



## Sixth Sunday of Easter May 17, 2020

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you... the Spirit of truth.”

— John 14:16-17

### THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE

“What is the reason for your hope?” Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not “What are you hoping for?” or “What are you hoping to do?” No, this isn’t about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it’s “Why do you hope?” Peter today tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit.

--J. S. Paluch Co.

### SAINT RITA OF CASCIA (1381-1457) May 22

If you're ever in Philadelphia on May 22, forget parking anywhere near Saint Rita's shrine. Cars line streets and fill medians as throngs pack a candlelight vigil and six Masses, honoring this patroness of lost causes, hopeless situations, and—as her statue in countless churches built by twentieth-century immigrants testifies—difficult marriages, troubled homes, and alienated children. Wise people warn, be careful what you pray for. “Divine Savior,” Rita prayed, “let me suffer like you!” Obedient to parents who refused her wish to become a nun, Rita married a man who returned her devotion with twenty years of abuse. When enemies murdered him, Rita's two sons swore revenge. Paintings depict her pointing the angry boys toward Christ crucified, whom she begged to restrain them. Within the year, both sons died. Alone now, Rita went to the convent but was refused. The nuns feared violence, since one of them was related to the murderer. Rita arranged peace between the families, made vows, and became much sought after as a counselor and intercessor for forty years on earth—and ever since in heaven.

--Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a  
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11  
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15  
Thursday: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20  
Friday: Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23  
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28  
Sunday: Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a;

### 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.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. Include your offering envelope # with your donation.

5/17: Capital Expenditures. 5/24: Ascension. 5/31: Rural Food.

### 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](mailto:philip.teresa@yahoo.com) Or leave a message at the alternate office number: 707-408-2650.

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Monday: St. John I  
Wednesday: St. Bernardine of Siena  
Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord  
St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions  
Friday: St. Rita of Cascia

### 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.

### Memo from Parish Bookkeeper Val:

“Many more people are using Paypal. They need to know to add their envelope # to every transaction if they want their donation accounted for [tax donation record]. Thank you! “

## Pastor Speaks...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I wish you all an abundance of blessings of God during this difficult time. This is a special month for us, for our nation and for the whole world as we have renewed our Consecration to Mary, Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven and Earth. Let us live in hope that Her powerful intercession will surely help us to be more patient, bold and faithful. As Pope Francis exhorts us, let us be persistent in prayer.

Last week, our bulletin gave you a brief report of some donations our parish received online and through mail for the past four weeks or so. I really thank all those who made these donations and continue to help our parish in running some of our parish programs, like the Rural Food Program, and certain regular office salaries and bills. As part of relief funds, we had to request the diocese to return to us \$11,480.00, the parish savings account with the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF). The Chancery returned that amount to us. We are still waiting to get a special loan (Paycheck Protection Plan Loan) through the Chancery, and we hope to get it soon. I count on your generosity and good will. Let us all be more generous and support our faith community. I deeply appreciate and am grateful to all those who come forward to help our parish more and prove ourselves good stewards.

Just like you, I too am anxiously waiting for our churches to open, hopefully within a few weeks not months. For the last several weeks, many of you have been either calling me or sending me emails with your positive comments about the Sunday Masses and other religious services that I offered and were put on our parish website-Face Book. The actual credit for this kind of service should go to some of our parishioners who have worked and are still working with me. God bless them and their families! I wish that more and more people watch these services and benefit very much spiritually.

**Stay Home and Stay Healthy! Stay United in Hope and Prayer!**

With blessings and best wishes,

**Father Bala.**



## RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE: MAY 2020

Under stormy skies, 100 families received nutritional support on May 12. In between rain showers one could hear the expressions of appreciation among recipient families as volunteers filled their vehicles with much needed food. 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 each month, private donations and volunteers. Thank you for your donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our distributions.

**RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** in the Parish Hall:

Saturday, June 6, 9-10:00 am repackaging.

Monday, June 8, 10:00am – 12:00pm set up.

Tuesday, June 9, 8:30 – 11:00am distribution of food to clients.

