



## Fifth Sunday of Easter May 15, 2022

“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.”

— Revelation 21:3

### MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

Although we are five full weeks into the celebration of Easter, today’s readings focus on newness. Our Easter food leftovers may be long gone, but the readings insist on every moment’s freshness in the risen Jesus. The Acts of the Apostles depicts Paul and Barnabas reflecting on all the innovative work that God has done with them. They have traveled hundreds of miles, introducing faith in Jesus Christ to all who listen, even Gentiles. For the dutiful Jewish scholar Paul, preaching to Gentiles is a completely unique development. Jesus calls Paul, and us, not to be afraid of new challenges: as John the Evangelist reports in Revelation, Jesus promises to “make all things new.” In the Gospel reading, Jesus even gives us a new commandment. The Hebrew Scriptures overflow with commandments, but Jesus knows we need one more, perfect mission: “love one another.”

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### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### Reflection question:

What does it mean for me to bear fruit for the reign of God?

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### 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 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11  
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 15:1-2, 22-29; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Rv 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our Parish Picnic returns on Saturday, August 6, 2022. Join us for barbecue, games, and a chance to re-connect with friends. Hope to see you there!



### Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of May offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection basket or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. 5/08: summary provided soon.

5/15: Capital Expenditures. 5/22: Weekly church offering.



### Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA  
**Finance Council [FC]:** Tues., 5/17/22, at 3pm on Zoom  
**Liturgy Committee [LC]:** TBA  
**St. Teresa Ladies Guild:** Contact Diane, 823-6044  
**St. Philip Ladies Guild:** Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

### ✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

5/14 Sat. 5:00pm ✠ Brendan Smith  
5/15 Sun. 8am Mass John Geving  
5/15 Sun. 9:30am Mass  
5/15 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People

5/21 Sat. 5:00pm ✠ Brendan Smith  
5/22 Sun. 8am Mass  
5/22 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People  
5/22 Sun. 11:15am Mass

### Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Sherry S., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Peter B. Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick Kasl, John Geving, Arnie, Reece, Damien S.

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Wednesday: St. John I  
Friday: St. Bernardine of Siena  
Saturday: St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions



### DWELLING PLACE

God dwells wherever we let God in.  
—Ancient Jewish saying

### THE GIFT

The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work.  
—Emile Zola

### RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for MAY, 2022

On Tuesday, May 10, we welcomed fifty-seven families, (125 individuals) to receive nutritional support from our Rural Food Program. All who are in need are welcome to attend this monthly food distribution.

Each month our dedicated volunteers repackage proteins including fresh eggs for our clients. They repackage eggs into over 80 dozen egg cartons. This month we came very close to running out of egg cartons! PLEASE CONSIDER SAVING YOUR CLEAN EGG CARTONS and donate them to our program by

dropping them off at the parish hall. We thank you in advance. We also appreciate your donation of clean, handled paper bags. We can save the environment and save some money with your support.

Our program is open to all who are in need. If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish office, (707) 408-2650 to get a call back with additional information and to answer your questions.

This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions. **RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area:** Saturday, June 11, 9-10:00 am repackaging; Monday, June 13, 9:00 – 11:00am set up and Tuesday, June 14, 7:30a – 11:00a to distribute food to clients.



Statue of Luigi Maria Palazzolo on the grounds of the Palazzolo Institute in Bergamo, Italy. Photo credit: [Gio la Gamb](#),

### ***Blessed Luigi Maria Palazzolo: Friend of the poor and abandoned***

By [Kristina Glicksman](#)

#### **Early life**

Luigi Maria Palazzolo was born in Bergamo in the north of Italy on December 10, 1827. Although his family was well off, Luigi's early life was not without its hardships. The youngest of several boys (sources disagree on whether they were 8 or 9 in total), he was the only one to live to adulthood, and at the age of ten, he was left without a father.

His mother, a good, devout woman, saw to his education and instilled in him an understanding of the importance of charity towards the poor.

