
PROPER OF SAINTS

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*Friday of the second Sunday after Pentecost.

Jesus reveals himself to Paul

January 25 Acts 22:3-16
(Paul's Conversion)

"I am Jesus, whom you persecute."

We sometimes hear people say,
"I believe in God, and I believe in Jesus,
but I don't believe in the Church."

When we hear people say this,
we want to cry out:

"But there's no Jesus apart from the Church.
Ever since Pentecost,
Jesus and his Church have formed one body."

Trying to separate Jesus
from the community of his followers
is like trying to separate one's head
from one's body.

That's the burden of the voice's response
to Paul in today's reading:
"I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute."

Do we sometimes make the mistake
of thinking about Jesus
as being separate from his body, the Church?

"[Jesus] is the head of his body, the church;
he is the source of the body's life." Colossians 1:18

Jesus is tested

February 2 (Presentation) Hebrews 2:14-18

He can help those who are tempted.

In his book *The Will-Power Problem*,
John Sherrill describes how he started to give in
consistently to a certain temptation.
Each time he gave in,
he resolved that it would be the last time.
It never was.

When John realized its hold on him,
he sought the help of a psychiatrist.
When the psychiatrist was unable to help him,
he turned to Scripture.

A passage from Joshua proved to be the key.
It read:

"Decide today
whom you will serve." Joshua 24:15
The Lord was saying,
"Make up your mind now!
Don't wait until you're being tempted.
Then it'll be too late."

John made his decision then and there.
And that was the end of the temptation.

What is the chief temptation
that we struggle with?

"It is easier to stay out than to get out."
Mark Twain

Peter talks about service

February 22 (Peter's Chair) 1 Peter 5:1-4

Watch over those entrusted to your care.

A woman
bought a beautiful, old porcelain pitcher.
It was cream colored
with red and blue flowers painted delicately
on its surface.
It soon became one of her cherished possessions.

One day someone dropped the pitcher,
breaking it into many pieces.
The woman gathered the pieces together,
sorted them out,
and began to glue them together.

As she worked over the pitcher,
she thought of how God labors over
broken members of the human family.
The people we write off as hopeless,
God labors to restore and make beautiful again.

What God does, we too should do.

How generously
do we serve those entrusted to our care?

"God sells us all things
at the price of the labor." Leonardo da Vinci

Abraham believes

March 19 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22
(Joseph, Husband)

God blessed him with many descendants.

There's a striking similarity between Abraham, the husband of Sarah, and Joseph, the husband of Mary. Both had their faith tested to the limit.

Abraham was told he'd have a son by Sarah, who was long past the age of childbearing. (Genesis 18:12) To believe that Sarah would bear him a son required tremendous faith on Abraham's part.

Joseph was told that Mary, his espoused wife, was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. To believe the pregnancy was from the Spirit required tremendous faith on Joseph's part.

Both Abraham and Joseph believed, and their great faith was rewarded by God.

How strong is our faith when what we are asked to believe seems to go contrary to logic, and even good sense?

"Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt."

John H. Newman, *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*

God gives a sign

March 25 (Annunciation) Isaiah 7:10-14

"He will be called Immanuel."

The Old Testament prophecies function at two different levels.

The first level is the Old Testament situation to which the prophecy refers immediately. The second level is the New Testament situation to which the prophecy refers ultimately.

Today's reading illustrates both levels. The Old Testament situation is God's promise

to save his people from physical destruction through a son born to Ahaz (ca. 700 B.C.).

The New Testament situation is God's promise to save his people from spiritual destruction through a son born to Mary.

How do we handle doubts about whether God is truly "with us" when problems arise?

"I will lead my blind people by roads they have never traveled. I will turn their darkness into light and make rough country smooth before them. These are my promises, and I will keep them without fail." Isaiah 42:16

Take courage

April 25 (Mark) 1 Peter 5:5-14

Clothe yourself in humility.

Years ago Don Shula, coach of the Miami Dolphins, was vacationing in a small town in Maine.

One rainy afternoon, Shula, his wife, and five children went to the town's only theater. When they walked into the theater, only six other people were there. To a person, however, they stood up and applauded the Shula family.

As the Shulas sat down, a man came running up and shook the famous coach's hand.

"How did you recognize me?" Shula asked him.

"Mister, I don't know who are you," he replied. "All I know is that the manager announced before you came in with your family that unless five more people showed up, there wouldn't be a movie today."

