

SUNDAY *Plus*

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I Year C**

World Mission Day

Witness to justice

"Why do the saints have followers?" asks [the French philosopher] Bergson. "They demand nothing; yet people do, of their own accord, what the saints would have them do. The saints do not need to exhort; all they need to do is be. Their very existence is a call to perfection."

We know this from our own experience. To many people, the teaching of the Church is valid; it is convincing to the mind. But if it

is to be efficacious, if it is to move them to action, it must be backed up by life; backed up by those who have accepted the Gospel, live the Gospel, and activate their personal, family and community lives with the justice of the Gospel.

This will not be easy. Let us be realistic. It is not easy to be just. True, the example of a Christian life, a just life, will be followed by many, will be an inspiration to many. But it will also be a sign that

is contradicted. How can it be otherwise? Christ himself was such a sign, and the servant is not greater than his master...

And very often, it is by suffering that the just man will bear witness, that "what he says is true". To bear witness by one's life is to put that life at the service of an ideal, no matter what it may cost. To bear witness by one's life is to be ready to lose it. We call those who have given up their lives for the Christian ideal, martyrs. What does "martyr" mean? It means, simply, "witness".

Pedro Arrupe SJ, Witnessing to Justice in the World

*Deposition of the cross
by Venezian artist Safet
Zec, Rome, Italy. Photo
by Sr Janet Fearn*



Our Lady of the Way, Mother of Christ's missionary disciples and Queen of Missions, pray for us!  Amen.

The meaning of "mission"

If it should happen one day – and it could be today – that I become a victim of the terrorism which now seems ready to engulf all the foreigners living in Algeria, I would like my community, my Church and my family to remember that my life was GIVEN to God and to this country. I ask them to accept the fact that the One Master of all life was not a stranger to this brutal departure. I would ask them to pray for me: for how could I be found

worthy of such an offering?... For this life lost, totally mine and totally theirs, I thank God, who seems to have willed it entirely for the sake of that JOY in everything and in spite of everything...

And also, you, my last-minute friend, who will not have known what you were doing: Yes, I want this THANK YOU and this GOODBYE to be a "GOD-BLESS" for you, too, because in God's face, I see yours.

Testament of Dom Christian de Chergé, martyr, Tibhirine, 1 January 1994.

For full account: John W. Kiser, The Monks of Tibhirine: faith, love, and terror in Algeria, 2003, St Martin's Press.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope Hope is real

[Hope] is something real, already accomplished in Christ, a gift daily bestowed upon us until the time when we will be one in the embrace of his love. Christian hope – as St Peter writes – is "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading". Christian hope sustains the journey of our lives, even when the road ahead seems winding and exhausting. It opens our eyes to future possibilities whenever resignation or pessimism attempt to imprison us. It makes us see the promise of good at times when evil seems to prevail. Christian hope fills us with serenity when our hearts are burdened by sin and failure. It makes us dream of a new humanity and gives us courage in our efforts to build a fraternal and peaceful world, even when it seems barely worth the effort. Such is hope, the gift that the Lord bestowed on us in baptism.

Pope Francis, consignment and reading of the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee 2025

READINGS

Today:
Exodus 17:8-13
2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2
Luke 18:1-8

Monday:
Romans 4:20-25
Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday:
Romans 5:12. 15b.
17-19. 20b-21
Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday:
Romans 6:12-18
Luke 12:39-48

Thursday:
Romans 6:19-23
Luke 12:49-53

Friday:
Romans 7:18-25a
Luke 12:54-59

Saturday:
Romans 8:1-11
Luke 13:1-9

Next Sunday:
Sirach 35:12-14. 16-18
2 Timothy 4:6-8. 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Together, we must look for ways to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming.

Pope Leo XIV

