

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

August 16, 2020 **MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS** Estab. 1924



Pastor: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD X222;
Associate Pastor: Fr. David Guzman, OCD X232;
Carmelite Vocation Director: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD X224

In Residence:
Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD
Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD
Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD (7th Grade Teacher)
brjasonoths@gmail.com

Deacons: Deacon Joseph Mizerski X333;
Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

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SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL (626) 289-3364, X660

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

Principal@
sainttheresecarmelite.school.com

Chaplain: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD X224

See our **VIDEOS** on the School's Facebook page or on the Church's Website: > Our School > Videos



Parish Secretary:

Denise McMaster-Holguin X223
denisekay@hotmail.com

Announcements: Lorraine Mizerski X333
lmizerski@sbcglobal.net

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228
cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director:

Charlotte Lansberg X226
cjlansberg@choochoorecords.com

Respect Life Ministry / Vox Vitae:

Catherine Contreras XI12;
cathycforlife@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

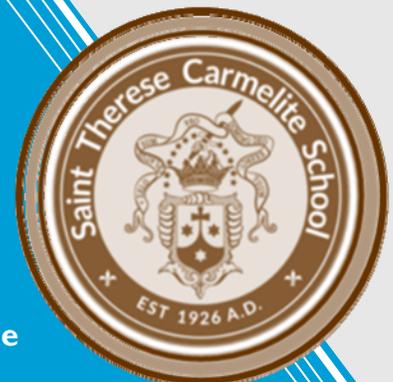
For Grade School, Confirmation for Youth & Adults, RCIA, and Liturgical Ministries—
Call the main Office.

MASSES AND SERVICES

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mornings: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.,
Traditional Latin High Mass: 1:00 p.m.
and Sunday Evening at 5:00 p.m.;

Monday-Saturday—9:00 a.m.: Outside for the Public; Noon: Live streamed on Facebook

Confessions in the Parking Lot on Saturdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.





*O woman,
great is
your faith!*

MATTHEW 15:28

AUGUST 16, 2020
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE LORD WELCOMES ALL

All of us who ache to be accepted find lavish comfort in today's readings. Rich in mercy, the Lord welcomes all of us—no exceptions. Isaiah extends God's invitation to all nations, even to foreigners who often arouse suspicion from the "in crowd." Saint Paul takes advantage of these fearful suspicions by provoking the Israelites' jealousy: if even Gentiles can offer acceptable worship to the one true God, then God's chosen people should surely do the same. In a similar way, Jesus provokes his disciples in today's Gospel from Matthew. Bantering with a Canaanite woman, Jesus draws out her tremendous faith, which endures despite the typical rejection she faces from scornful Israelites. Whether we identify more with the privileged disciples or the marginalized Canaanite woman, we cannot mistake God's universal invitation to believe in the One who saves us.

REJECTED

At one time or another, we have all been rejected or ridiculed, left out of a conversation, or not invited to a party. It hurts to be excluded. God makes all things new, though, and our scriptures today invite us to turn over our aching hearts to the Lord. Some of us might feel reluctant to give our hearts to the Lord, especially if our suffering somehow involves God or the Church. Why pour out hearts to God, after all, if God seems to be the cause of our troubles? A tragic loss, a painful death, or an unavoidable catastrophe can disrupt or destroy our life plans. When people clumsily console us then, saying, "It's God's will," we can easily become suspicious of God and the almighty will. If we suffer from the sinful structures or actions of God's representatives and ministers in the Church, we might look with skepticism at the prayers of that same Church.

Even so, our Canaanite woman today persuades us not to lose hope. The disciples scorn her, complaining that she "keeps calling" out for help. Like irritable children, the disciples ask Jesus to "send her away." And just when we might expect Jesus to take her side, to scold the disciples and reward the woman's persistence, he shocks us by implying she is a dog. Undaunted, the woman accepts Jesus' remark and parlays its aggression into her own forceful plea: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

ACCEPTED

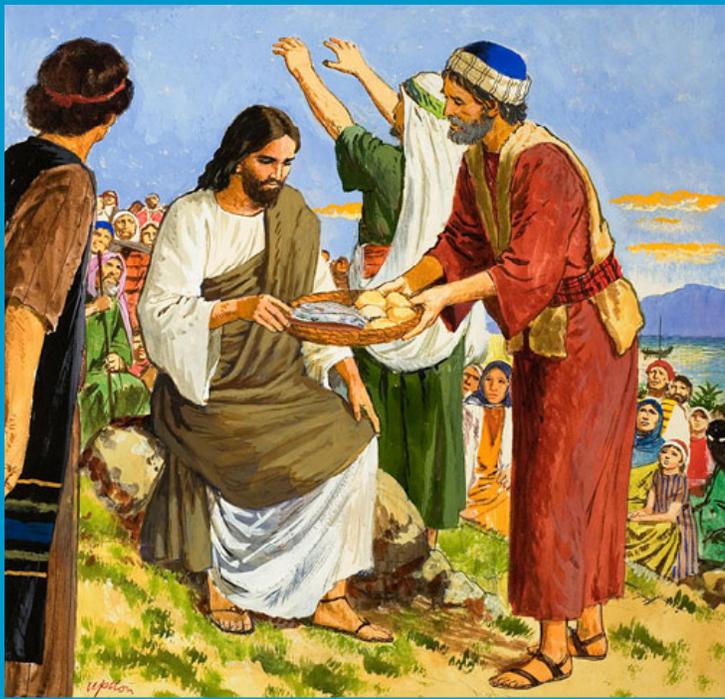
The woman's faith is irresistible—to Jesus, and to us. Jesus grants her heart's desire, healing her daughter from that very moment. We too are won over by her indomitable confidence in the Lord. Truly, this woman is one of the heroes of the New Testament. When difficulties suffocate us and we feel turned away like a stray dog, we can recall the Canaanite woman's simple words: "Lord, help me."