How do we handle humiliating experiences when they come unexpectedly into our life?

Humility isn't thinking little of ourselves; it's not thinking of ourselves at all.

God creates the world

May 1 Genesis 1:26-2:3
(Joseph the Worker)

It was a work of love.

Charlotte Chandler wrote a book called *The Ultimate Seduction*. It's about the attitudes of famous people toward work.

When you finish reading the book and put it down, two points stick in your mind. First, many famous people worked very hard. Second, their motivation for working was not money.

More often than not, their motivation was to make a dream come true or to make the world a better place to live in.

In all this, we are reminded of God's work of creation. It, too, was a work of love.

What is our attitude toward work?
What is our motivation?

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for men." Colossians 3:23

The disciples see Jesus

May 3 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
(Philip and James)

They shared their joy with others.

The producer and director Sidney Sheldon went to New York at the age of 17 to pursue a career as a songwriter.

To support himself, he took a job as a barker for the old RKO Jefferson theater. Barkers used to wear big, funny hats, walk up and down in front of the theater, and shout, "Immediate seating. No waiting."

But Sheldon was not content with this. He had to share his enthusiasm for the film. For instance, he'd say, "You've got to see this great Tarzan film. It'll make you forget all your troubles." Then he'd let go with a deafening Tarzan yell.

The disciples were like that too. They had to let their own enthusiasm for Jesus spill over into their preaching.

What kind of enthusiasm do we have for Jesus?

Whether we are aware of it or not, each of us is preaching some kind of homily about Jesus by the way we live.

The Apostles pick a successor

May 14 (Matthias) Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

The lot fell to Matthias.

We'd think it strange, even ridiculous, to make an important decision by flipping a coin or drawing lots.

For ancient Jews, however, this practice was perfectly normal. Joshua divided the land that way. (Joshua 18:6) Leaders assigned jobs that way. (1 Chronicles 25:8) Drawing lots was a way to keep feelings and prejudices from influencing important decisions.

But beyond this, it was a way to put an outcome in God's hands. If God had a preference about something, drawing lots was a good way to let him show it. For biblical Jews, God's will was more important than life itself.

How important is God's will to us in our life?
How do we try to determine what it is for us?

"Those who obey the LORD will learn from him the path they should follow. . . . The LORD is the friend of those who obey him." Psalm 25:12, 14

Be generous

May 31 (Visitation)

Romans 12:9-16

Share your belongings with the needy.

The Upper Room told a story about a man who surprised a burglar in his home. "Drop your gun and raise your hands," shouted the man, pointing a pistol at the burglar's head.

The burglar obeyed without a struggle. A conversation ensued, and the man learned that the burglar was in desperate straits. He not only was out of work but also had a large family to support.

Moved to compassion, the homeowner sent the burglar home with the instruction to return the next day. He knew where he could get him employment.

The story ends with the comment that the man found not only a job but also the living spirit of the Risen Christ in another human being.

Do people see the spirit of Christ in us?

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." James Keller

Barnabas goes to Antioch

June 11 (Barnabas)

Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3

He was a man of faith.

A woman who identified herself only as R. L. R. sent a poem to Ann Landers in response to someone who had written Ann that believers were simpletons. The poem was entitled "Doubter" and read:

"Oh you who could not put one star in motion,
Who could not build one mountain out of earth,
Or trace the pattern of a single snowflake
Or understand the miracle of birth,

"Presumptuous mortal
who cannot alter the universe in any way,
Or fashion one small bud, release one raindrop
Or toss one cloud into a sunny day,

"Oh earthling who could never paint a sunset
Or cause one dawn to shine.
Oh puny man
who cannot create a single miracle,
How dare you doubt the one who can."

Author unknown

How do we treat our doubts when they come?

"Faith is the ear of the soul." Clement of Alexander

John was Jesus' forerunner

June 24 (John's Birth)

Acts 13:22-26

John prepared the people for Jesus' coming.

On December 17, 1903, two brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright, from Dayton, Ohio, made history at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. They got the first primitive airplane to fly a short distance. That flight ushered in the birth of a new form of transportation.

Orville lived until 1948, but not long enough to see the form of transportation he pioneered grow to the point that it would put a man on the moon.

John the Baptist occupied a similar place in the religious history of Christianity. He set in motion the salvation of the world, but he never lived to see the fruit of his work.

