Child Jesus

'The Lord led her and taught her, and kept her as the apple of his eye. Like an eagle spreading its wings he took her up and bore her on his shoulders. The Lord alone was her guide.'

—cf. Deuteronomy 32:10-12 (entrance antiphon)
I spend some time reflecting about how the Lord guides me in word and deed.

2 WEDNESDAY
The Holy Guardian Angels

The Lord says this: 'I myself will send an angel before you to guard you as you go ...'

—Exodus 23:20

3 THURSDAY

'Since the whole Church is missionary, and the work of evangelization is a basic duty of the People of God, this sacred synod invites all to a deep interior renewal, so that, having a vivid awareness of their own responsibility for spreading the Gospel, they may do their share ...'

—Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 102

4 FRIDAY

St Francis of Assisi

'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.'

—A simple prayer, popularly attributed to St Francis

5 SATURDAY
St Therese of the Child Jesus

'You have before you the task of seeking new ways to announce Christ in situations of rapid and often profound transformation, and of emphasizing the missionary character of all pastoral activity.'

—Pope Benedict XVI, address to Costa Rican bishops, Vatican City, 8 February 2008

This is the new Evangelisation. I reflect with my community about new ways we can encourage a love of Jesus in those around us.

6 SUNDAY
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

'Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.'

—2 Timothy 1:13-14

7 MONDAY
Our Lady of the Rosary

'There is a Marian "style" to the Church's work of evangelization ... Mary is able to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small.'

—*Evangelii Gaudium*, §288

8 TUESDAY

'The Church is most missionary when it is stretching itself, exploring and discovering what God is doing in the world.'

—Neil Connolly, 2019

We ask for our eyes to be opened to see the work of God in the world so that we can build upon it.

9 WEDNESDAY

'Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.'

—cf. Esther 4:17 (entrance antiphon)

10 THURSDAY

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him.'

—Luke 11:9-10

11 FRIDAY

In his first General Audience, Pope Francis offered a challenge: 'to open the doors of our heart, of our life, of our parishes ... of the movements, of the associations; and "to come out" in order to meet others, to make ourselves close, to bring them the light and joy of our faith. To come out always!'

—Pope Francis, General Audience, 27 March 2013

12 SATURDAY

'The fundamental task of the evangelization of culture is the challenge to make God visible in the human face of Jesus.'

—Pope Benedict XVI, address to the Bishops of Ontario, Italy, 8 September 2006

How can I reveal the face of Jesus to those around me?

13 SUNDAY
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

'The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power'

—cf. Psalm 97 (psalm response)

14 MONDAY

I take the words of this week's collect into my heart: 'May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us determined to carry out good works.'

15 TUESDAY

'Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, Yours are the eyes through which to look out Christ's compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; Yours are the hands with which he is able to bless men now.'

—attributed to St Teresa of Avila

We join our hands with St. Teresa and continue Christ's work.

16 WEDNESDAY
St Teresa of Jesus

'Our faith is well founded; but it is necessary that this faith becomes part of our lives. A great effort must therefore be made in order for all Christians to transform themselves into "witnesses ..."

—Pope Benedict XVI, address to 4th Italian Episcopal Conference, Verona, Italy, 19 October 2006

17 THURSDAY

'Do not have Jesus Christ on your lips, and the world in your hearts.'

—St Ignatius of Antioch, Epistle to the Romans, ch. 7

18 FRIDAY
St Luke the Evangelist

In the Christian tradition, St Luke is remembered as a Greek doctor who converted to Christianity and as a companion of St Paul. The gospel attributed to him and the Acts of the Apostles provide a powerful witness to the works of the early church.

'The Lord sent out disciples to proclaim throughout the towns: The kingdom of God is at hand.' —cf. Luke 10:1-9 (communion antiphon)

19 SATURDAY

'The Church is a family of families'

—Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 887

20 SUNDAY
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Alleluia, alleluia! The world of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!

—cf. Hebrews 4:12 (gospel acclamation)

21 MONDAY

'One doesn't begin to be a Christian because of an ethical decision or great idea, but rather because of an encounter with an event, with a Person, who gives new horizons to life, and with that, a decisive orientation.'

—Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City, 13 November 2007

22 TUESDAY

'I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day.'

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, §3

23 WEDNESDAY

'Almighty and ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.'

—collect for the 29th week in Ordinary Time

24 THURSDAY

'Every man and woman is a mission; that is the reason for our life on this earth.'

—Pope Francis, message for World Mission Day 2018

25 FRIDAY

'Respect and love ought to be extended also to those who think or act differently than we do in social, political and even religious matters. In fact, the more deeply we come to understand their ways of thinking through such courtesy and love, the more easily we will be able to enter into dialogue with them.'

—*Gaudium et Spes*, 1965, §28

26 SATURDAY

'Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.'

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, §127

27 SUNDAY
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

'Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice: turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.'

—cf. Psalm 104:3-4 (entrance antiphon)

Our life is mission

—POPE FRANCIS

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximam Illud*, Pope Francis has declared October 2019 as the Extraordinary Missionary Month. The theme is 'Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World'. *May each day in October be a chance for us to BE the mission at work in the world!*

28 MONDAY

'O God, who by the blessed Apostles have brought us to acknowledge your name, graciously grant, through the intercessions of Saints Simon and Jude, that the Church may constantly grow by increase of the peoples who believe in you.'

—collect for the Feast of Sts Simon and Jude

We join our mission with the mission of the apostles.

29 TUESDAY

'Help each other to live and to grow in the Christian faith so as to be valiant witnesses to the Lord. Be united, but not closed. Be humble, but not fearful. Be simple, but not naive. Be thoughtful, but not complicated. Enter into dialogue with others, but be yourselves.'

—Pope Benedict XVI, Genoa, Italy, 18 May 2008

How do I grow in faith and encourage faith in those around me?

30 WEDNESDAY

'Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us to everyone. The Gospel is for everyone.'

—Pope Francis, homily, World Youth Day, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 28 July 2013

31 THURSDAY

'Go out to all the world and tell the good news!'

—cf. Psalm 116