#### **Naked on the cross**

Always sensitive to the needs of the poor, after his ordination in 1850, Luigi's life became one entirely dedicated to them – especially to abandoned children. His heart was moved by the plight of the poor boys he encountered in the streets of Bergamo. Taking over the running of a men's oratory in one of the poorest parts of town, he placed himself amongst them, seeing to their care and education – and even their entertainment, putting on puppet shows for them. (In fact, many of these puppets are still in existence and can be seen, recently restored, in the [Palazzolo Museum](#) in Bergamo.)

Later, when he realized that there was an equal need for the care and education of girls and young women, he began to help them, too, with a house for the poor and orphans and a women's oratory. In 1869, together with Teresa Gabrieli, he founded the Sisters of the Poor to carry out this work.

That same year, while on a retreat in Rome, he received a profound calling not only to serve the poor but to become one of them – to become like Jesus, who died naked on the cross. Luigi Maria Palazzolo died on June 15, 1886. In 1963, he was beatified by Pope John XXIII, a fellow son of Bergamo.

#### **A legacy of service**

Blessed Luigi Palazzolo was an ordinary man, an ordinary priest, whose holiness lay in his extraordinary openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit, responding unhesitatingly to needs as he encountered them, devoting his whole life to those who had been cast aside by others and for whom there was no other help. This personal charism continues today in the order he founded: the [Sisters of the Poor](#). Serving in Italy, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Kenya, Brazil, and Peru, they continue to devote their energy and resources to children and to the poor, but they also adapt to changing and emerging needs, going wherever they are needed – especially if, for whatever reason, no one else has yet stepped in to fill that need.

When a frightening new virus appeared in Italy in 2020, devastating the city of Bergamo, the sisters were on the frontlines, treating patients and working together with other hospitals to manage the crisis. By late March, 13 Sisters of the Poor had died of COVID-19 in Bergamo.

And among their sisters, they are not alone in their heroic devotion to the sick. In 1995, Sisters of the Poor serving in Kikwit, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), found themselves at the epicentre of an outbreak of the horrific Ebola virus. True to their charism, they stepped into the need with courage and love. The six sisters who died were recognized for their heroic virtue in 2021 and so are one step further along the path to canonization.

#### **Miracle**

It is appropriate, then, that the miracle needed for Luigi Palazzolo's canonization was granted to one of his own. Sr. Gianmarisa Perani was brought to hospital in November 2015 in very serious condition. She received an operation and was discharged to a nursing home with no expectation that she would recover. Sr. Gianmarisa and those around her entrusted her case to the care of their blessed founder. In January 2016, seeing that the sister was now close to death, her doctor ordered her treatment to be stopped. However, a little while later, when a nurse came to check on her, she suddenly woke from her comatose state and quickly became healthy again.

#### **Possible patronage**

Of course St. Luigi Maria Palazzolo will be an appropriate and effective patron for the Sisters of the Poor, but he can have a broader appeal, too. For anyone who feels abandoned by society and in any situation where necessary help is despaired of, I am certain that an appeal to the intercession of this saint will not go unheard or unanswered.

And it would be appropriate, too, if he could become, along with St. Simeon Salus, a patron saint of puppeteers and anyone who uses playful means to educate and catechize.



[From AOL to Twitter: What a Long Strange Trip It's Been](#)

*Dinosaur (noun) 1. a person or thing that is outdated or has become obsolete because of failure to adapt to changing circumstances. --Oxford Dictionary*

“You’ve got mail!”

That’s what my computer “said” to me almost thirty years ago. “You’ve got mail” was the chipper announcement on the first popular internet company—AOL—in the early nineteen nineties. Your emails were just a click away. Twenty-eight years later I still have my original AOL email address. And I yes, I still use it. And yes, some of my younger friends shake their heads in disbelief when they realize the email address I’ve written to them from.

Yes. I am a dinosaur.

