

Fifth Sunday of Easter May 10, 2020

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

— John 14:6

VOCATION

Roman Catholics in the United States spend a good deal of time speaking of "vocation" and the manner in which each of us discerns our vocation for life. In today's apostolic letter, however, Peter gives us the "cornerstone" of our vocation, the description of what each of us is called to first and foremost by our baptism. He describes our vocation as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of [God's] own, so that you may announce the praises" of Christ, who called us out of darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9). All of us, no matter what path our life's vocation may take us down, have been chosen by God, made holy, and anointed as priests in the high priesthood of Christ through baptism. All of this, so that we may announce the praises of Christ. Vocation is given for proclamation at home, in the workplace—wherever life takes us—in service, in word, and in sacrament.

--J. S. Paluch Co.

ST. DAMIEN JOSEPH DE VEUSTER OF MOLOKA'I (1840-1889) May 10

In the mid-1990s, a heavily bearded, bespectacled Robin Williams appeared on *Late Night with David Letterman*, whose host was clearly taken aback. Letterman inquired as to why the wild look. Uncharacteristically subdued, the usually manic comic responded that he was producing and starring in a movie about a most extraordinarily compassionate man, Damien, the Leper Priest of Moloka'i.

Some saints transcend religious and ethnic boundaries to touch the heart that beats in each human being: Francis of Assisi; Mother Teresa; and, though Williams' film was never completed, his admiration speaks, as does Damien's statue outside the capitol in Honolulu, of this newest saint's universal appeal. Far from his native Flanders' idyllic beauty and rich culture, Damien volunteered to bear Christ's light into Moloka'i's bleak leper colony, building decent homes, opening schools, establishing clinics, planting farms, sharing the sufferings—and the social stigma—of those with whom he delighted to identify: "We lepers," he would proudly say when finally he contracted leprosy. Saint Damien challenges us to identify the lepers of our own day, to examine our compassion for and our identification with them.

--Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday:	Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday:	Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
Friday:	Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday:	Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday:	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

My Immaculate Heart
will be your refuge
and the way that will
lead you to God.

Our Lady of Fátima

The Blessed Mother appeared to three
Portuguese shepherd children in 1917

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May 13

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



For the month of **May** offerings: PLEASE mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465 . Or donate at our website www.stphilipsteresa.org via Paypal or card.
5/10: Operating Expenses. 5/17: Capital Expenditures.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA

Finance Council [FC]: TBA

Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: cancelled for now

Coffee & Goodies: cancelled for now

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:

cancelled for now



† ♥ † Mass Intentions † ♥ † Schedule

Fr. Bala is more than willing to fulfill Mass Intentions in his daily Private Mass celebration. (There is a customary \$10 stipend for any Mass Intention.) But it is left to the wish of those who have already submitted (or have yet to submit) to the office their Intentions, as to choice of a private or public Mass. Email to philip.teresa@yahoo.com Or leave a message at the alternate office number: 707-408-2650.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter; **Mother's Day**

Tuesday: Ss. Nereus and Achilleus; St. Pancras

Wednesday: Our Lady of Fatima

Thursday: St. Matthias

Friday: St. Isidore the Farmer

Prayer Requests: Leave message at 707-408-2650.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H., Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family, Gail F., Marie N.

MARY OUR MOTHER

What a joy to remember that Mary is our Mother!

Since she loves us and knows our weakness,
what have we to fear? —Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

During the current church closure and concomitant lack of Holy Communion for a congregation, here is the suggested prayer of Spiritual Communion recommended for home use:

"Jesus, really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar, since I cannot now receive thee under the sacramental veil, I beseech thee, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul through the Immaculate Heart of thy most Holy Mother, and to abide with me, thou in me, and I in thee, in time and in eternity. Amen."



<http://www.mariansisters.com/request-a-prayer.html>

Message from Fr. Bala: May is Mary's Month

During May, the Catholic Church specially honors Mary with "Crowning" and thus recognizes Mary as "the Queen of Heaven and Earth". May Crowning is a traditional Catholic ritual that occurs in the month of May. Bishop Vasa celebrated this ritual at the Cathedral on Thursday, May 7. On our parish level, we will celebrate it coming Sunday, May 10. You are all invited to watch a video of the Sunday Mass and the Crowning Ritual this Sunday and thus participate with me in those two important celebrations.

You will find in the Ritual a wreath of flowers and herbs placed on the statue of Mary in St. Teresa of Avila Church, Bodega. The act of crowning is rooted in the view of Mary as the Queen of Heaven. In an eminent way, Mary won the "Crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:9), the "Crown of life" (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10), and the "Crown of glory" (1 Peter 5:4). And this is promised to all those who follow Christ.

Special devotions, like the Rosary and the Crowning, are encouraged in the Catholic Church during the month of May. They all help us to honor Mary as "the Queen of Heaven and Earth". The Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts which were wont to take place at any time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion. Mary deserves honor, not only in this month, but always.
--Fr. Bala.



RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for APRIL 2020

One could hear the expressions of appreciation among recipient families and volunteers as we conducted our first COVID19 drive through food distribution on April 14 in the St Philip Church parking lot. Donning masks and gloves to protect the safety of all, volunteers welcomed 112 families (23 first time at our distribution): 135 adults, 40 children, and 37 seniors for a total of 112 people. We will maintain our use of social distancing, hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks as indicated for the next few months. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations and the generous support of our volunteers.

Your used, clean, egg cartons and handled grocery bags are needed until we reach our goal of having only reusable cloth bags by the end of 2020. Thanks for dropping them off in the hall.



Thank you for your donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our distributions.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sat., May 9, from 9:00 --10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall
Mon., May 11, from 10:00 – 12:00pm to set up Parish Hall
Tues., May 12, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and assist clients.

Our Lady of Fatima, May 13



See

[On EWTN Fatima Angel of Peace Part 1](#)

Read

[Five Prayers Taught at Fatima by Mary & the Angels](#)

**Have I been with you so long and you do not
know me . . . ?**

In my day the question used to go the rounds at Catholic University's theology department: *If the early followers of Jesus Christ had not been called Christians, would they have been called Jesuits? And alternatively might the Jesuits of today have then been called Christians?* Naturally, the Jesuits, being the top ranked order of the Church, they had to expect catcalls like that from the back rows of the clergy. But speaking of followers of Jesus Christ, which Jesus do you follow? I mean, we have the Jesus of St. Paul, the Jesus of the Apocalypse, the Jesus of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The first three Gospels read like a theatrical play. Jesus strides across the stage like many a reformer in history. He is located within regions of ancient Palestine – within a political environment of Roman rule and puppet monarchs and interreligious rivalries. He is followed by a non-descript group of supporters, raising dust, dispensing cures, holding rallies on hilltops and beside lakes, upsetting commerce in the big city. He confronts authorities, speaks parables, is a celebrity, the focus of undercover agents. He is a public figure. His goal (they assume) is to restore the Golden Age of King David. Except for the miracles the first three Gospels read like our familiar world.

But of Jesus's followers there were some who, influenced by the philosophies of the age, were drawn to Jesus out of a deeper interest in his nature, his meaning. Matthew and Luke begin their story with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem but John traces Jesus back to the beginning of the universe. *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God . . . All things came to be through him . . . life . . . light . . .*

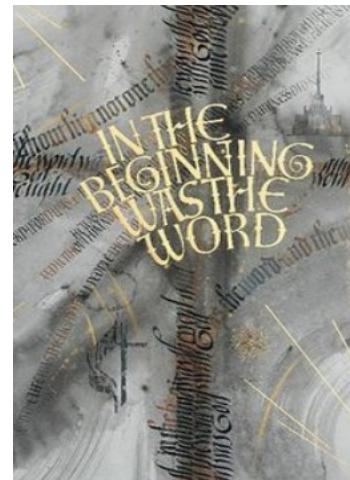
John's Gospel sees in Jesus, in his *way*, his grasp of the *truth*, his depth of *life*, an arrival from before the world began, the very Source of everything including you and me. They experienced him as a *spoken Word* that is so creative, so poetic as to display all that exists in time and space: trees, oceans, plankton, even buzzards, stars, you and me . . . ; and can be detected in the profound discourse of human beings, in our music, in our goodness (despite our nostalgia for primeval darkness).

Yet not only does John's Gospel reveal this Word articulating us into existence *since the beginning of time* but he also hears this Word, this creative Voice *calling us from out of the future* – so that this Word surrounds us all the time. The disciple Philip says, "Show us the Father. Show us God." Jesus says "Have I been with you for so long

and you do not know me, Philip?" Jesus, the Word made flesh, asks the same of you and me. The Source of the whole history of humanity and nature is ever near, before us, ahead of us, beside us - as the poet says: *Turn but a stone, and start a wing!*

Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit, must have been influenced by John's Gospel when he wrote: *As kingfishers catch fire . . . / As tumbled over rim in roundy wells / Stones ring: . . . / Each mortal thing does one thing . . . / . . . Deals out that being indoors each one dwells; . . . // I say more: the just man justices; / Keeps grace . . . / Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is - / Christ – for Christ plays in ten thousand places, / Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his . . . / through the features of men's faces.*

--Geoff Wood, 5/10/2020



Happy Mother's Day!

A mother's happiness is like a beacon, lighting up the future but reflected also on the past in the guise of fond memories.

--Honore de Balzac

I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.

--Abraham Lincoln

Sometimes the strength of motherhood is greater than natural laws.

--Barbara Kingsolver

It is not until you become a mother that your judgment slowly turns to compassion and understanding.

--Erma Bombeck