

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

March 2013

St. Peter Damian Church  
Rev. Walter Takuski, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Katharine Drexel

The Year of Faith saint for March was a heiress from Philadelphia who gave up a fortune to serve God. Although surrounded by wealth, she was raised in a devout family with a deep sympathy for the poor. Nudged to become a missionary by Pope Leo XIII, she became a religious sister and founded schools in thirteen states for African Americans, forty mission centers and twenty-three rural schools. She also established fifty missions for Native Americans in sixteen different states.



### "Expert" advice

When struggling with something difficult, don't give up because others say you should. Ask God to deepen your resolve. Almost every great idea faced experts who said it couldn't be done. *"Strengthen me, as you have promised"* (Psalm 119:28).

### Easter year round

"Sunday recalls the day of Christ's Resurrection. It is Easter which returns week by week, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death." Pope John Paul II, *Dies Domini*



## Can you trust your conscience?

"It felt just right." "I try to follow my conscience but it's not always right." A conscience helps us tell right from wrong. A well-formed conscience keeps us out of trouble but a poorly-formed conscience can lead us astray. More than a feeling, a conscience is the voice of God calling us to do what is good.

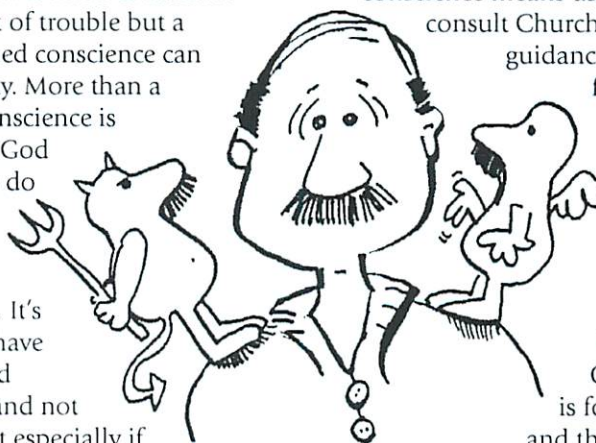
A firm foundation. It's possible to have an ill-formed conscience and not even know it especially if it looks like everyone else's. For example, did we learn right and wrong from TV, movies, and popular culture? Instead, a Catholic conscience is informed through Church teaching about truths revealed by God.

Feelings vs. conscience. Just because we don't feel like doing something bad

doesn't mean we follow our conscience. A conscience isn't based on feelings. Instead, following our conscience means using reason to consult Church teaching for guidance. We change our feelings to match our conscience. Church teaching is not subject to the whims of any individual pope, bishop, or priest. Church teaching is found in the Bible and the Catechism.

### Prudence helps, too.

Prudence is a virtue that helps us choose our true good in each situation. At some point, prayer, study, and deliberation must give way to action. Prudence and our well-formed conscience combine to help us make the right choice.

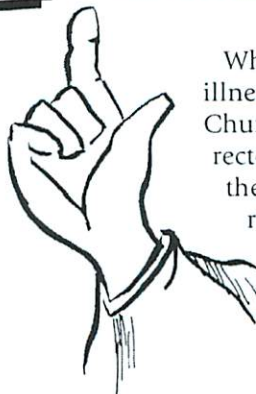


## Why Do Catholics Do That?

Once known as "Last Rites" this sacrament was given at the moment of death. So that we can access Christ's healing and comfort when we need it, the Church revised it as, "Anointing of the Sick."

## What is the Anointing of the Sick?

When informed of a serious illness or necessary surgery, the Church encourages us to call our rector or local priest to ask for the Sacrament. It may be repeated for additional illnesses or surgeries. Don't delay needlessly. This Sacrament is only for the living.



