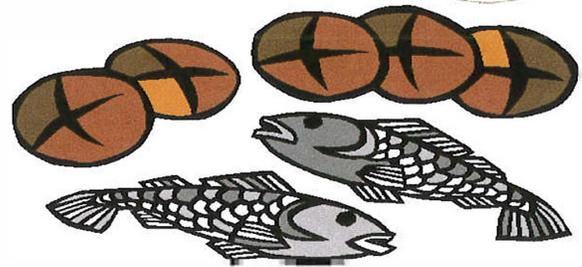


LIVING FAITH

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

JOHN 6:1-15

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

This is one of the stories that most people know—the story of how, in Jesus' hands, the five loaves and two fishes brought by one little boy become enough to feed five thousand people. Do you ever wonder if your gifts are "enough"? Most people do! But the point of this story is that when you offer your gifts—no matter how small—to Jesus, they are transformed! What you have is enough, as long as you offer it to others and to God!

PONDER AND DISCUSS...

- What gifts do you have to offer?
- How can you offer your gifts to feed and strengthen others?



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This week, name ways our family can help feed others with acts of kindness...



FEEDING THE 5,000 (JOHN 6:1-14)



"One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"

JOHN 6:8-9

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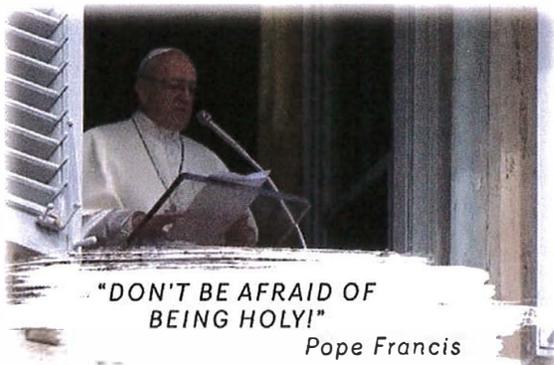
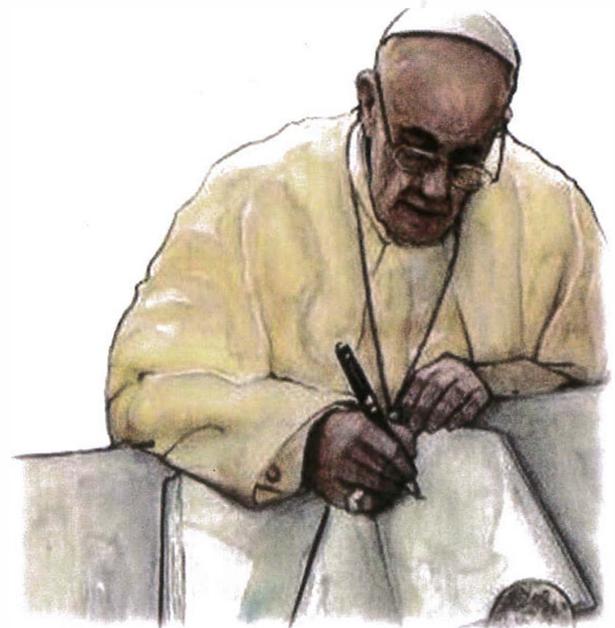
THE CHURCH TEACHES



A LETTER FROM POPE FRANCIS GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE—REJOICE AND BE GLAD

Pope Francis is often called a “man of Vatican II.” In March, 2018, he released a new letter, *Gaudete et Exsultate*. In this letter, he offers a powerful magisterial reflection on the Council’s “universal call to holiness”:

“Rejoice and be glad” (Mt 5:12), Jesus tells those persecuted or humiliated for his sake. The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence. (§1)



Gaudete et Exsultate (GE) is an apostolic exhortation, a type of document that ranks below an encyclical but above everyday papal homilies and speeches. It is the third apostolic exhortation issued by Pope Francis, after *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Amoris Laetitia*.

The message of *Gaudete et Exsultate* is very simple, and also profound: God calls us all to holiness.



For a copy of *Gaudete et Exsultate* click here :

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK
TWO GREAT FOUNDERS
ST IGNATIUS LOYOLA (JULY 31)
ST ALPHONSUS LIGUORI (AUGUST 1)



Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) was the founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists).

Alphonsus Liguori was born in Naples, Italy, on September 27, 1696. The firstborn of an aristocratic family, he achieved his doctorate in civil and Church law at the age of 16. Alphonsus was ordained a priest on December 21, 1726. In the hills above Amalfi, he came in contact with poor peasants and shepherds who were deprived of spiritual care. This experience awakened the desire in the heart of Alphonsus to found an institute for the evangelization of the poor. The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer was born at Scala on November 9, 1732. Preaching and prayer formed the heart of the missionary activity of Alphonsus. He died on August 1, 1787, at the age of 91.

Alphonsus was canonized by Gregory XVI on May 26, 1839. On March 23, 1871, Pius IX declared him a doctor of the Church, and on April 26, 1950, Pius XII declared him patron of confessors and moral theologians. Alphonsus is also known as the patron of arthritics, because he suffered from this condition.



Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) was the founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Ignatius Loyola was born in 1491 in northern Spain. As a young man Ignatius was inflamed by the ideals of courtly love and knighthood and dreamed of doing great deeds. But in 1521 Ignatius was gravely wounded in a battle. While recuperating, Ignatius Loyola experienced a conversion. Reading the lives of Jesus and the saints made Ignatius happy and aroused desires to do great things. Ignatius realized that these feelings were clues to God's direction for him. Ignatius became expert in the art of spiritual direction. He collected his insights, prayers, and suggestions in his book the *Spiritual Exercises*. With a small group of friends, Ignatius Loyola founded the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits. He died July 31, 1556 in Rome.

Ignatius was beatified in 1609, and then canonized, receiving the title of Saint on 12 March 1622. His feast day is celebrated on 31 July. He is the patron saint of soldiers and spiritual retreats, and of the Basque provinces of Gipuzkoa and Biscay.