

SUNDAY *Plus*

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year C

See more clearly

For many years I thought I was "someone" in the Church. I had even imagined this sacred living edifice as a temple supported by many small and large columns and under each column the shoulder of a Christian. I even imagined first one such small column was a burden upon my own shoulders. By force of habit by repeating that God needed men and that the Church needed militants, we actually began to believe this. The structure weighed upon our shoulder...

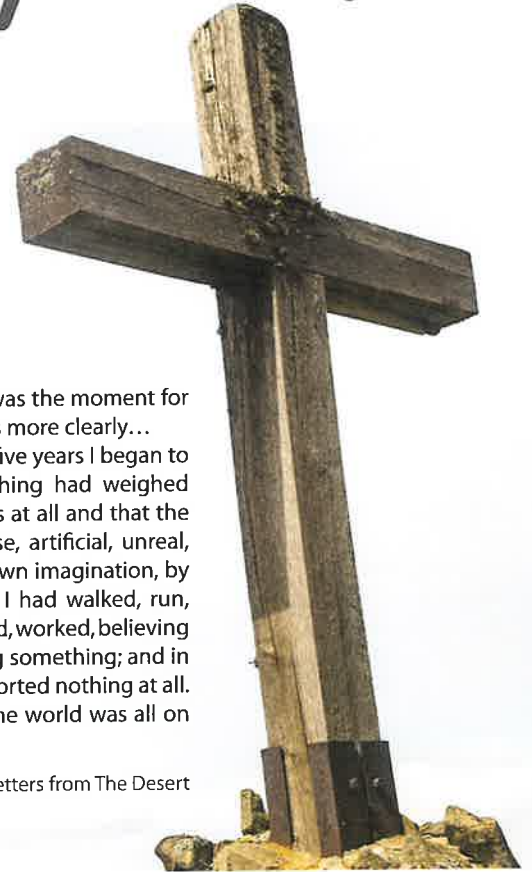
With this kind of mindset, I had not been able to go on vacation;

even at night I felt militant. And there was so much work, that there was no longer sufficient time for carrying it out. We always proceeded from one engagement to another, from one meeting to another, from one city to another. Prayers were always rushed, the speeches inflamed, the heart overwrought. Since everything depended upon us and everything was going so badly, there was good reason to be worried. But who had noticed this? The way of our actions seemed so righteous and so authentic!

Perhaps this was the moment for me to see things more clearly...

After twenty-five years I began to realise that nothing had weighed on my shoulders at all and that the column was false, artificial, unreal, created by my own imagination, by my own vanity. I had walked, run, cycled, organised, worked, believing I was supporting something; and in truth I had supported nothing at all. The weight of the world was all on Christ crucified.

Carlo Carretto, Letters from The Desert



The vocation that God gives us is so good: to create, to re-create, to work. But this can be done when the conditions are right and the dignity of the person is respected.

Pope Francis

Prayer for good humour

Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest.

Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humour to maintain it.

Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil, but rather finds the means to put things back in their place.

Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumblings, sighs and laments, nor excess of stress, because of that obstructing thing called "I."

Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humour.

Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke to discover in life a bit of joy, and to be able to share it with others.

St Thomas More



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Look to the future

We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision...

The spiritual dimension of the Jubilee, which calls for conversion, should also embrace these fundamental aspects of our life in society as part of a coherent whole. In the realisation that all of us are pilgrims on this earth, which the Lord has charged us to till and keep, may we never fail, in the course of our sojourn, to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home. It is my hope that the Jubilee Year will be celebrated and experienced with this intention too. Growing numbers of men and women, including many young people and children, have come to realise that care for creation is an essential expression of our faith in God and our obedience to his will.

Pope Francis

READINGS

Today:
Genesis 18:1-10
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

Monday:
Exodus 14:5-18
Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday:
Song of Songs 3:1-4b
or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
John 20:1-2, 11-18

Wednesday:
Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15
Matthew 13:1-9

Thursday:
Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b
Matthew 13:10-17

Friday:
2 Corinthians 4:7-15
Matthew 20:20-28

Saturday:
Exodus 24:3-8
Matthew 13:24-30

Next Sunday:
Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13