## Choose new life after Easter

When the Israelites were just about to enter the land that had taken so long to reach, Moses wanted them to understand what was at stake. If they were going to stay there with God's blessing, Moses wanted to put the choice facing the Israelites into the clearest possible terms: Choose to follow God's laws and accept his love or choose death (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

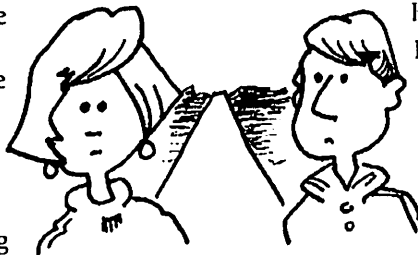
Life with God in love. The choice facing the Israelites was that simple and it's one we

face, too. We can choose to continue our good habits from Lent to live in God's friendship or lapse into life outside it.

Honesty over deceit. Self-control over sinful pleasure. Generosity over selfishness. One path means eternal life and the other results in misery.

The choice is ours. Isn't it amazing that the Creator of Heaven and Earth loves us so much that he lets us decide how we want to live?

While our choices lead to consequences, he respects our free will and leaves the choice to us.

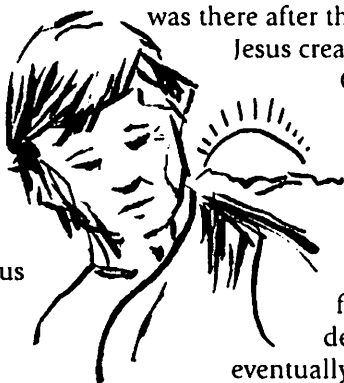


### from Scripture

#### John 20:1-9, The Resurrection of Jesus

John's love for Jesus helped him interpret the events of Easter morning. When Mary Magdalene told the apostles what she saw at the tomb, John and Peter raced there to see for themselves. When John saw the way the burial cloths were arranged, he instantly understood. No one had taken the body. Knowing the habits of his friend, he understood that Jesus was resurrected as he had promised.

On Easter morning, John recognized that Jesus is the Christ, the one anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, that he was sent to reconcile us

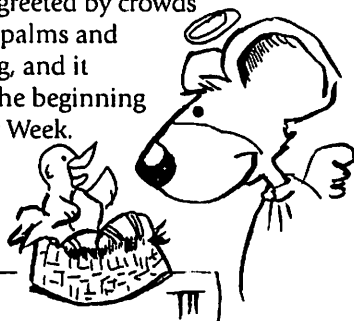


to God, and that Jesus was raised from the dead and is now judge of "the living and the dead." And John was there after the Resurrection when

Jesus created the Catholic Church and commissioned her to preach and bear witness to Jesus and to God's love for us. The lesson for us is that our love for Jesus and our devotion to him will eventually reveal the truths of many mysteries to us. The key is to love Jesus as intensely as his "beloved disciple."

chosen to lead the archdiocese of Lima in Peru. He was ordained priest and bishop and worked with intense fervor to strengthen his diocese.

March 24 - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion because it recalls Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when he was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering, and it marks the beginning of Holy Week.



### Q & A Do I have to know and believe everything the Church teaches?

The Catholic Church is like a well that offers life-giving water. You don't have to drink from it but it makes it awfully hard to live forever if you don't.



What the Catholic Church offers us is truth and faith handed down from Christ. Our baptism as Catholics make us members of his Body,

with the expectation that we will do our best to learn what that entails and accept the responsibilities of being members of his Body. We aren't owners of the Body, but privileged and beloved parts.

All that the Church offers is too much to take in at once, which makes faith a marvelous, life-long journey. It's hard to understand everything the Church teaches and that Christ wants us to know, so we are asked to believe prior to being able to understand. That is called faith. We are given the gift of exploring why our beliefs are true, and don't have to worry if they are true. Jesus said they are and that's good enough for us.

### Feasts & Celebrations

March 17 - St. Patrick (493). Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but later returned to become the bishop of Ireland and is credited for having established the Church there.

March 19 - St. Joseph (1st century). Jesus' earthly father, devout Jew, and faithful husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 23 - St. Toribio de Mogrovejo (1606). A brilliant scholar, he was serving as professor of law at the University of Salamanca when he was

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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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