

# LIVING FAITH

20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME AUGUST 16, 2026



## THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.'

But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.'

He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'

But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.'

He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.'

She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith!

Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

## REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

The Gospel for today offers hope to all the poor, disenfranchised, marginalized people of our world. Jesus encounters an outsider, a woman, a Canaanite, a foreigner.

Though she is not of the people of Israel and not of the Jewish faith, she seems to have a better understanding than the disciples of who Jesus is, of his mercy, of his power. And so she kneels before him, and then asks his help. At first, Jesus seems not to be inclined to heed her, until she speaks up for herself. Then, Jesus is impressed by her faith, and heals her daughter.

We are the hands and feet of Jesus today. Like him, we are called to have a special place in our hearts for people who are poor, people who are disenfranchised, people who live on the margins of our society. We are called to encounter them as human beings, and not to cast them aside. We are called to listen to them and then to go one step further—to give them a voice and accord them the dignity that they deserve as children of God.

## TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Who are the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized people in the world today?
- When have you encountered someone who was poor, or powerless, or on the margins? What did you do? How were you the presence of Jesus in this situation? How did you listen? How did you respond?

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# Crumbs from the Table

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



1. A \_\_\_\_\_ woman came to Jesus and asked him for help.
2. The woman begged Jesus to have \_\_\_\_\_ on her.
3. The woman told Jesus that her daughter was possessed by a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ asked Jesus to send the woman away.
5. Jesus said, "I was sent only to the lost \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel."
6. The woman continued to \_\_\_\_\_, "Lord, help me."
7. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's food and toss it to their \_\_\_\_\_."
8. "Even the dogs eat \_\_\_\_\_ that fall from the master's table" the woman answered.
9. Jesus saw that the woman had great \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Because the woman had great faith, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ her daughter.

Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV)

|        |        |           |           |       |
|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| healed | crumbs | Canaanite | sheep     | faith |
| dogs   | plead  | demon     | disciples | mercy |

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## FEASTS THIS WEEK

**ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX**

**1090-1153**

**ABBOT AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

**AUGUST 20**



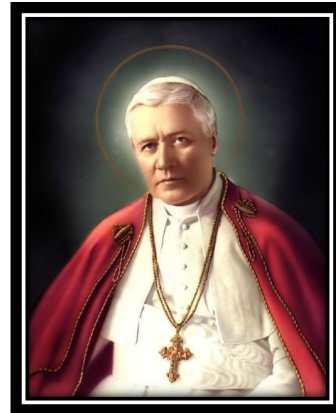
Bernard of Clairvaux, O.Cist was a French abbot and a major leader in the reform of Benedictine monasticism that caused the formation of the Cistercian order. He was one of seven children born to a noble French family. After the death of his mother, when Bernard was only 19, he sought admission into the Cistercian order. He was such a compelling and convincing orator that 30 of his family and friends followed him into the Cistercian order. He founded a new monastery at *Clairvaux*, on June 25, 1115, and the names of Bernard and Clairvaux would soon become inseparable. The abbey became too small for its members and it was necessary to send out bands to found new houses. Bernard died at 63 years of age on August 20, 1153 in Clairvaux, France. He was canonized on January 18, 1174 by Pope Alexander III. He was named a Doctor of the Church in 1830.

St. Bernard is patron of Cistercians, the region of Burgundy, beekeepers and candlemakers.

**ST. PIUS X**

**1835-1914**

**AUGUST 21**



### **Who Was Pope St. Pius X?**

Born in 1835 in Venice, Guiseppe Melchiorre Sarto was pope from 1903 to 1914 under the name Pius X. He is remembered for his great love of the Eucharist, his preparation of the 1917 Code of Canon Law and his work in the Liturgical Movement.

### **The 1917 Code of Canon Law**

In summary form, the 1917 Code of Canon Law was the first attempt in the history of the Church to gather all of the disparate laws of the Church into one Code. In fact, this first Code of Canon Law covered five volumes. The law was promulgated by Pope Benedict XV in 1917 but the commission was started and set to task by Pope St. Pius X.

### **The Liturgical Movement**

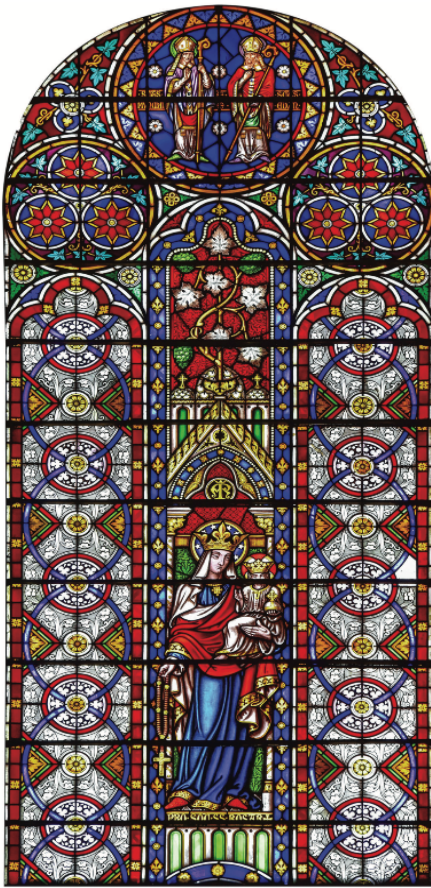
Pope Pius X encouraged frequent reception of the Eucharist, and worked to implement liturgical reforms such as the restoration of Gregorian chant in the Mass instead of classical settings by Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn or Cherubini.

He died on August 20, 1914, at the outset of the First World War.

## FEASTS THIS WEEK

### QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

#### AUGUST 22



#### QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY WINDOW

By William Warrington, 1859

Basilica of St. John the Baptist, St. John's, NL. At the top, you will also see depictions of St. Munchen (first bishop and patron of the city of Limerick, Ireland and St. Aidan, first bishop of Ferns, County Wexford. These two saints represent the Irish immigrants who built the Basilica-Cathedral.

Photo by Robert and Lynn Young, 2018.

### *Regina Coeli Prayer*

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia.

Has risen, as He said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary,  
alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who through the resurrection of  
your Son Jesus Christ  
gave rejoicing to the world,  
grant, we pray, that through his Mother, the  
Virgin Mary,  
we may obtain the joy of everlasting life.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pope Pius XII established this feast in 1954. At the Annunciation, Gabriel announced that Mary's Son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. At the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." As in all the mysteries of Mary's life, she is closely associated with Jesus: Her queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship. We can also recall that in the Old Testament the mother of the king has great influence in court. In the fourth century Saint Ephrem called Mary "Lady" and "Queen." Hymns of the 11th to 13th centuries address Mary as queen: "Hail, Holy Queen," "Hail, Queen of Heaven," "Queen of Heaven."

The feast is a logical follow-up to the Assumption, and is celebrated on the octave day of that feast. In his 1954 encyclical *To the Queen of Heaven*, Pius XII points out that Mary deserves the title because she is Mother of God, and is closely associated with Jesus' redemptive work, because of her perfection, and because of her intercessory power.



Stained glass window of the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven in the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, St. John's, by Gerard Earley, 1954. Photo by Robert and Lynn Young, 2018.