

Growing in FAITH™

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

July 2020

St. Michael's Faith Formation

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One Minute Meditations

St. Benedict of Nursia

Born to a wealthy Italian family, St. Benedict was educated in Rome during the barbarian invasions – a time of division, chaos, and failing morals. Dismayed at the rampant immorality of his peers, he fled Rome and lived as a hermit in the mountains. Attracted by his holiness, many people sought him out. St. Benedict went on to found twelve monasteries in Subiaco and the famous Monte Cassino, which became a center of holiness, learning, and culture.

Keep parish lights on

Whether or not your parish has gone back to public Mass, please make your weekly donation by mail before you leave. Your parish depends upon your help to pay the bills even when you're not home.

"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



Share your faith

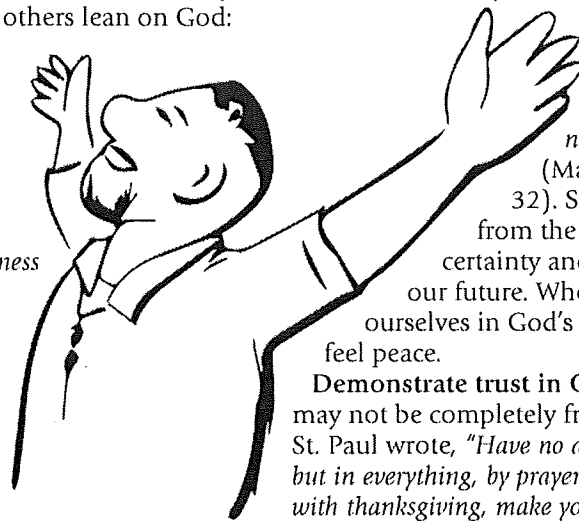
In this time of uncertainty, followers of Jesus know that worry is unnecessary. We know God wants us to experience his peace and share it with others. Try these tips to help others lean on God:

Go deep into God's love. It is ours today, tomorrow, and forever. "... Good indeed is the Lord, His mercy endures forever, his faithfulness lasts through every generation" (Psalm 100:5). Experiencing Sacraments, reading Scripture, and spending time in prayer are keys to growing in God's love and sharing it.

Share your confidence in God's care. Jesus promised that God will give us

all we need, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on ... your heavenly Father knows that you need them all" (Matthew 6:25, 32). Stress stems from the absence of certainty and control over our future. When we put ourselves in God's care, we can feel peace.

Demonstrate trust in God. While we may not be completely free from worry, St. Paul wrote, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

In the Catholic Church, a bishop is an ordained minister who holds the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Bishops teach doctrine, govern Catholics in their jurisdictions, and represent the Church.

In addition to filling the need for leadership in a family as big as the Church, bishops link us to

Why do Catholics need bishops?



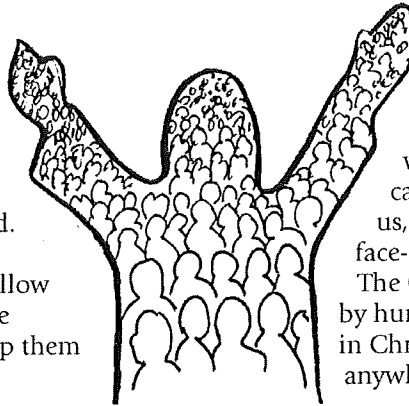
the Apostles. The Apostles chose disciples to fill their office after them, and passed on to them the authority and faith they had received from Christ. This spiritual treasure was passed from bishop to bishop by consecration in an unbroken line up to today. This way, the faith will be available in every age to the rest of the Church.

Where 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. They watch over us when we ask.

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



And those of us who are members on **Earth** are still living within the family, trying to make it 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. Still, we are all called to live fully in Christ's image. That means the Church is anywhere we are.

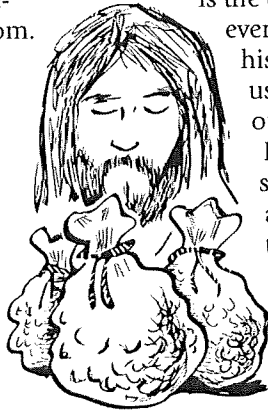
from Scripture

Matthew 13:44-52, The kingdom is worth everything

Jesus used the parables in this Gospel passage to emphasize the life-changing value of the Kingdom.

In the first parable, a man discovers – seemingly by accident – a treasure buried in a field. He sells everything he has to purchase the field. In the second scenario, a merchant finds a valuable pearl after diligent searching. He also sells everything he has to possess the pearl.

By these parables, Jesus taught that being part of God's Kingdom – accepting his love for us and loving others as he loves – is the only thing that really feeds



our souls. God's unconditional love is the only thing that is worthy of everything we have. If we accept his invitation (he won't force us), our lives may change as our hearts change.

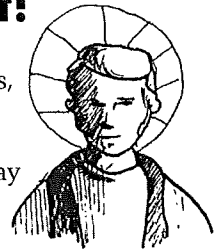
Finally, Jesus compared the separation between the evil and righteous to the sifting that happens when a large catch is brought ashore.

Similarly, when we put our whole life in service to our love for God, then the individual pieces fall into place around that love.

Whatever is contrary to this love falls away.

Q & A

There's a saint for that!



Down through the ages, Catholics have invoked the saints for their prayers, even for everyday things. It was a way of offering everything to God, through the saints' prayers, even little things like losing your keys! Here are some "holy helpers":

Airplane travelers, astronauts: St. Joseph of Cupertino miraculously levitated while at prayer.

Accountants, bankers: St. Matthew the Apostle was a dishonest tax collector until Christ called him to be an Apostle (Matthew 9:9).

Battle, soldiers, doctors, police: St. Michael the Archangel led the angels to victory against the Devil and his forces (Revelation 12:7-9).

Finding lost things: St. Anthony of Padua prayed and recovered his stolen prayer book.

Plagues, pestilence, sick people: St. Roch cared for victims of the plague in Italy.

Students, teachers, schools: St. Thomas Aquinas, once teased as "the Dumb Ox," was actually one of the most brilliant scholars in the Church.

Feasts & Celebrations

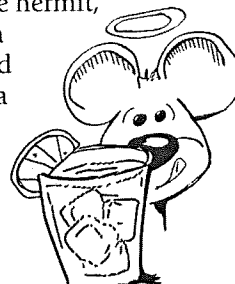
July 3 – St. Thomas (1st Century). Known as "doubting Thomas" for requesting proof of the Resurrection, he made a beautiful profession of faith when he received proof, "My Lord and My God" (John 20:28). Tradition says that Thomas traveled to India and was martyred near Mylapore.

July 14 – St. Kateri Tekakwitha (1680). A smallpox epidemic in her Native American village left Kateri orphaned, disfigured, and half-blind. Introduced to Catholicism by missionaries, she was baptized at the age of 19 and moved to a Christian

village where she lived in holiness.

July 22 – St. Mary Magdalene (1st century). Mary Magdalene, from whom Jesus expelled seven demons, helped to financially support Jesus' ministry (Luke 8:2) and stood by the cross of Jesus with his mother (John 19:25). She first informed the Apostles of Jesus' Resurrection.

July 24 – St. Charbel Makhlouf (d. 1898). A Maronite hermit, St. Charbel lived a life of solitude and holiness. He had a reputation as a wonder worker, even among his Muslim neighbors.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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