How conscious are we
of our debt to those who went before us
and our responsibility
to those who will follow after us?

The steps we carved out of the mountainside
will be the way by which others scale its peak.

Paul talks about Christ's love

June* (Sacred Heart) Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19

It is beyond our understanding.

The Taj Mahal is located on the Jumna River, 125 miles southeast of Delhi, India. It was built in the 17th century by Emperor Shah Jahan as a symbol of his love for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their 14th child.

Shifts of 22,000 men and women worked 24 hours a day for 22 years to complete the project.

Twenty-eight gems, including jade and agate, adorn the white marble building. Solid silver doors and a solid gold balustrade enclose the tomb. (It was later plundered by an enemy army.)

This monument of one person's love for another gives us an insight into Christ's love for us.

How do we show our love for one another and for Christ?

Christ loves each of us as if we were the only person in the world to love. Anonymous

The Church prays for Peter

June 29 (Peter and Paul) Acts 12:1-11

The Church's prayer was heard.

Author Nick Cavnar tells how one of the tiny diamonds from his mother's ring turned up missing. It wasn't much bigger than a grain of sand, but it was important to his mother.

As soon as she noticed it was missing, she sat down and prayed:

"Lord, there's no way I can find something as small as that diamond.

*Friday of the second Sunday after Pentecost.

But you know where it is. Please help me find it."

Suddenly she thought of the car floor. She got up from her prayer and went out to the car. As she opened the door the sun picked up a gleam on the floor. It was the lost diamond.

How strong is our own faith in God's gift of prayer to us?

To those who believe in prayer, no explanation is needed; to those who don't, none is possible.

You are no longer strangers

July 3 (Thomas) Ephesians 2:19-22

You are being formed into God's temple.

Years ago there was a delightful TV show. Although it was aimed mainly at children, a lot of adults enjoyed it too.

The show featured a cartoonist who would invite a child to take a pen and make a couple of meaningless scribbles on a clean sheet of paper.

Then, against a background of spirited music, the cartoonist would transform the scribbles into a beautiful drawing. One scribble became a girl's ponytail; another became the branch of a tree.

In a sense, that's what God did with the human race. After we messed up ourselves, he took us and fashioned us into something beautiful: the temple of his living presence.

Do we believe God can take our messed-up lives and make something beautiful of them?

"I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart."

Ezekiel 36:26

Christ has been raised

July 22 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
(Mary Magdalene)

Anyone who is in Christ is a new being.

Edward Wilson was a student at Cambridge University in England in 1891. His classmates nicknamed him "the Cynic." He once wrote to a friend, "I know I am hard, proud, conceited . . . insulting . . . selfish."

In 1912 this same Edward Wilson served as a physician on Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. The entire team of explorers perished.

In the last hours as they lay in the snow, Captain Scott called Wilson "the Peacemaker," explaining in his diary how he served others right up to the end. He added in the diary:

"His eyes have a comfortable blue look of hope, and his mind is peaceful with the satisfaction of his faith [in God]."

Edward Wilson's faith had transformed him into a new being in Christ.

How has our faith changed us over the years?

"Life with Jesus is an endless hope, without him, a hopeless end." Anonymous

Paul talks about resurrection

July 25 (James) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

Who raised Jesus will also raise us.

There's a beautiful scene in *Our Town*, Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer prize winning play. The third act opens with the narrator walking amidst the graves in the town cemetery of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire.

At one point he pauses and says, "An awful lot of sorrow has been quieted up here." Then he adds philosophically:

"We all know that *something* is eternal. And it ain't houses and it ain't names,

and it ain't earth,
and it ain't even the stars. . . .
Everybody knows . . .
that something has to do
with human beings. . . .
They're waitin' for something that they feel
is coming! Something important, and great.
Aren't they waitin' for the eternal part of them
to come out in the clear?"

How firmly do we believe
that there's something eternal about ourselves?

"The soul lives forever;
it is a portion of the Deity housed in our bodies."
Flavius Josephus, *The Jewish Wars*

Peter speaks of the transfiguration

August 6 (Transfiguration) 2 Peter 1:16-19

We witnessed this event.

A man cut a grasshopper into three pieces.
Each piece was twice the size of another.
He placed the pieces
in three different, equidistant locations
around the same anthill.

