

Growing in FAITH™

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

June 2014

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Pawel Kryszkiewicz, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

As the son of a marquis, Aloysius Gonzaga was accustomed to life at court but chose religious life instead. Influenced by St. Charles Borromeo, he renounced his title and inheritance and joined the Jesuits in 1585.



Aloysius was a brilliant and pious student. In fact, he had to be told to tone down his penances. When a plague struck Rome, Aloysius tirelessly nursed patients but caught the disease himself. He died at the age of 23.

The face of Christ

How do you show the face of Christ to people in your community? Do you bake for others? Can you sing or play music for others' enjoyment? If you have a car can you drive people who need rides to church or their doctors? Whatever you can offer, your community can use it. Call your parish to find out how you can help.

"One loving spirit sets another on fire." St. Augustine



Four ideas for a more peaceful life

When what we are trying to achieve on earth conflicts with that which is necessary for eternal life with God, we lose the calming, soothing peace Christ wants to give us. Unless we move back into harmony with God's will, we have no hope to regain that peace. Try these tips for a more peaceful life.



2. Be kind and gentle. Resentment, anger, and frustration rob you of peace. Whenever you can, be gentle and considerate of your neighbor. Remember,

Jesus was "meek and humble of heart" (Matthew 11:29).

3. Learn to live with what you cannot control. When you let God help you rise above such things, you'll have the peace acceptance brings.

4. Consult the Church for answers. It isn't always easy to discern God's will, so Jesus created the Catholic Church. When in doubt, turn to Scripture, the *Catechism*, or a trusted priest or religious for advice. After all, helping us to achieve Heaven is what they do!

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Celibacy, "the renunciation of marriage implicitly or explicitly made, for the more perfect observance of chastity," (*Catholic Encyclopedia*) allows a priest to focus on his calling without the practical concerns of family life.

The goal of a celibate life is enhancement of love; a way for

Why aren't Catholic priests married?

priests to "consecrate themselves with undivided heart to the Lord and to 'the affairs of the Lord' (1 Cor 7:32), they give themselves entirely to God and to men" (CCC 1579).

Note: there are some circumstances under which married priests are permitted.

There are several hundred serving in the United States.

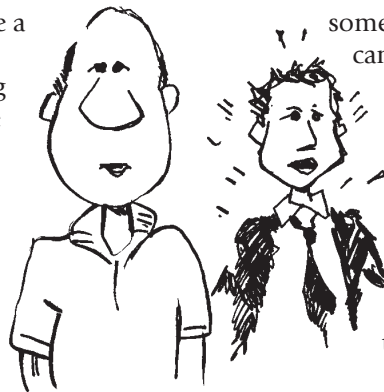


What would you do for a friend in need?

Most of us will do anything we can to save a friend who is heading for trouble. However, taking no action at all may be the best thing we can do for a friend. Consider these three ways to help.

Pray. Bring God in right from the start – not as the last resort. Who can handle it better than he can? Plus, praying for others brings grace to us and to those for whom we pray.

Set an example. The best way to tell



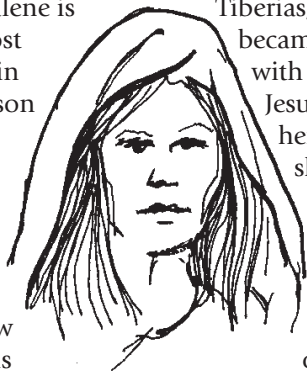
someone what to do is to do it ourselves. You can help others live a holier and happier life by showing them how. After all, your first task is to save your own soul.

Keep silent. Learn to hold your tongue unless your duty obliges you to speak. Keeping silent prevents the flaring of tempers or the spreading of gossip. Also, it is in the silence of the soul that we hear God's voice, but we can't hear him if we're doing all the talking.

Q & A

I'm confused. Where in the Bible does it say Mary Magdalene was a prostitute?

Mary Magdalene is one of the most misunderstood figures in the Bible. For some reason she became associated with the "sinful woman" in Luke 7:36-50 or the penitent woman who anointed Jesus a few days before his crucifixion (Matthew 26:6-13). In truth, she is neither.



Tiberias, was converted by Jesus and became a faithful follower who stayed with him through his final ordeal.

Jesus cast out seven demons from her (Mark 16:9), and in gratitude she helped to finance his public ministry (Luke 8:1-2).

Nowhere in any of the four Gospels is Mary Magdalene referred to as a sinful woman or a prostitute – reformed or otherwise. However, she is the only person all four Gospels agree saw the empty tomb on Easter morning and the first to whom the risen Jesus appeared.

What we do know about Mary Magdalene is that she came from Magdala, on the west shore of Lake

from Scripture

Matthew 16:13-19, The Rock for ages

The events in this passage lay the foundations for the Catholic Church. Jesus first asked his disciples who people say he was. Their answers named the ancient prophets reincarnated. Then Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered for the group and identified Jesus as the Son of God. This highlighted Peter's role as spokesperson for the disciples.



Jesus pointed out that it was only by inspiration from the Father that Peter was able to recognize the truth about Jesus. ("No one but the Son knows the Father, and no one but the Father knows the Son," Matthew 11:27.) Divine inspiration would lead Peter to speak and act in truth as head of Christ's Church. The Holy Spirit guides the pope to speak and act in truth today.

The Church has to last until the end of time. When Jesus changed Simon's name to "Peter," he signaled that he was building his Church on "rock," a solid foundation upon which a wise man will build his home (Matthew 7:24).

Feasts & Celebrations

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The image of Jesus with his flaming heart exposed is a reminder of his intense and eternal love for us.

June 1 – **St. Justin** (165). When ordered by a pagan judge to renounce his faith or die, St. Justin responded, "Nobody in his senses would give up truth for falsehood." His was beheaded.

June 5 - **St. Boniface** (754). Called the Apostle of Germany, St. Boniface was a monk dedicated to spreading the Gospel in Germany. He converted many to Christianity and was instrumental in restoring dioceses in Bavaria, Thuringia, and Franconia.

June 11 - **St. Barnabas** (1st Century). The Apostles changed his name from Joseph to Barnabas, which means "son of encouragement" because he sold his property and gave the much needed funds to the Jerusalem community. He accompanied St. Paul on his first evangelical journey.

June 24 - **Nativity of St. John the Baptist**. The only saint whose birth and death we observe, St. John was Jesus' cousin. He baptized and prepared the people for Jesus' saving mission. He even baptized Jesus and was later executed for denouncing Herod's marriage to his sister-in-law.



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