

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

October 2018

## Ascension of Our Lord Church

Rev. Walter Austin, Pastor

### One Minute Meditations

#### St. John XXIII

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born to a poor farming family in Bergamo, Italy. His ordination as a priest in 1904 began a lifetime serving the Church as: the bishop's secretary, a military chaplain, cardinal-patriarch of Venice, and finally, as pope. Even so, St. John never forgot his humble origins, and he was known for visiting the poor, the sick and prisoners. As pope, he is most remembered for opening the Second Vatican Council. He died in 1963.



#### A Catholic's Job

Every Catholic has three tasks. Know the Catholic faith. We can't share it if we don't know it. Live the Catholic faith. It comes with us wherever we are. Spread the Catholic faith. We can't keep Christ to ourselves.

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence." St.

Teresa of Calcutta



## Three ways to walk Jesus' path

The magnificence of Heaven is simply beyond our comprehension. Our limited minds can't imagine how amazing it is. Jesus came to tell us about it and show us how to get there. He hoped we'd follow in his footsteps and do what he did.

**Serve others with love.** Jesus asked us to love one another as he did. Some of the ways he showed love were to treat strangers kindly, tend to the material needs of the needy, lend an attentive ear, help people make good and virtuous decisions that bring them closer to God. Try to show love in these ways daily.

**Lighten your load.** Not only did

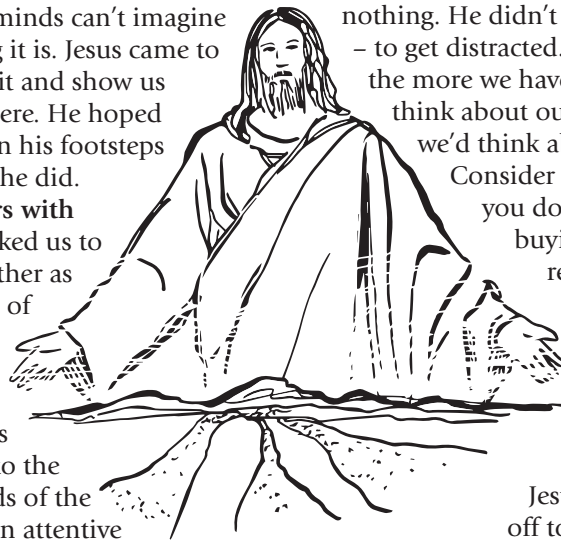
Jesus have few material goods, he sent his disciples out to preach with almost nothing. He didn't want them – or us – to get distracted. Jesus knew that the more we have, the more we'd think about our stuff and the less we'd think about God.

Consider shedding what you don't need, and buying only items that replace what is worn out or broken. Give the money you save to charity.

**Quiet down.**

Jesus frequently went off to be alone with

God. Take some quiet time each day just to keep company with God. Even spending as few as 15 minutes a day with God in silence will bring you peace.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics give new names at Baptism?

Catholics often give their children new names at Baptism to celebrate the new spiritual life of the one being baptized. In the Bible, name changes were often associated with significant life-changes. For example, Simon's name was changed

to "Peter" when Jesus singled him out to be the first pope (Matthew 16:18). Often a saint's name will be chosen at Baptism, as a way of placing the baptized person under the patronage of the saint as their intercessor and model in holiness.



# Who is the real Catholic Church?

The Catholic Church is not just a building or a group of people. Rather, the real Church is a family begun by Jesus, extending all over the world, stretching through time and space.

In **Heaven** live those members who completed their earthly lives as God intended.

Members in **Purgatory** did their best to follow Jesus but died without having made adequate penance for their venial sins. Our prayers will help them get to Heaven.

And those of us who are members on **Earth** are



still living within the family, trying to make the journey to Heaven.

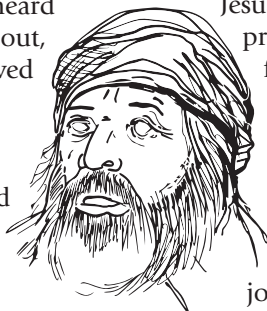
All three groups make up the Church and we are all connected forever. So not only can we ask our friends on Earth to pray for us, we can appeal for prayers to those who are face-to-face with God.

The Church began with Christ but is populated by humans who don't always choose well. Still, we are all called to live fully in Christ's image. Those of us on Earth just have to keep trying.

## from Scripture

### Mark 10:46-52, a blind man leads

Bartimaeus was a blind beggar who saw Jesus clearly. When he heard that Jesus was near he cried out, "Son of David," a title reserved for the Messiah. Although people tried to shush him, Bartimaeus persisted until Jesus noticed him and called him over. Immediately, Bartimaeus threw off his cloak and ran to Jesus' side. Even the little he had was discarded to get to Jesus.



Jesus, "Master," Bartimaeus asked Jesus for his sight. When his prayer was answered, Bartimaeus followed Jesus as his disciple.

It is this profound trust that Jesus wants to elicit from the crowd – and from us. The difficulties of being Christian in a secular world can blind us to the joys of following Jesus. Try to approach Jesus with excitement and humble confidence. When we trust him as Bartimaeus did, we become true disciples who can tackle the difficult task of leading others down the road to God.

Bartimaeus stood before Jesus humbly, but he was confident that Jesus had the power to do whatever he asked. The only person in Mark's Gospel to call

## Q & A How can I get more out of Scripture?

In the crush of daily life, Scripture reading may get overlooked. Yet, spending daily time with God's Word is the surest way to hear his voice. Try these tips:



**Get a Catholic Bible.** There are more books in Catholic versions. You don't want to miss important doctrine they contain. Catholic Bibles will have the words "Imprimatur" and/or "Nihil obstat," meaning that the margin notes are in keeping with Church teaching.

**Start deliberately.** Pick a book, one of the Gospels, perhaps, and read it each day section by section or chapter by chapter. Give it your full attention while reading. Read the footnotes, and write down any connections it inspires to your life.

**Memorize a verse.** Did a line or verse strike you? Write it down and learn it by heart. The more you know of God's Word, the more you know of God.

**Look for a take-away:** Ask God what he wants you to know from your time with his Word. Then be sure to listen with an open heart.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**Oct. 2 – Feast of the Guardian Angels.** All of us have a guardian angel, in charge of protecting us and watching over us day and night. Each angel is unique, and no two are alike. On this feast day, remember to thank the Guardian Angels for the work they do to bring us to Heaven.

**Oct. 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary (1571).** Pope Pius V created this feast in thanksgiving to Our Lady of Victory who helped the Christians defeat the Ottoman Turks. Since it was believed that they won after praying the Rosary,

the feast was renamed Our Lady of the Rosary by Pope Gregory XIII.

**Oct. 9 – St. Denis (250).** Originally born in third-century Italy, St. Denis was sent with two companions, Rusticus and Eleutherius, to Christianize Gaul (modern day France). St. Denis became the first bishop of Paris. The three men were martyred by the pagan authorities for their success in converting souls to Christ. He is a patron saint of France.



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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)