Eventually, three ants spotted the pieces
and returned to the anthill.
There they performed an enthusiastic dance
to notify the others of the discovery.

Forty minutes later
the man counted the ants at each location.
They numbered 28, 44, and 89—
perfectly proportioned to the size of the pieces.

He reasoned that the ants
were able to win a following
in proportion to the enthusiasm they generated
in notifying the others of their discovery.

What kind of following do we win
by our enthusiasm over our discovery of Jesus?
Is it like Peter's in today's reading?

The word *enthusiasm* comes from the Greek
words *en theos*, meaning "in God."

**God is never outdone
in generosity**

August 10 (Lawrence) 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

You will always have all you need.

Try solving this riddle!

What gift enriches the receiver
without diminishing the giver?
What gift can be given in a flash,
but can have an impact that lasts forever?

What gift is of no earthly value
until it is given away?

What gift is such that no one is so poor
that he or she cannot share it,
and no one is so rich
that he or she doesn't have a need for the gift?

The answer?
A smile.

Like smiles, our gifts to others
never leave us impoverished.
God always makes sure
that we get back more than we have given.

How generous are we toward those in need?

What I keep, I lose;
what I give away is mine forever.

The city rested on a foundation

August 24 (Bartholomew) Revelation 21:9-14

The Apostles' names were written on it.

Jesus nicknamed James and John *boanerges*,
which may be translated "sons of thunder"
or "hotheads."

They were hardly the kind of persons
you'd expect to lead other people to holiness.

Matthew was a tax collector,
someone who collaborated with the Romans,
an outcast to Jews.

He was hardly the kind of person
you'd expect to lead other people to holiness.

Simon was a member of the Zealot party,
a hotbed of terrorists, bent on liquidating
every Roman soldier in Palestine, if necessary.
He was hardly the kind of person
you'd expect to lead other people to holiness.

Jesus saw beyond what people were
to what they could become.

Do we see beyond people's present condition
to their possible potential?
To the people God had in mind
when he created them in his own image?

Lord,
give us eyes to see others as you see them.

John speaks about love

August 28 (Augustine)

1 John 4:7-16

Love one another.

During World War II,
the city of London was bombed almost nightly
by German planes.
People lost their homes and their businesses
with the explosion of a single bomb.
People also suffered all kinds of injuries,
many of which doctors were too busy to treat.

An elderly woman, a Mrs. Berwich,
bought herself a first-aid kit.
Then she printed a sign with her own hand
and hung it on the door of her house.
It read: "If you need help, knock here."

William Barclay, who tells this story,
cites it as an example of the kind of love
Jesus taught his followers to show one another.
It is also the kind of love John talks about
in today's reading.

How practical and how concrete
is our love for our neighbor?

"Any kindness I can show any fellow creature,
let me do it now,
for I shall not pass this way again." Stephen Grellet

God instructs Jeremiah

August 29

Jeremiah 1:17-19

(John's Beheading)

Stand up to evil and oppose it.

The book *Ah, But Your Land Is Beautiful* by Alan Paton contains a moving conversation between a white man and a black man. Both are putting their lives on the line for racial justice.

At one point the white man turns to his black friend and says, "Things may be very rough for you. It won't be easy. What is your thinking about that?"

The black man responds, "Well, I look at it this way. When I get up there, the great Judge will say, 'Where are your scars?' And if I say I haven't any, he will say, 'Were there no causes worthy of getting scars?'"

Jeremiah and John the Baptist would have appreciated that conversation.

What kind of scars will we be able to show God?

"It is by those who suffer that the world has been advanced." Leo Tolstoy

Paul talks about believers

September 8

Romans 8:28-30

(Mary's Birth)

God works for good with those who love him.

A young man from Argentina said recently that he was held six years in prison without benefit of a trial. These six years included periods of torture and solitary confinement.

When someone asked him if he were bitter about the suffering and the loss of six years of his young life, he gave a surprise answer.

"No! They were not lost. With God's help, they strengthened me and my relationship to God in a most remarkable way."

How do we treat adversity when it comes into our life—especially when it's caused by another person?

"How often we look upon God as our last and feeblest recourse! We go to him because we have nowhere else to go. And then we learn that the storms of life have driven us not upon the rocks, but into the desired haven." George MacDonald

Paul talks about Jesus

September 14

Philippians 2:6-11

(Triumph of Cross)

He humbled himself to death on the cross.

