



# Weekly Newsletter



## MASS READINGS

### FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ez 2:2-5/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a

#### Monday • Weekday

[St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest,  
and Companions, MM]

Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22/Mt  
9:18-26

#### Tuesday • Weekday

Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday • St. Benedict, Abbot  
Memorial

Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Mt 10:1-7

#### Thursday • Weekday

Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9/Mt 10:7-15

#### Friday • Weekday

[St. Henry]

Hos 14:2-10/Mt 10:16-23

Saturday • Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha, V  
Memorial

Is 6:1-8/Mt 10:24-33 (388)

### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Am 7:12-15/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/  
Mk 6:7-13

Doctor John Bergsma

## What is the Meaning of Life?

What is our purpose here on earth? The Bible addresses this question in the first chapters, by painting a picture of Adam that is a model for every human being. All of us are called to be sons (or daughters) of God, and therefore kings (queens), priests, prophets, and bridegrooms (brides).

Like Adam, we are to be kings. This does not mean, however, that we have to have political power and “rule” over other people. Jesus was not concerned with political power or very impressed with it.

The kind of kingship that Jesus wants to give us is kingship over our selves, over sin, and over Satan. Anyone who doesn’t master self, sin, and Satan is a slave, no matter how much political power he or she has. No one even starts to be a real king until he can rule himself. Jesus came to give us that power and authority to become kings over ourselves and then extend that reign over our homes, our jobs, and our families – whatever little piece of this world he gives into our hands.

Natural priesthood also flows from our status as children of God. A priest offers sacrifices to God. The sacrifice each one of us Christians offers is our own life.

The priestly self-sacrifice of our lives is acted out in every Mass when some laypeople bring forward the “gifts” – the bread and wine to be blessed by the priest and to become the Body and Blood of Jesus. The unblessed bread and wine represent the entire lives of all of us “laypeople,” or better, us *common* priests. The *ministerial* priest then takes that bread and wine – our very lives – and calls

down the Holy Spirit so that it becomes for us the Body and Blood of Jesus. Our lives are united to Christ, our many small sacrifices to his great Sacrifice.

In addition to being priests, God calls us (through baptism) to be prophets, that is, to speak God’s word to the world. Does that mean we have to preach or predict the future? Not necessarily. Although the prophets did predict future events, their first job was to share God’s word and explain to the people what God wanted them to do. Every time we share some of God’s truth with our children, spouse, friend, co-worker, or a stranger on the bus, we are fulfilling our prophetic calling.

Finally, like Adam, we are intended for relationship with another person, or perhaps better, another Person. That relationship is with Jesus Christ.

### Father David Jenuwine Personal Update

I want to thank you for your prayers. For those who do not know, I was diagnosed with Diabetic Keto-Acidosis (DKA) on March 18th. DKA is a medical emergency arising from undiagnosed and untreated diabetes. If left untreated, DKA is terminal. It would seem that I was diabetic for at least the past several years. Now that my diabetes is being treated, I’m feeling 20 years younger.

This weekend, I will be attending the ordination of an old friend in Venice, Florida. Southern Florida will most likely be scorching hot and humid; or stormy and rainy. I’m praying for sunny and mild, and welcome your prayers as well. God bless you! Pray for each other.

## READING MATTERS

### BIBLE BASICS FOR CATHOLICS: A NEW PICTURE OF SALVATION HISTORY

By Dr. John Bergsma

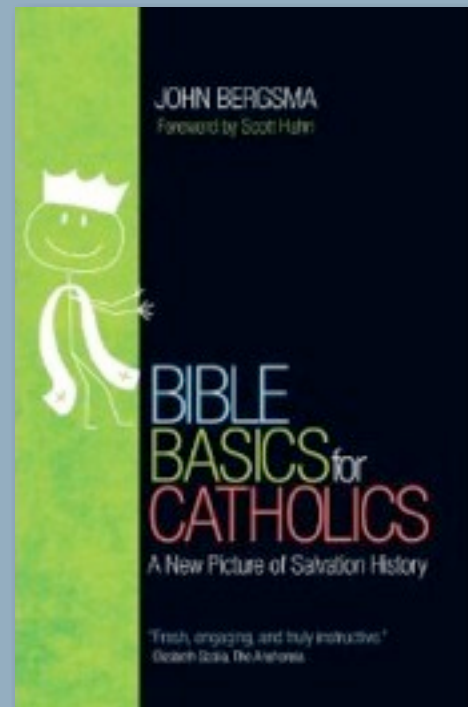
The front page article in this week's newsletter is a condensation and summary of the first chapter of Bergsma's new book. I had the great blessing of studying under him at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

*Bible Basics for Catholics* provides a "fresh, fun, and authentically Catholic introduction to the 'big picture' of salvation history."

(From the Back Cover.)

If you are looking to wrap your mind around an over-arching structure to the Bible, look no further than this book. It is about a three-hour read, and "you will come to see the Bible in a whole new light."

(From the Introduction.)



### His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

## JESUS CAME TO LIBERATE HUMAN BEINGS IN THEIR ENTIRETY

Addressing the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, Benedict XVI explained that Jesus tends to human suffering and heals the body; and the spiritual: Jesus came to heal the human heart and to give salvation, and He asks people to have faith in Him.

All this, the Holy Father went on, invites us "to overcome a purely horizontal and materialistic view of life. We ask God to cure us of our problems, to meet our concrete needs - and it is right that we should do so. Yet we must insistently ask for an ever stronger faith, that the Lord may renew our lives, and a firm trust in His love, in His providence which does not abandon us".

"Jesus' concern for human suffering makes us think of all those who help the sick to carry their crosses, in particular physicians, healthcare professionals and those who provide pastoral care in nursing homes. They are the 'reserves of love' who bring peace and hope to the suffering. In the Encyclical 'Deus Caritas est' I noted that, while such invaluable service requires professional competence as a primary and fundamental requirement, this in itself is not enough". The sick need "need humanity and heartfelt care".

"Let us call upon the Virgin Mary to accompany our journey of faith and our commitment to concrete expressions of love, especially to those in need, as we invoke her maternal intercession for our brothers who live with suffering in body or spirit".

After the Angelus prayer, Benedict XVI expressed the hope that "the summer holidays may be a time to strengthen our faith through prayer and charity".

