



Bringing Home the Word

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
June 27, 2021

Accepting Pain

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Michelangelo's statue *The Pietà*, finished before he turned twenty-four, expresses a theme Italians didn't enjoy seeing in art: death. Even worse, it recalls the torturous death of a crucified son held by his mourning mother. The image is horrific.

In his approach, Michelangelo is revolutionary. Rather than directly representing death, his statue is a meditation on it. Instead of showing the Virgin in the moment of extreme anguish, the normal strategy to achieve pity in the onlooker, the master decides

to show Mary in humble acceptance of this heart-wrenching moment.

She doesn't fight or run from the pain in rebellious screams. Her teeth aren't clenched, her brow is unwrinkled, and her eyes aren't filled with tears imploring upward seeking to understand the illogical. She merely sits in the painful moment embracing the Son and abandoning her sorrow to the Father who permitted it.

Her hands reveal her attitude. One holds her Son under his arm firmly. She pulls him to her, sustaining the weight of the mystery. She absorbs the moment, fleeing not. Remaining in the pain, she endures the cost of our redemption, expressing her fiat again, in silence: Let it be done to me according to your word.

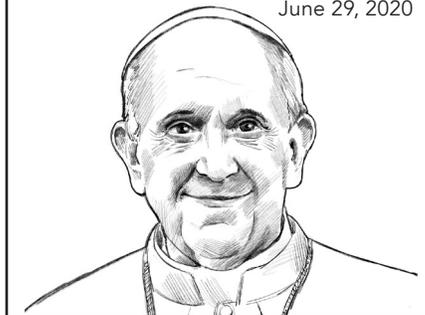
The other hand tilts toward us, open. She is letting go, giving over! She knows this Child in her arms was never only hers, but everyone's. We're invited to grasp her open hand, join her pain, and do our part to take up our own cross and follow him. +

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the painful moment
embracing the Son and
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to the Father.*

A Word from Pope Francis

They were two very different people...Yet the closeness that joined Peter and Paul did not come from natural inclinations, but from the Lord. He did not command us to like one another, but to love one another. He is the one who unites us, without making us all alike. He unites us in our differences.

—Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul,
June 29, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How can I embrace life's challenging moments, rather than rebel or run from them?
- How can I better accept and let go of those things that cause me pain?

Sunday Readings

Wisdom 1:13–15; 2:23–24

God formed us to be imperishable... But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13–15

For your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

**Mark 5:21–43 or 5:21–24,
35b–43**

[Jesus] took the child by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum,*" which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!"

Tune in to What Kids Watch

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

Do your children listen to you? Are they obedient? Are they respectful? Do they understand the role and meaning of authority? Do they know their place in the family? If you answered no to any of these questions, you might want to review what your children watch on TV. It could be one source of your problems.

People criticize television programming for the prevalence of violence and sexual material available to young and impressionable viewers. With some success, the TV ratings system and other mechanisms that enhance parental supervision and control have helped to restrict young people to age-appropriate channels. The presumption is that age-appropriate is just that.

But have you ever watched children's TV programs? Often, what is called "suitable" for children is just as harmful (or even more harmful) than regular shows for grownups. Parents—as they are portrayed in sitcoms, cartoons, and commercials—are often set in opposition to their children and teens. This in itself is not bad; every family experiences conflict. The difficulty is that, more times than not, children and teens are characterized as wise beyond their years, responsible and—oddly—very parentlike, while the parents are depicted as witless, irresponsible,



and—strangely—like children.

I love my parents and value their wisdom and advice. I always have. I don't remember ever going through a rebellious teenage phase—where teens are known to judge everything parents do as wrong, disagreeable, contrary, or misguided—a period emulated in many TV programs that glorify the adult characteristics of children and exaggerate the foibles and weaknesses of parents. Although it may be generational, I don't think I'm alone in this opinion. The role of parents and parents themselves are being undermined.

The Church offers a guide to help parents monitor the media.

The Family Guide for Using Media from the Communications Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is available online. Together with a list of good resources, the guide offers ten actions that can help parents determine television's role in the life of their family.

Under the heading "Respect Human Beings and the Family," parents are reminded that each of us is created in the image and likeness of God and that the family gives our lives meaning and purpose. Further, it is in the family that we come to understand our identity. This happens in and through "well-ordered relationships," the guide says.

In the section titled "Use Your Intelligence," parents are urged to look at television and media thoughtfully and critically because there's always a moral message. That message could be helpful, or it could contribute to discord in your family.

Well-ordered relationships are not accidental; they don't just happen. Who maintains order in your family? Mom and Dad or the TV? +



Lord, you promise eternal life to all who believe in you. Give me the courage to be an advocate for life.

—From *Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 28–July 3

Monday, St. Irenaeus:

Gn 18:16–33 / Mt 8:18–22

Tuesday, Sts. Peter and Paul: Acts 12:1–11 /

2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18 / Mt 16:13–19

Wednesday, Weekday:

Gn 21:5, 8–20a / Mt 8:28–34

Thursday, Weekday:

Gn 22:1b–19 / Mt 9:1–8

Friday, Weekday:

Gn 23:1–4, 19; 24:1–8, 62–67 / Mt 9:9–13

Saturday, St. Thomas:

Eph 2:19–22 / Jn 20:24–29

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