Christian Century magazine ran a short notice about a North Carolina priest. As part of his Holy Week liturgy, he placed three crosses in front of his church and draped them with a black cloth.

Shortly afterward he got a phone call from the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"We've been getting complaints about those crosses. . . . The tourists will not like them. . . . It will not be good for business. People come down here to get happy, not depressed."

Commenting on the cross, Paul says it is "nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God's power." 1 Corinthians 1:18

What does the cross mean to us, personally?

"We proclaim the crucified Christ, a message that is offensive to the Jews and nonsense to the Gentiles." 1 Corinthians 1:23

Jesus is like us

September 15
(Sorrowful Mother)

Hebrews 5:7-9

Jesus suffered and cried like us.

There's a song called "Jesus—He Knows."
It talks about things like a solitary oak tree
standing on a barren plain
with dried-up, dead grass all around it.
And it says that Jesus knows
how that tree feels in the evening at sunset.

It talks about people who long to hear
the simple melody of a beautiful song
to cheer them up in a time of sadness.
And it says that Jesus knows
how those people feel.

It talks about a selfish man who closes his heart
to the cries of people around him.
And it says that Jesus knows
why that selfish man acts that way.

In brief, the song makes the same point
that today's reading makes.
Jesus had a human nature, like ours,
and knows what it means to be human.

Do we find Jesus' humanity a source of hope?

Jesus "was tempted in every way that we are,
but did not sin." Hebrews 4:15

There is one Lord over all

September 21
(Matthew)

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Preserve your unity.

John Howard Griffin dyed his skin black,
shaved his head, and posed as a black man
in the South in the pre-civil-rights days.

One day he asked for a Catholic church.
He was told
that the nearest "colored Catholic church"
was on Drysades Street.

"There's no such thing
as a colored Catholic church," Griffin replied.

His informant said,
"You don't really believe that, do you? . . .
This is the South.
You're going to find
that a lot of white Catholics look on you
as a nigger first and a Catholic second,
no matter what the Archbishop says."

John H. Griffin, "Racist Sins of Christians"

Do we look upon all Christians
as being equal members of the Body of Christ?

"I pray that they may all be one.
Father! . . . May they be one,
so that the world will believe
that you sent me." John 17:21

Daniel describes a vision

September 29
(Archangels)

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Myriads upon myriads attended him. (NAB)

The Bible mentions angels often,
beginning with the Book of Genesis
and ending with the Book of Revelation.

Tradition teaches
that angels are a part of God's unseen creation.
We allude to them in the Creed at Mass
when we say,
"We believe in one God . . . maker . . .
of all that is seen and unseen."

We refer to them at the start of Mass
when we pray on certain occasions,
"I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin,
all the angels and saints,
and you my brothers and sisters
to pray for me to the Lord our God."

We also refer to them in the Preface, saying,
"We join the angels and all the saints
in proclaiming your glory."

Do we have a sense of joining the angels
in praise in the Preface of the Mass?

"[T]housands were ministering to him,
and myriads upon myriads attended him." (NAB)

Isaiah speaks in God's name

October 1 (Theresa)

Isaiah 66:10-14

As a mother comforts you, so will I.

Jo Jo Starbuck
is a well-known American women ice skater.

She said that when she was a youngster,
struggling with her skating,
it was her mother's encouragement
that got her through the crisis moments.

She'd come home depressed
because her coach had screamed at her.
And it was her mother who lifted her spirits
and comforted her on these occasions.
Starbuck says:

"I'd come home and cry and want to quit.
But my mother would constantly build me up.
She'd tell me how beautiful and talented I was—
even though I wasn't by any means.
She kept telling me
until my batteries were recharged."

John R. Thomas, *Family Matters*

Do we build up and comfort others,
or do we tear them down?

"In the eyes of a mother,
every beetle is a gazelle." Moroccan proverb

I will send an angel before you

October 2

Exodus 23:20-23

(Guardian Angels)

He will protect you as you travel.

Some people are surprised to learn
that the Church has never taught
as a matter of strict faith
that every person has a personal guardian angel.

Nevertheless, the idea of a guardian angel
enjoys a long tradition in the Church.
And many Christians
will testify that they have experienced
a special protection at times in their lives.

The idea of a guardian angel underscores
one of the most important truths of our faith:
God exercises a special love and concern
over each one of us.