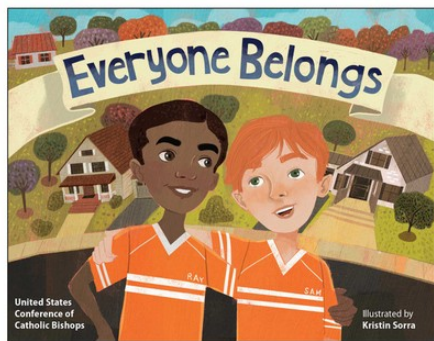
**"A picture is worth a thousand words."**



Recommended by Loyola Press:

### (Family Reading)

Inspired by the USCCB's statement "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, A Pastoral Letter Against Racism," *Everyone*



*Belongs* empowers young readers to reflect on the reality of racism in our society, to see it through the lens of history and faith, and act towards respect, understanding, and friendship.

In this fully illustrated book for children ages 5-12, Ray Ikanga is a young boy whose family fled violence in their home country to come to the United States as refugees. The family moves into a new neighborhood and Ray begins making new friends. His excitement is interrupted, however, when someone spray paints a hurtful message on their garage: "Go home!" *Everyone Belongs* is a book about recognizing the value of our differences, respecting each other, and forgiveness.

Publisher link: <https://store.loyolapress.com/everyone-belongs>

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*"All of these metrics . . . have severe shortcomings . . ."*  
Bruce Y. Lee, health management professor CUNY.

Ever since Galileo discovered the stars of Jupiter and Isaac Newton watched an apple fall from a tree, our world has been planned, constructed, managed and monitored by mathematics – as a more valid method than speculation or imagination would allow. This has come to the fore when, during the current pandemic, numbers, rates, percentages fill the media while calculus projects what our future will be.

Charles Dickens was much aware of this transformation of modern culture when he wrote his novel *Hard Times* – and he wasn't happy about it. In this novel Thomas Gradgrind represents the champion of this new "validity". Dickens describes him as *a man of facts and calculations. A man who proceeds upon the principle that two and two make four, and nothing over, and who is not to be talked into allowing for anything over . . . With a rule and a pair of scales, and the multiplication table always in his pocket . . . ready to weigh and measure any parcel of human nature and tell you exactly what it comes to. It is a mere question of figures, a case of simple arithmetic.*

In a classroom he singles out a girl (whom he calls "girl number twenty") and asks her to define a horse. She knows a lot about horses, being the daughter of a circus horse trainer. But the word "define" baffles her. So Gradgrind calls on a teacher's pet to do so and he recites: *"Quadruped . . . Forty teeth, namely, twenty-four grinders, four eye-teeth, and twelve incisive . . . Age known by marks in mouth."* Thus (and much more . . . "Now, girl number twenty," says Mr. Gradgrind, "You know what a horse is."

Gradgrind runs his own household accordingly – to be correct – and so his daughter Louisa is put under this regimen into her early adult years – when one day she falls apart and confronts her father (and for Dickens she could be the voice of modern civilization): *"Father, you have trained me from my cradle . . . I curse the hour in which I was born to such a destiny . . . How could you give me life, and take from me all the inappreciable things that raise it from the state of conscious death? Where are the graces of my soul? Where are the sentiments of my heart? What have you done, oh, Father, what have you done, with the garden that should have blossomed once, in this great wilderness here?" She struck with both her hands upon her bosom.*

Of course that's quite a charge to lay upon Gradgrind's creed of mathematics – for math in the context of other human qualities is a gift that makes us human as well. But Dickens had hard feelings about the direction modern science and technology was moving. And it would take a book – as it has already many times – to detail the damage as much as the benefits that have derived from what we call progress.

But Jesus says in today's Gospel:

*I will not leave you orphans; deprived of wonder. I will not leave you to be confronted by a landscape gone barren for want of love as much as reason. I will send you a Paraclete, the silent but eloquent voice of God's Spirit to be with you – to give you voice (as the Spirit gave Louisa a voice) to remind us of the depths from which all things have emerged – holy, not to be profaned.*

--Geoff Wood, 5/17/2020

ALERT! Once again, there seems to be a flurry of scams and spam-emails making the rounds on the Internet and robocalls to our phones. Please remember that clergy and parish staff do not ever send out such phony requests for gift cards or Amazon donations or international deposits, etc. Always double-check the sender of any email by "hovering over" (not clicking) the sender's email address. If it is really from our pastor, it will be [govindu77@gmail.com](mailto:govindu77@gmail.com) or [govindu77@yahoo.com](mailto:govindu77@yahoo.com).