

Fr. David's Weekly Newsletter



January 20, 2012

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works.

THE ROLE OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Pope Benedict XVI has emphasized need for good spiritual counsel for those who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

“I would like to emphasize the critical role of spiritual guidance in the journey of faith and, in particular, in response to the vocation of special consecration for the service of God and his people,” the Pope said at last week’s Sunday Angelus address.

“God’s call to follow Jesus more closely, giving up forming their own family to dedicate themselves to the great family of the Church, is normally done through the testimony and proposal from a ‘big brother,’ usually a priest.”

Also instrumental in the process, he said, were parents “who by their genuine faith and joyful married love, show children that it is beautiful and possible to build all your life on the love of God.”

Speaking from the Papal apartments to several thousand pilgrims gathered beneath the winter sun in

St. Peter’s Square below, the Pope explained his point with references to today’s Scripture readings at Mass.

The Gospel tells of how John the Baptist identified Jesus as “the Lamb of God” on the banks of the River Jordan. Thus he acted in the “role of mediator,” leading two of his disciples to discern that they must now follow Christ.

Similarly in the First Reading, it is the high priest Eli who advises Samuel that it is God and not he who is calling out in the night. Samuel takes his advice and, on the fourth occasion of being called, replies “speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”

The Pope concluded his comments by entrusting all educators, “especially priests and parents,” to the Virgin Mary as they help young people discern their vocation in life.

After the Angelus the Pope highlighted the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that will run Jan 18-25.


Teach me your ways, O Lord.

REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTIAN UNITY

These biblical readings, commentaries, prayers and questions for reflection, all explore different aspects of what this means for the lives of Christians and their unity with one another, in and for today's world. We begin by contemplating the Christ who serves, and our journey takes us to the final celebration of Christ's reign, by way of His cross and resurrection:

Day 1: Changed by the Servant Christ

The Son of Man came to serve (cf. Mk 10:45)

On this day we encounter Jesus, on the road to victory through service. We see him as the "one who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life, a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Consequently, the Church of Jesus Christ is a serving community. The use of our diverse gifts in common service to humanity makes visible our unity in Christ.

Day 2: Changed through patient waiting for the Lord

Let it be so now, for it is proper to fulfill all righteousness (Mt 3:15)

On this day we concentrate on patient waiting for the Lord. To achieve any change, perseverance and patience are needed. Prayer to God for any kind of transformation is also an act of faith and trust in his promises. Such waiting for the Lord is essential for all who pray for the visible unity of the church this week. All ecumenical activities require time, mutual attention and joint action. We are all called to cooperate with the work of the Spirit in uniting Christians.

Day Three: Changed by the Suffering Servant Christ suffered for us (cf. 1 Pt 2:21)

This day calls us to reflect on the suffering of Christ. Following Christ the Suffering Servant, Christians are called to solidarity with all who suffer. The closer we come to the cross of Christ the closer we come to one another.

Day Four: Changed by the Lord's Victory over Evil Overcome evil with good (Rom 12:21)

This day takes us deeper into the struggles against evil. Victory in Christ is an overcoming of all that damages God's creation, and keeps us apart from one another. In Jesus we are called to share in this new life, struggling with him against what is wrong in our world, with renewed confidence and with a delight in

what is good. In our divisions we cannot be strong enough to overcome evil in our times.

Day Five: Changed by the peace of the Risen Lord Jesus stood among them and said: Peace be with you! (Jn 20:19)

Today we celebrate the peace of the Risen Lord. The Risen One is the great Victor over death and the world of darkness. He unites His disciples, who were paralyzed with fear. He opens up before us new prospects of life and of acting for His coming kingdom. The Risen Lord unites and strengthens all believers. Peace and unity are the hallmarks of our transformation in the resurrection.

Day Six: Changed by God's Steadfast Love

This is the victory, our faith (cf. 1 Jn 5:4)

On this day we concentrate our attention on God's steadfast love. The Paschal Mystery reveals this steadfast love, and calls us to a new way of faith. This faith overcomes fear and opens our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Such faith calls us to friendship with Christ, and so to one another.

