

Some Thoughts for July 2024

Marge Loenser

July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. The Feast of the Precious Blood was enacted by Pope Pius IX in 1849, but this devotion is as old as Christianity. The early fathers said the church was born from the pierced side of Christ and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood. May the Precious Blood of Christ bless and renew us.

Happy July 4th! God bless America on this our 248th anniversary. Lord, we thank you for this wonderful land. We ask you to “stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light from above...” In many ways we are going through the night, but we must remember that Jesus Christ is the light from above and through prayer and righteous activity we will continue our fight for our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We must pray and stand behind those who support our constitution--with equal justice for all, under the law.

We celebrate St. Thomas, apostle on the 3rd. He is remembered for doubting the resurrection of Jesus. He was not present when Jesus first showed Himself to the apostles after His death on the cross. It took Christ's second appearance (when Thomas was present) for him to believe. In the TV series *The Chosen*, the writer uses his imagination to present Thomas as the wine merchant and worker at the wedding feast at Cana. It shows his amazement and consternation at witnessing the miracle that Jesus presents by changing the water into wine. It is after that first public miracle of Jesus, that He asks Thomas to follow him. Interesting. I especially love the part in the wedding celebration where Jesus is dancing with his apostles to the “Song of Miriam.” Go Lord!

Another of the saints we celebrate this month is St. Maria Goretti. When not quite 12 years old, Maria was attacked by her neighbor, 19-year-old Alessandro. In an attempt to rape her, he stabbed her 14 times. After much surgery (without anesthesia) Maria died, but before she died, she forgave Alessandro, “For love of Jesus.” St. Maria please pray for an end to pornography and human trafficking.

Some of the other saints we celebrate this July are: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Bridget, Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

St. Mary Magdalene, healed of seven demons by our Lord was His faithful follower, right to the end where she stood with Mary at the foot of the cross. After the Ascension, when the disciples left the Holy Land, Mary settled for a life of seclusion in a cave in Baum, France. St. Mary Magdalene, pray for us.

Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus were close friends to Jesus, and it is believed that Jesus visited them many times during His travels to rest and revitalize Himself. Martha was the busy one, Jesus said: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious about so many things, but Mary chooses the better part for herself.” (Luke 10:41-42.) Here Martha wants Mary to help her serve Jesus and his disciples, while Mary chooses to sit at the feet of Jesus and enjoy His presence. The Lord seems to be saying, the spiritual is much more important than the physical/material. This is not to say that work is not important but that we need to prioritize our time with the Lord and our time “in the world.” God must always come first.

'Till next month, may God bless us and keep us safe.

Love,
Marge



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