

# Growing in FAITH™

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

July 2016

**Church of St. Elizabeth**  
Rev. James J. Weiner, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Martha

St. Martha is a model of faith and service. Jesus was close to Martha, her sister, Mary, and brother, Lazarus, and visited them in their home. Martha served him as a dear friend.

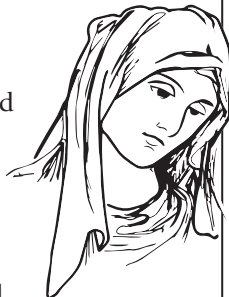
When Lazarus died, Martha made one of the first acts of faith. She said, "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God ... I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

### Look with love

God looks at us with a father's love. He sees us as he created us to be - his beloved children who deserve another chance. When you're tempted to focus on another's faults, ask God to help you see everyone as he does - with love.

"[God is] always patient, patient with us...he never tires of forgiving us if we know to turn to him with a contrite heart."

Pope Francis



## There are calmer waters ahead

Following current events can feel like floating in a rowboat without oars. Tossed about in a sea of indifference, battling the waves of terrorism, rocked by swells of immorality gives the impression disaster is looming. As children of God, though, we know there are calmer waters ahead.

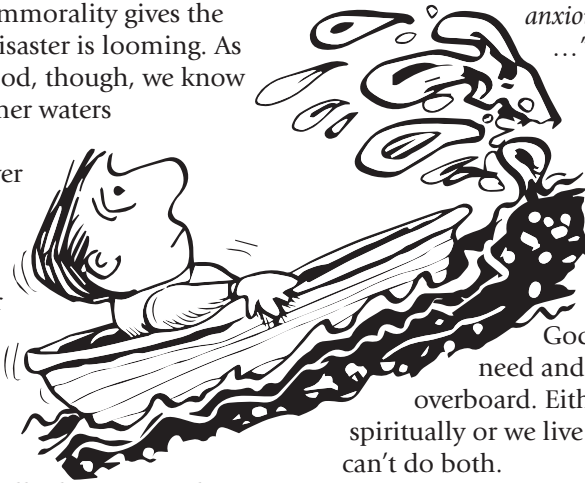
**Pray** - Prayer keeps us moored to God. It is during prayer that we hear God's voice and learn his path for our lives. During prayer, especially the Rosary when we reflect on Jesus' salvation journey, God fills our hearts with the peace and grace we need for our travels.

**Hope** - Hope is what keeps us moving forward no matter how rough

the seas. Children of God know that when we surrender to God's care, his promise of a better future will be fulfilled. "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life ..." (Luke 12:22).

**Detach** - In rough seas, the right amount of weight can float or sink a boat. To survive, we can lean on God for what we need and throw the rest overboard. Either we live spiritually or we live materially. We can't do both.

**Obey** - There is one captain on this ship. If we follow his commands, we will survive any storm. Remember, though, there are many other voices vying for our attention. Obey one. Obey His.



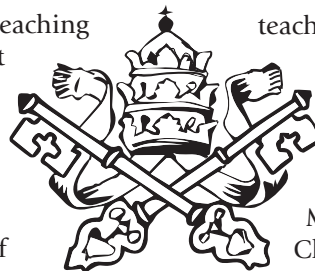
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## What is the Magisterium?

The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church. It consists of the pope and the bishops with him, who are the successors of St. Peter and the Apostles. "The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God...has been entrusted to the living,

teaching office of the Church alone" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #85).

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Magisterium defines Church doctrine according to what Jesus taught and the Apostles handed on.



## Reconnect with faith this summer

The lazy days of summer can make it tempting to be lazy about prayer and worship but the slower pace of summer makes it a great time to reconnect with the one who loves you most.

**Make Mass.** There's no vacation from Mass, even though we are on vacation. In fact, admiring churches in new places and participating in different parish customs can freshen our own outlook.

**Summer reading.** Give "beach reading" a new meaning. Read a spiritual book of



which you may have heard but not yet read. Whether a classic or a more contemporary religious book, reading it during the summer can give you more time to reflect on what you read. (Hint: if you need a suggestion, your pastor, priest or religious would be happy to help.)

**Serve.** Parish ministries usually suffer from low staffing during the summer. Call your parish office to see if you can fill in help is needed cleaning the church, visiting the sick, greeting parishioners, or elsewhere faithful hands are scarce.

### from Scripture

#### Luke 12:13-21, Store up treasure that lasts

A man asked Jesus to settle a family disagreement over money. Rather than get involved, Jesus told a parable that warned against the attachment to wealth. Wealth, financial security, and possessions can disappear in an instant, but God's love is forever.

Jesus said, "One's life does not consist of possessions" (Luke 12:15). When we die, our life will not be measured by what we had, but by how we used it in service to others, especially God. The Rich Fool was not condemned because he had wealth, but because he was so



focused on himself that he never thought to share his extra grain with those who didn't have enough.

Jesus told his disciples, "Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy" (Luke 12:33). For Jesus, living the good life is about loving God and the people he created. A healthy prayer life, loving

acts of service, and reaching out to the lonely, the poor, and the sick are what makes us truly wealthy.

### Q & A Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity and has the same majesty as the Father and the Son. At the



Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would remind them of Christ's teachings and continue to lead them "to all truth."

"The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" (John 14:26). As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit descended on the Church at Pentecost and has continued to guide the Church ever since.

"To be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit. He comes to meet us and kindles faith in us" (CCC #683). God sends the Spirit into our hearts and makes us his children (Galatians 4:6). We first receive the Holy Spirit at our Baptism, from whom we receive sanctifying grace. His presence in our souls is strengthened at Confirmation.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**July 2 - St. Oliver Plunkett (1681).** Born in County Meath, Ireland in 1629, St. Oliver Plunkett was ordained in Rome in 1654, and appointed Archbishop of Armagh in Ireland a few years later. In the wake of anti-Catholic persecution, he was forced to do his work in secret. In 1679, he was arrested and sent to London, where he was falsely charged with fomenting rebellion and executed.

**July 15 - St. Bonaventure (1274).** Cured of an illness through the prayers of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Bonaventure

became a Franciscan. As minister general of the order, he cultivated a love of the way of St. Francis and the order's ideals.

**July 31 - St. Ignatius of Loyola (1556).** Ignatius spent several years defending his native country of Spain, which resulted in serious injuries. While he was recovering, he began a religious conversion and a lifelong dedication to education. He wrote spiritual exercises and started a community of priests now known as the Society of Jesus.



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