

Follow him

SUNDAY *Plus*

4th Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

God, I love you!

Understanding prayer means understanding that one is speaking with God.

There are two poles, one very, very tiny and very, very weak: my soul. One immense and powerful: God. But here is the first paradox, the first surprise: that he who is so great should have wanted to speak to me, tiny as I am.

It is not I who wanted prayer. It is he who wanted it. It is not I who have looked for him. It is he who has looked for me first. My seeking him would have been in vain if before all time he had not sought me.

The hope on which my prayer rests is in the fact that it is he who wants it. And if I go to keep the appointment it is because he is already there waiting for me. If he


had remained in his silence and isolation, I'd have not been able to break mine... I've been speaking with God all my life; and I've only just begun!

There's another thing to say about prayer. It doesn't come from earth but from heaven. The cry which fills my breast and makes me exclaim "God, I love you!"... When I bow before his love, he is not slow to come; rather he has already come, for he loves me much more than I, poor creature, can ever love him.

And love shows itself in action... the soul must say with sincerity, "now I will arise and go to my Father."

Carlo Carretto, *Letters from the Desert*



Lord, let me follow you in all of life's ups and downs, joys and sorrows, successes and failures. Stay close to me at every moment of every day.  Amen.

In whatever the Lord calls us to do, in both our daily lives and our journey of faith, there are times when we feel inadequate. [Jesus] tells us not to rely on our own abilities but on the mercy of the Lord who has chosen us, and to be certain that the Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us all things.

Pope Leo XIV

God calls

As Ignatius had a love for fiction, when he found himself out of danger, he asked for some romances to pass away the time. In that house there was no book of the kind. They gave him, instead, *The Life of Christ*, by Rudolf, the Carthusian, and another book called *The Flowers of the Saints*, both in Spanish. By frequent reading of these books, he began to get some love for spiritual things...

While perusing the life of Our Lord and the saints, he began to reflect, saying to himself, "What if I should do what St Francis did?" "What if I should like act like St Dominic?" He pondered over these things in his mind and kept continually proposing to himself serious and difficult things. He seemed to feel a certain readiness for doing them, with no other reason except this thought, "St Dominic did this; I, too, will do it." "Saint Francis did this; therefore, I will do it."

Autobiography of St Ignatius of Loyola

Feast of the week
Thursday 30 April

Blessed Dr José
Gregorio Hernandez

Exactly five years ago today, this Venezuelan doctor and bacteriologist was beatified.

Known as the "doctor of the poor", Blessed Gregorio treated the poor for free and frequently paid for their medicines with his own money. "Most of these people do not have resources," he told his aunt María Luisa, explaining why he kept a moneybag inside his medical bag wherein his patients could either deposit what they could afford or help themselves to funds for their daily needs. "I am not going to deny them the consultation, and I am not going to make them go through the pain of telling me that they have no money," he said. "God will help."

Blessed Gregorio was accidentally hit by a car and died of head injuries as he left a pharmacy after collecting a poor woman's medicines.

The day before the beatification, Pope Francis said that he had never met a Venezuelan "who, halfway through the conversation, did not finally say to me: 'When will Gregorio be beatified?'"

READINGS

Today:
Acts 2:14, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10

Monday:
Acts 11:1-18
John 10:11-18

Tuesday:
Acts 11:19-26
John 10:22-30

Wednesday:
Acts 12:24 - 13:5
John 12:44-50

Thursday:
Acts 13:13-25
John 13:16-20

Friday:
Genesis 1:26b - 2:3
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday:
Acts 13:44-52
John 14:7-14

Next Sunday:
Acts 8:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12