

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

April 2013

St. Peter Damian Church
Rev. Walter Takuski, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Mother Théodore Guérin

The Year of Faith saint for April is St. Mother Théodore

Guérin, who predicted at age ten that she would become a nun. At age 25, she became a Sister of Providence of Ruillé-sur-Loir in France. She was soon asked to lead missionary sisters to Indiana where their base was a log cabin with a porch for a chapel. By her death in 1856, she had opened schools throughout Illinois and Indiana, trusting in God's providence to accomplish the impossible.



Speak the truth

Do you speak out against injustice or sin? Yes, you may be called "intolerant" for sharing Gospel truths but tolerance doesn't render truth untrue. In fact, saying nothing can be worse. Christ is clear: "When your brother sins, rebuke him and when he repents, forgive him" (Luke 17:3).

"The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."

Pope Benedict XVI



Speak out, reach out, and live out our Catholic faith

Recent studies reported that of all Christian denominations, Catholics are least likely to share our faith with others despite having the same requirement to "make disciples of all the nations." Try these ideas to speak out, reach out, and live out the Good News of our Catholic faith:

Talk about love. For someone who hasn't experienced God or who has become inactive in her faith, hearing how you have personally experienced God's love can be powerful. Don't hesitate to share how God has blessed you when you sense someone is ready to listen.

Brush up on Catholic terms and positions. When asked or when you sense there is confusion, be ready to explain the meaning of such terms as

"Sacrament" or "Communion" or the Church's position on social issues. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a reliable reference or you can refer to the U.S. bishops' website: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action.

Support parish ministries. During parish drives, collect food and clothing from neighbors, coworkers, and relatives. Those are prime opportunities to talk about the Catholic dedication to serving the poor and hungry.

Use social media.

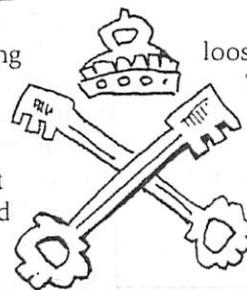
Whichever platform you choose, tweet an inspiration from the Bible, post your favorite devotion, pin a picture of your patron saint, or update the latest way God has worked in your life. No door knocking is required.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

What is the Magisterium?

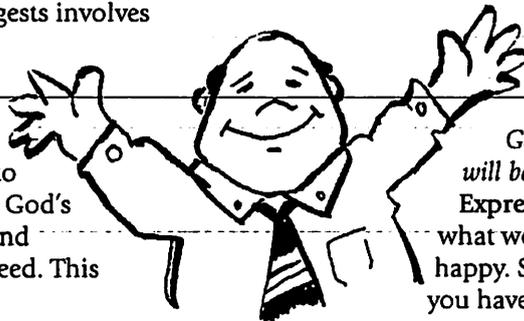
The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church, exercised by the pope and the bishops (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2033*). Christ gave this authority to Peter and then to the Apostles as a group when he gave them the power of binding and



loosing (*Matthew 16:19, 18:18*). This authority involves matters of faith and morals. As Catholics, we believe the Holy Spirit guides the thinking of the pope and bishops. We are therefore required to accept these teachings.

Don't worry, be happy

What kind of happiness do we want to choose for ourselves? The happiness society suggests involves possessions, status, popularity, celebrity. Few people, if any, attain that level of happiness nor does it last when achieved. Real lasting happiness is the kind Jesus wants us to choose. It means placing ourselves in God's care, choosing what he wants for us and ignoring what the world tells us we need. This kind of happiness lasts forever.

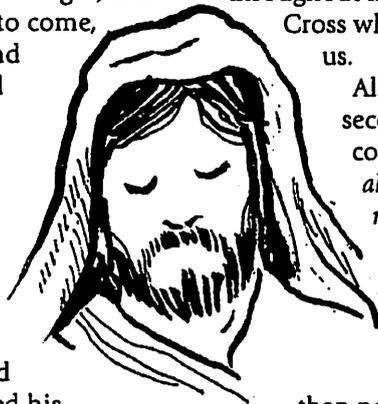


Trust God completely. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear ... Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides" (Matthew 6:25, 32-33). Express gratitude. If we aren't thankful for what we already have, it will be hard to ever be happy. Spend time each day appreciating what you have and it will increase in value.

from Scripture

John 13:31-35, Love one another

The Last Supper was a confusing night for the Apostles. Although Jesus talked of his glory soon to come, they didn't yet understand that Jesus' glory involved great suffering. Jesus prepared them by giving them an important command that would help, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another."



This is carefully worded by Our Lord. Jesus wanted his followers to be clear that this love is not a warm and fuzzy feeling. The love we are to have for each other is to be as

sacrificial as the love he demonstrated throughout his life and on the Cross when he gave his life for us.

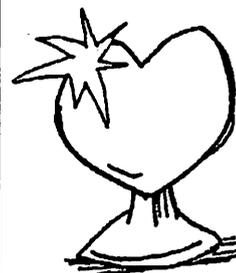
Also important is the second part of this command, "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Jesus intended for Christians to stand out in the world by behaving differently than non-believers. He is no longer visible on Earth with us, so he left us to be his hands and his heart to those around us.

Q & A

What is the Golden Rule?

"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12) is often called the Golden Rule. For Christians,



however, it is just a start. In its broadest sense, the Golden Rule means that we are to treat each other with extraordinary love.

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." Jesus made it clear that he wants us to imitate the way he loves us by putting others' needs before our own. Jesus' sacrificial love for each of us is our model.

Love God. And we do all of this because of our love for God. "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind ... You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:37, 39-40). That love is the basis for all we do on Earth so that we can be happy with him forever in Heaven.

Feasts & Celebrations

April 23 - St. George (300). Although many legends surround St. George, we know he was a soldier under Emperor Diocletian who persecuted Christians, and that he died a martyr in Palestine. He is celebrated as a model knight, protector of women, and combatant of evil. He is a patron of England, Portugal, Germany, Spain, and Italy.

April 28 - St. Peter Chanel (1841). Born a peasant in France, he was ordained a priest and entered the Society of Mary. He was sent to evangelize the Marshall Islands. Despite

adversities, he baptized the natives, including the chieftain's son. He was martyred by hostile warriors. The island converted two years after his death.

April 30 - Pope St. Pius V (1572). Born to a poor family in Italy, Antonio Ghislieri became a Dominican, taught theology, and became Pope Pius V. As Pope, he established seminaries and hospitals, and published the Roman Catechism, Roman Breviary, and the Missal. He is known for his efforts to implement the Council of Trent.



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