

Growing in FAITH™

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

June 2014

St. Cecilia Church

Rev. James L. Secora, 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
(Confessions)



11 easy ways to show love

"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" John 13:35.

1. If someone makes you mad, anonymously gift that person with a flower or sweet treat daily until you are over it.

2. Light a candle every Sunday and pray for a different person each time.

3. Open the door for a someone.

4. Choose a picture or an article from the newspaper and pray for the people involved.

5. Put a quarter in an expired parking meter.

6. Invite someone with whom you disagree to coffee and listen more than you talk.

7. Leave a gift for someone in a random public place such as on a park bench, at a bus stop, the library, a coffee house, or restaurant.

8. Tutor a young person in reading. Perhaps your parish school needs volunteers or call your local school district to be matched up with a school or reading program.

9. Talk to the person at the party who isn't having fun. You

will be showing great kindness to someone who struggles with socializing.

10. Choose your words carefully. Use your words to bless, heal, or bring peace.

11. Let cars go in front of you in traffic. Let someone go in front of you in line at the grocery store.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why aren't Catholic priests married?

Celibacy, "the renunciation of marriage ... for the more perfect observance of chastity" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*) allows a priest to focus on his ministry.

The goal of celibacy is for priests to "consecrate themselves with undivided heart to the Lord and

to 'the affairs of the Lord' (1 Corinthians 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 will you do for a friend in need?

Most of us will do anything we can to save a friend who we observe is heading for trouble. However, taking indirect action may be the best thing we can do in many situations. 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.

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).

Q & A I'm confused. What does the Bible say about Mary Magdalene?

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.

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

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 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.



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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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The Witness

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- *The Witness* is sent to subscribers in the 30 counties of the Archdiocese of Dubuque and to more than 1,000 addresses beyond the archdiocesan borders 46 times a year.
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- *The Witness* has a small staff of five people at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center.
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