AOL of course stands for “America Online” and back in the infancy of the internet it was the place to be. Cutting edge. Innovative. Cool even. When I signed up for my AOL account in the summer of 1994, it was amazing. Then I was a rare breed. I was the earliest of early adopters. In 1994 barely 5 million Americans even had a consumer email account like AOL. Email and surfing the net was mostly the province of academics and the government and corporations.

You actually had to pay a monthly fee to AOL and dial in to the service using a telephone modem. You knew you were connected when a random series of beeps, squawks, and buzzes ended and then if you had email, you’d hear that amazing welcome. “YOU’VE GOT MAIL!” and always spoken in the cheeriest of tones.

At the height of its popularity and success AOL was worth some \$200 billion and boasted in excess of 35 million folks who used the platform. Today—well AOL is more of a punchline than anything, a quaint leftover item from the good old days of computers. It still limps along. But it no longer tells me “You’ve got mail!” when I sign in these days.

That’s how it often is with big tech. So many companies here today and gone tomorrow. Red hot and on fire in the present and then ice cold and out of business oh so soon. That COMPAQ computer I had in 1994...that company bought Digital Computers in 1998, which was once the largest private employer in Massachusetts and is now gone. Hewlett Packard (HP) computers then bought the whole conglomeration in 2002. HP is now one of those fading computer companies along with IBM. Both were once blue-chip companies. I worked in high tech in the nineties. Every single company I was employed by is now gone. Prime. Data General. Sun Microsystems. Honeywell. Digital.

Perhaps more than any other industry high tech is known for dramatic ultra-fast growth but also its head spinning super quick decline. The darling of Wall Street and the public one year might be consigned to the trash heap of history the next. Makes me wonder what our time’s AOL might be. Facebook? Google? Or how about Twitter? Will our kids be tweeting in 28 years or will this soon to be Elon Musk owned company become the next AOL?

Is Musk’s \$44 billion purchase a savvy investment or is Twitter more smoke and mirrors than solid enterprise? Yes, it boasts 217 million daily active users and yes, if you could monetize infamy and drama, then Twitter might actually be worth what Musk is paying for it. Or not. There is the fact that ten percent of its users produce eighty percent of its

tweets, meaning the number of actually active folks on that platform is relatively small. Since Twitter was introduced in 2006, its not been a moneymaker, not even close. Since 2010 its lost \$4 billion and turned a profit in only two of the past twelve years.

On Twitter can be found both the profound and the profane, the fluff and the destructive. Consider the fact that the ten most followed Twitter accounts are two politicians, one soccer player, a business tycoon and six entertainers. That's kind of lightweight. Want to witness the worst of human behavior? Bullying and racism and misogyny and the unchecked power of the mob? Check out Twitter. The place where some of the January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection was planned, coordinated, and promoted, and by folks at the highest level of government too. Twitter is a place where just about anyone can use the platform to spread misinformation about COVID. Or the "danger" of vaccines.

You can see I'm no great fan of Twitter and I'll probably never have an account. It is just too ugly and weird a place for me to visit. That might be my tech dinosaur credentials showing. For those who love Twitter they tell me there is no better place to find the latest news, hear the latest celebrity gossip, or share the latest opinion.

Wither Twitter? Who knows?

But my faith teaches me the great gift of perspective, seeing the long arc of human history as the truth of our existence. Human enterprises like Twitter always rise and most often eventually fall. What is seemingly so valuable today might tomorrow be lost to memory and oblivion. God alone stays forever.

Everything else fades. All of our of the moment fads. All of our human drama. All of our cultural chatter about seemingly "important" news like a multi-billionaire buying a social media company for a personal play toy I suppose. But good luck Elon. You might just have purchased the next Amazon. Or the next AOL. Time will tell.

And by the way: "You've got tweets!"



Article by  
*Sherborn Pastor*

"Thoughts on life, God and faith from a local church minister and teacher"

[John Hudson](#) Sherborn, Massachusetts, United States

Serves the Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Sherborn, Massachusetts; UCC pastor for 28 years; newspaper columnist