



FIND LIFE AND HOPE IN THE EUCHARIST

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II, PRAY FOR US

“In that little Host is the solution to all the problems of the world!” This powerful quote from Pope Saint John Paul II is a fitting focus for not only the Eucharistic Revival, but the horrific events happening in our world today. His feast day is Oct. 22.

As St. John Paul II taught us through his life and the love of the Church let us seek and find hope and strength at Mass through the Eucharist that, “Gives us life.”

He knew the power in the name of Jesus and the power in the Eucharist - the bread of heaven, the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ.

He tirelessly emphasized throughout his religious life that the Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our lives and the life of the Church.

“The Eucharist is too great a gift to tolerate ambiguity and depreciation,” he said on April 17, 2003, in his encyclical letter, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, given at St. Peter’s in Rome.

The following quotes are excerpts from his letter. Read it as he was speaking directly to us:

“The Church draws her life from the Eucharist.

“I would like to rekindle Eucharistic ‘amazement’.... To contemplate the face of Christ, and to contemplate it with Mary.

“To contemplate Christ involves being able to recognize him wherever he manifests himself, in his many forms of presence, but above all in the living sacrament of his body and his blood.

“Whenever the Church celebrates the Eucharist, the faithful can in some way relive the experience of the two disciples

on the road to Emmaus: ‘their eyes were opened, and they recognized him’ (Lk 24:31).”

He shared, “When I think of the Eucharist, and look at my life as a priest, as a Bishop and as the Successor of Peter, I naturally recall the many times and places in which I was able to celebrate it.... I have been able to celebrate Holy Mass in chapels built along mountain paths, on lakeshores and seacoasts; I have celebrated it on altars built in stadiums and in city squares... This varied scenario of celebrations of the Eucharist has given me a powerful experience of its universal and, so to speak, cosmic character. Yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world. It unites heaven and earth.

“The Eucharist is truly a glimpse of heaven appearing on earth.”

His love and faith in God were evident in his words and actions.

He knew of the significance of his papal election in 1978. He was the first Polish pope and the first pope in more than 450 years that wasn’t Italian. His papacy revived his country, giving them an energy, strength, and most importantly a voice. In his homily during his installation Mass he told the faithful and the world, “Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ.”

St. John Paul II wrote many books readily available. Recommended readings about him include: *Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves* by Jason Evert; and *The Making of the Pope of the Millennium: Kalendarium of the Life of Karol Wojtyla* by Adam Boniecki.



DIocese of Wheeling-Charleston

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Catholic Just War Theory applied to Israeli-Hamas Conflict

The Catholic Church has a long history of reflecting on the justification, conditions and conduct of war. Let's look at the conflict between Hamas and Israel in the light of traditional Catholic just war theory (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, # 2309).

When a country is attacked, a *defensive war* is justified. War should only be undertaken because of lasting and grave harm. It should be the last resort, other means of ending conflict being impractical or ineffective. There must be serious prospects of success and the use of arms should not produce harm and disorder worse than the evil to be eliminated.

Considering Hamas, it is conducting an *aggressive war*, despite its claims to the contrary. The attacks launched earlier this month were not the last resort to address legitimate Palestinian grievances. While the Middle East is a cauldron of resentments and hatreds, gains such as the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and the Oslo Agreements show that, with good will and international support, progress can be made.

The main obstacle to peace is Hamas' hatred of Jews and its desire to destroy Israel. Instead of seeking to negotiate with Israeli authorities, Hamas has launched attacks that have caused irreparable harm by killing many hundreds of Israelis with no real possibility of succeeding in destroying Israel. Hamas' practice of hiding its fighters among non-combatants, including women and children, is cowardly and reprehensible. By attacking Israel and stirring it to a vigorous counterattack, Hamas has brought on worse evils that it seeks to eliminate.

On the Israeli side, it has a right to defend its people and to neutralize Hamas' ability to strike again. The harm caused to its people is grave; families cannot replace those murdered by the terrorists. One can argue that recent Israeli governments should have been more open to dealing constructively with the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank, but Hamas has shown that it is an unwilling partner for dialogue.

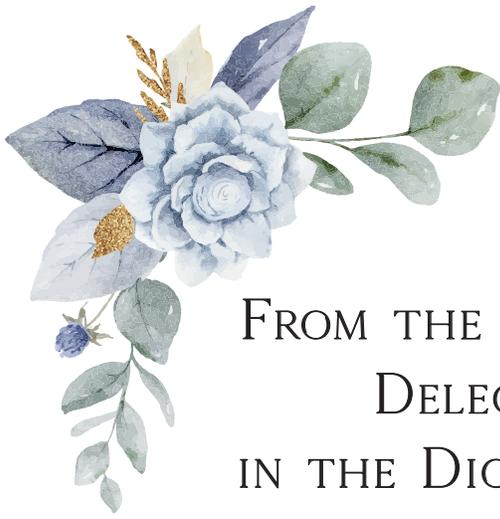
Israel will successfully defend its own territory from Hamas and will rebuild its defenses against future attacks. It is less clear that it can completely eliminate Hamas from Gaza. The danger for Israel is that a blockade on food, water, medicine and electricity and a full-scale ground war in Gaza will cause such loss of life that Israel will lose the international sympathy it now enjoys, even from its usual critics, and future prospects for peace will be severely undermined. Israel's strategy should focus on swift action towards its stated goals followed by cooperation with the international community and humanitarian organizations who seek to help innocent Palestinians, particularly those injured and displaced.

