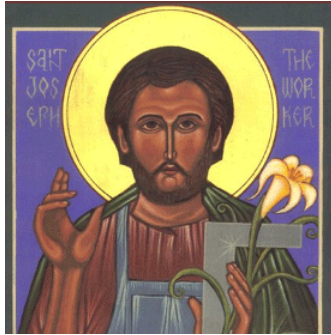


MAY 2008 FEAST DAYS

Thursday, May 1 — St. Joseph the Worker



On a day devoted to the celebration of work, workers, and Saint Joseph as the patron of workers, we can ask ourselves: How are we to see work with a sacred dignity and meaning? We can do so in the same way we make anything holy: by doing it with an awareness of the presence of God.

Saturday, May 3 — St. Philip and James, Apostles



Philip, perhaps a former disciple of John the Baptist, evangelized in the East and was martyred in Greece. James, “the Younger,” or “the Less,” became a leader of the Jerusalem church. It is believed he was beaten or stoned to death.

Sunday, May 4 — Ascension



This feast commemorates the commissioning of the disciples to baptize in the name of Jesus, reminding them that he is always present through his Spirit. We, too, are witnesses, and are called in the same way to preach the Good News.

Saturday, May 10 — Blessed Damien Joseph de Veuster of Molokai'i



(Blessed Damien died on April 15, so he was listed with the April feasts, but this date is the liturgical celebration.) Damien de Veuster, a Belgian priest, had served nine years as a missionary in the Hawaiian Islands when asked his superiors to serve on the island of Molokai, the notorious leper colony. He himself died of leprosy on April 15, 1889, at the age of 49. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995.

Sunday, May 11 — Pentecost



All of us have been baptized into one and the same Spirit. That same Spirit, the Advocate, was given as gift to the disciples to strengthen them to go forth in the name of the Lord, “to renew the face of the earth.”

Today we also observe Mother’s Day.

Monday, May 12 — Mary, Mother of Graces and Mediatrix



This memorial reminds us of the anniversary of May 12, 1865, when Pope Pius IX approved the Society of Mary. It also calls us to give thanksgiving for the commendation of the Society of Mary and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate by Pope Gregory XVI on April 12, 1839.

Tuesday, May 13 — Our Lady of Fatima



Our Lady of Fatima is venerated under this title following the apparitions to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. The message of Fatima includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance from sin, and prayer, especially the Rosary.

Wednesday, May 14 — St. Matthias, Apostle



The selection of Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot restored the number of apostles to 12 and also reflected the requirement that an apostle be one who knew Jesus in his earthly life and after his resurrection.

Thursday, May 15 — St. Isidore, farmer



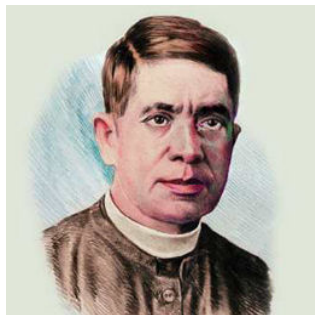
Isidore founded no order, accomplished no great deeds and left no teachings. He was a simple farm worker born in Madrid, who spent his entire life in the service of the same wealthy landowner. With his wife, Maria, he bore one son, who died in childhood. He loved animals and the poor. The miracle of the multiplication of food occurred when Isidore shared his food with a large group of beggars. He died in 1130.

Sunday, May 18 — Most Holy Trinity



Like the Trinity, may we be united in peace and love through the Spirit, through whom we offer God praise and glory.

Wednesday, May 21 — St. Christopher Magallanes and companions



Canonized in 2000, Magallanes and his 24 martyr companions ministered under an anti-Catholic Mexican government in the 1920s. From his jail cell he shouted, “I am innocent and I die innocent. I forgive with all my heart those responsible for my death, and I ask God that the shedding of my blood serve the peace of our divided Mexico.”

Sunday, May 25 — Corpus Christi



Just as God fed the Israelites with manna from heaven, we feed on the best of wheat, the bread of angels, food for the pilgrim journey.

Sunday, May 25 — Mary, Help of Christians



(This memorial is superseded by the Feast of Corpus Christi. It may be transferred to the day before or the week after.) This memorial is a reminder to us of May 25, 1816, the day on which the Daughters of Mary Immaculate were founded, and of May 25, 1891, when Pope Pius VII granted the first spiritual privileges to the two Marianist societies.

Monday, May 26 — Memorial Day (Mass for Peace and Justice)



This holiday commemorates U.S. men and women who have died in military service to their country. Memorial Day was first celebrated to honor Union soldiers who died during the American Civil War. It is recommended that the Mass for Peace and Justice be celebrated on this day.

Friday, May 30 — Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



“The Lord loved you.” “Love is of God ... God is love.” Scripture’s words of love come on a day celebrating the human and divine love of Jesus.

Saturday, May 31 — Visitation



This day is unique. It does not commemorate a saint but an extraordinary meeting between two pregnant women. The feast remembers the joy of the encounter and celebrates the sisterhood of two women joined by their faith in the God of the Impossible.