Speaking of this, Jesus said to his disciples:

"Not one sparrow is forgotten by God. . . .
So do not be afraid; you are worth
much more than many sparrows." Luke 12:6-7

Recall a time
we felt God's special love and protection.

"Do not be afraid or discouraged,
for I, the LORD your God,
am with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

The Lord stayed with me

October 18 (Luke)

2 Timothy 4:9-17

He gave me strength.

Pastor Martin Niemoller
condemned the Nazis during World War II
and was sent to a concentration camp.

After the war, he was heckled and jeered by
1,200 students for telling a Jew in public,
"I acknowledge my guilt
and beg you to forgive me and my people
for this sin."

Niemoller did not let the heckling and jeering
silence him.

He showed the kind of courage Paul showed
in his own imprisonment.

It is the courage
to stand up for what we think is right,
which every Christian should have.

We have Christ's assurance
that he will be with us and strengthen us
when we are called upon to bear such witness.

How courageous are we
in standing up for what we think is right?

"Courage is being scared to death—
and saddling up anyway." Actor John Wayne

Our foundation is the Apostles

October 28 Ephesians 2:19-22
(Simon and Jude)

We are being built into a temple. (NAB)

Charles Schulz,
author of the *Peanuts* cartoon, once said,
"How can you go to something
that you are already a part of?
If you are a Christian, you are the 'Church.'"

Someone else said,
"That's precisely my problem with the Church.
How can I believe that Christ founded it,
when I see so many second-rate Christians
mutilate its teachings so badly?"

To that, someone replied,
"That's like saying, 'How can I believe
in the musical talent of Beethoven,
when I hear so many second-rate musicians
mutilate his Ninth Symphony so badly?'
Beethoven's music isn't on trial;
the second-rate musicians are."

What kind of witness to the Church
are we giving to others?

"The only way the world knows anything
about the Christ is by watching his followers."
Steve Lawhead

Paul talks about death

November 2 Romans 14:7-9, 10-12
(All Souls)

A judgment awaits us all.

James Boswell
wrote a famous biography of Samuel Johnson,
the great 18th-century British author.
One passage in *The Life of Johnson*
deals with purgatory and Masses for the dead.

Johnson tells Boswell that the idea of purgatory
makes eminent sense to him.
His reasoning is that
the vast majority of people who die

should not be judged so bad as to deserve hell
nor so good as to deserve heaven.
So, he concludes,
there must be a kind of middle state
where some sort of cleansing takes place.

When asked about Masses for those in purgatory,
Dr. Johnson replies that it is as proper
to pray for them as it is to pray for
our brothers and sisters who are alive.

How faithfully do we pray for our deceased
relatives and friends? All the deceased?

"It is a good and holy deed
to pray for the dead."
2 Maccabees 12:44-45 (paraphrased)

Isaiah talks about God's house

November 9 Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
(John Lateran)

My Temple will be a house of prayer.

Dorothy Day died in New York City in 1980.
The New York Times
called her the most influential person
in the history of American Catholicism.

There's now a movement to canonize her
for her personal life of poverty
and for her work among the poor.

In her book *From Union Square to Rome*,
Dorothy says
that before her conversion to Catholicism
she used to go to early morning Mass
at St. Joseph's Church on Sixth Avenue.

What attracted her
were the people kneeling in prayer. She says,
"I longed for their faith.
So I used to go in and kneel in the back pew."

Dorothy was drawn to St. Joseph's
because it was clear it was a "house of prayer."

Do we find the church a place of prayer?

"In prayer we should unite ourselves
to the community."
Jewish Talmud

Confess that Jesus is Lord

November 30 (Andrew) Romans 10:9-18

Believe that God raised Jesus from death.

Fred Smith was a famous biochemist
at the University of Minnesota.
He was also an agnostic.

One day, to placate a friend,
he agreed to attend a religious service.
Although he disliked the singing and the sermon,
he was struck deeply by one sentence
from the Scripture reading:

“If you confess that Jesus is Lord
and believe that God raised him from death,
you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

That single sentence was the seed
from which grew a dynamic personal faith.
Smith became a leading advocate of the Gospel
on the Minnesota campus,
where he held weekly Bible classes in his home.

Do we believe that the Gospel is
“the power of God
leading everyone who believes in it
to salvation”? Romans 1:16 (NAB)

“Ignorance of the Bible
means ignorance of Christ.” St. Jerome