Those of us who cherish Israel and want Jews to flourish in their historic homeland can and must pray to the God who is over us all, that peace based on justice may someday and somehow be achieved in the Holy Land.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



FROM THE DESK OF SISTER MARTHA GOMEZ,
DELEGATE FOR CONSECRATED LIFE
IN THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON:

Dear Friends,

On October 7, the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary, when we finished our campaign for our *One Million Rosaries for Vocations* for our diocese, the world was awakened by the horrific burst of violence incited in the Holy Land.

Pope Francis is urging us to pray for Peace, to raise our voices asking our world's leaders and the United Nations to use their authority for an immediate ceasefire and the negotiation for peace.

May we be encouraged to join him in his call for peace, and his condemnation of this widespread outbreak of violence.

As he stated in his Sunday audience, "May the attacks and weaponry cease. Please! And let it be understood that terrorism and war do not lead to any resolutions, but only to the death and suffering of so many innocent people."

Let us pray with Pope Francis, Bishop Mark Brennan, and our fellow faithful around the world for peace and a swift end to the unthinkable violence towards children and families in the Middle East. Let us never take our peace for granted. Let us never grow weary of praying, fasting, and sacrificing for others in the name of God.



Love and prayer,

Sister Martha



SAINTS OF THE WEEK

BLESSED BENIGNA CARDOSO DE SILVA TEACHES US ABOUT HOLINESS - *Honor her on her feast day, Oct. 24.*

Born in 1928 in Brazil, Bl. Benigna is a model for children and adults, finding joy in reading the Bible, sharing sacred Scripture stories, and attending Mass to be with and receive Christ. Friends said she loved the outdoors, animals, and protected other children from harm or harsh treatment. Her peers, fellow parishioners, and pastor described her as a holy person in life.



Blessed Benigna died at the age of 13. She was brutally murdered by a boy whose inappropriate advances she continually rejected. Her beatification was held in Crato, Ceara, Brazil, on Oct. 24, 2022, the anniversary of her death.

She is a “defender of the dignity of women, as an icon against the sexual abuse of girls and adolescents, as the girl of mercy in [her] care for the elderly, as one who has indicated the path of purity, liberty, and sanctity,” Cardinal Leonardo Ulrich Steiner said at her beatification Mass.

Blessed Benigna is a reminder that we are all called to holiness even as children. Live life with a mindset of this virgin martyr – defending the faith, innocence, and God’s creation.

THE SAINT FOR THE DESPERATE AND THE ZEALOT SAINT *Celebrate Saints Jude and Simon on October 28*

Named tenth and eleventh in the sequence of the apostles, Saints Jude and Simon were followers of Christ with little notoriety, but represent a great lesson - be strong and courageous, sharing the love of Christ willingly and without hesitation.

At baptism and confirmation, we receive gifts of grace and courage to grow in and be a witness of our faith in word and deed. Through the sacraments and faith formation we are empowered to love God above all and through the best and worst of times. As members of the Church, just as Ss Jude and Simon preached throughout their missionary journey, we are called to be disciples of Christ.

“Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city

square, during work, on a journey,” Pope Francis said in 2017 during his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). “Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.”

Saints Jude and Simon experienced that love firsthand. While we don’t know many details of Ss Jude and Simon, we do know Jesus hand-picked his apostles. They were at his side following him in his three-year ministry witnessing many miracles and signs; and in his presence when he was charged with blasphemy and arrested after being betrayed by one of their own, Judas. They suffered in the shadows of the passion. They rejoiced in the resurrection of Jesus. They stood in awe at the Ascension. Ten days later the Holy Spirit descended like tongues of fire upon them and miraculously they became fluent in many different languages so people of all nations could understand them as they preached about the lessons and promises of Christ.

Both of these men were known by other names during their lives. Jude was also known as “Jude Thaddeus.” People used this formal title to distinguish Jude from Judas Iscariot the betrayer. Simon was often called “the Zealot” so not to be confused with



Simon Peter. A zealot was a political activist. He was strongly committed to the following of Jewish law, but his relationship with Jesus changed his focus to be a committed follower of the Messiah and His teachings.

Church historians believe both Jude Thaddeus and St. Simon the Zealot were relatives of Jesus.

They were martyred in Persia. Their remains are buried beneath the Altar of St. Joseph in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Mosaics of Saints Jude and Simon are to the left and right of the altar, respectively.

Look to Ss Jude and Simon to be our guide as we proceed down life’s challenging path and to give us the courage to share our love of Christ in our words, character, and actions.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

As Isaiah paints a picture of a glorious feast given by God, he wants us all to rejoice in the Lord who saved us. We may feel inadequate or undeserving, but God knows us – those who love him despite our many shortcomings.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96

“Give the Lord glory and honor.”

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

We have received the gospel not only in word, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” – Keep faith, values, and morals in focus as we take on our responsibilities, including civic ones.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/102223.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that our prayers, ministries, and contributions help all who seek safety and peace in our towns, our nation, and our world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they may nurture the seeds of peace and work tirelessly to make our world better, building bridges of understanding and goodwill, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For missionaries here and around the world, that like Saint Paul they may find in Christ Jesus the secret of persevering in their mission, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us, that not only be revived through the Eucharist, but invite others to and back to the Church to find Christ’s True Presence, love, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.