Day Seven: Changed by the Good Shepherd

Feed my sheep (Jn 21:19)

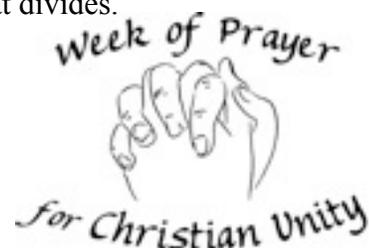
On this day the Bible texts show us the Lord strengthening His flock. Following the Good Shepherd, we are called to strengthen each other in the Lord, and to support and fortify the weak and the lost. There is one Shepherd, and we are his people.

Day Eight: United in the Reign of Christ

To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne (Rv 3:21)

On this last day of our week of prayer for Christian Unity we celebrate the Reign of Christ. Christ's victory enables us to look into the future with hope. This victory overcomes all that keeps us from sharing fullness of life with him and with each other. Christians know that unity among us is above all a gift of God. It is a share in Christ's glorious victory over all that divides.

*Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity*



ALL ABOUT APOSTLES TRIVIA

Which apostle had a friend who, when first told about Jesus, replied, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

- a. Matthew b. Philip c. Peter d. Judas Iscariot

2. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Peter and Andrew that He will make them what?

- a. writers of books b. speakers of truth c. fishers of men d. healers of people

3. Who was the treasurer of the disciples?

- a. Judas Iscariot b. Thaddeus c. Matthew d. Bartholomew

4. What vision in the Acts of the Apostles convinced Peter to spread the gospel among the Gentiles?

- a. valley of dry bones b. an angel appears to him c. animals on a sheet d. the transfiguration

5. According to Matthew, what occurred at both the death and resurrection of Jesus?

- a. earthquake b. eclipse c. thunder and lightning d. angels appeared

6. What did Jesus nickname James and John?

- a. bad to the bone b. sons of thunder c. brothers in arms d. big and little “J”

7. Which apostle boldly spoke on the prophecy of Joel in the Acts of the Apostles?

- a. James b. John c. Thomas d. Peter

8. To which disciple did Jesus say “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”?

- a. Peter b. Thomas c. Andrew d. James

9. Which three disciples were with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane? (pick 3)

- a. John b. Andrew c. James d. Peter

10. Who is known as the “disciple Jesus loved”?

- a. Thomas b. John c. Peter d. Andrew

11. What was Matthew doing when Jesus passed by and invited him to join his group of disciples

- a. distributing alms b. talking with his friends c. collecting taxes d. counting money

12. To which of his disciples did Jesus say “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

- a. Peter b. John c. James d. Judas

13. What is the name of the disciple who replaced Judas Iscariot after his death?

- a. Barnabas b. Matthias c. Luke d. Mark

14. When Jesus was on the cross, to which of His disciples did he ask to take care of His mother, Mary?

- a. Mark b. James c. John d. Peter



AS JESUS PASSED BY THE SEA OF GALILEE, HE SAW SIMON PETER AND HIS BROTHER ANDREW CASTING THEIR NETS INTO THE SEA; THEY WERE FISHERMEN. JESUS SAID TO THEM, "COME AFTER ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN."

THEN THEY ABANDONED THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM.

HE WALKED ALONG A LITTLE FARTHER AND SAW JAMES, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE, AND HIS BROTHER JOHN.

THEY TOO WERE IN A BOAT MENDING THEIR NETS.

THEN JESUS CALLED THEM. SO THEY LEFT THEIR FATHER ZEBEDEE IN THE BOAT ALONG WITH THE HIRED MEN AND FOLLOWED HIM.

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| ANDREW | JORDAN |
| CAPERNAUM | KINGDOM |
| FISHERMEN | MATTHEW |
| GALILEE | NAZARETH |
| GENTILES | NETS |
| GOSPEL | PREACH |
| HEAVEN | REPENT |
| JAMES | SIMON |
| JOHN | ZEBEDEE |

E F U C U E I T O U O Q J O N
 F E J M M S C V P B Q N R E O
 U E L J O R D A N R B A E H M
 B K F I J O H N Z B E Z E T I
 I E Z I L F P N W C K A S M S
 U A D Q S A K G L B V R C G O
 H U X M Y H G M S E J E R H G
 M M C U O K E I N M J T G E R
 W E H T T A M R O I W H N E E
 L B L D I D D M O Y T W D P
 I E Z V S B G M S E I H W E E
 C A P E R N A U M L N V N B N
 L X M S I I E W E R D N A E T
 R A N K O P G S W X V S L Z L
 J Q N R E G G J J N E Z O G N