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7
Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8
Romans 11:13–15, 29–32
Matthew 15:21–28

"THE ONLY ESSENTIAL," by Fr. Peter Vecellio, OCD

August 2,
2020



My brothers and sisters in Christ, it is good to be reassured in these unsure times we're living in right now. Many people are wondering if their kids will go back to school this Fall, whether they'll go back to their jobs, their social lives, and even their parishes. St. Paul asks us in our second reading, "What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, distress..." To that, let's add Covid, rioting, campaigning, media propaganda, and persecution. It seems we're in the midst of a kind of subtle, sophisticated persecution right now, when it's considered more dangerous to be in a church than to be in a supermarket, a Target store, a casino, or at a mass protest. Something isn't completely right with this picture. It's like a crooked picture that we can never straighten, even after repeated attempts.

Yet, God loves us. No matter who tries to lock us down, whether Federal, State, County, City, or even the Church, God cannot be locked down. And His grace is sufficient. Maybe we can't receive the

Sacraments as much as we're used to, but God can work outside the Sacraments. God cannot be chained down and His Will will prevail. It's important for us to recognize that God is allowing all this craziness for His purposes, that He is using it for something. Yes, you heard me, God is in charge! Not our governor or even our bishop. God is the one pulling the strings. So then the question is not, "Why would God do this?," but what am I supposed to do in all this craziness? How is God calling me to respond? Because, remember, God IS in charge. We're not here to question His ways.

I think a lot of all this Covid craziness has been a good opportunity to re-evaluate what's most important in our lives. We've heard this distinction made by public officials: "essential versus non-essential". Now, of course, we know as Catholics that the Mass and the Sacraments are essential. That's non-negotiable. But what else is absolutely essential? Are there things we can live without? Well, we've now had to go five months without movies, sports, and concerts. We may love these things, but are they essential? Since there are so many less distractions right now, I see this time as a great opportunity to make an extended retreat by spending more quiet time with God.

Our first reading reminds us of just how fleeting some of the things are that we pursue. "Why spend your money on what is not bread; your wages on what fails to satisfy?" Non-essential things. How fitting for the culture of luxury and convenience that we live in. Scott Hahn once said, "Why are we pigging out on the hors d'oeuvres when a filet mignon awaits us?" In other words, why are we wasting our time, money, and energy on things that don't last—when Heaven awaits us?

Jesus offers us all that can fill us and fulfill us. "All you who are thirsty, come to the water." Not only water, but drink wine and milk! He wants to fill us richly, dare I say, luxuriantly! And then in our Gospel, He wants to give us Himself. The story of the loaves and fishes has always been seen by the Church as a story about the Eucharist. Jesus miraculously multiplies Himself everyday in the Eucharist for everyone. It's free of charge. As our first reading says: "Come, without paying and without cost." That's our God, gratis and generous. He has so much to give us that the leftover fragments fill ten wicker baskets! There's nothing that can contain God and His generosity towards us. So when we are offered the Eucharist, the greatest gift God gives us on this earth, let us come. Let us be filled to overflowing; no, not like a restaurant buffet, but let us be filled with God, the only One who can satisfy us and the only One we were made for on this earth. **God is the *only* essential on our list of what's most important in life.**

"IT IS I; DO NOT BE AFRAID." by Fr. Peter Vecellio, OCD

August 9,
2020



Today we have very powerful readings that speak about faith. First is that great reading from First Kings—a reading very dear to the Carmelites—in which Elijah is invited to encounter God. The point of Elijah's experience here is that God wants Elijah to encounter Him in a new way. Just before this passage, we had the exposing and killing of the false prophets of Baal. In that scene, God revealed Himself by coming down dramatically in fire to consume Elijah's sacrifice. Today, we hear of many other dramatic manifestations: a strong wind, an earthquake, and a fire. But the Scripture writer tells us that God isn't in any of those things. Rather, He reveals Himself in a tiny, whispering sound. Some translations say, in "a still, small voice".

Being a man of prayer, Elijah knows it's God immediately. He also knows revealing Himself in one way doesn't mean God will always reveal Himself in that same way. Prayerfulness gives Elijah that gift of discernment. Some of us may be tempted to see God only in private revelation or in miracles. In this time of Covid, we might think God is only in the church or in the adoration chapel. Well, we don't have those things now. Does that mean that God has left us? Faith is very much needed when the storms of life surround us and encompass us, like they did Peter and the other apostles. Storms threaten to drown us, if we let them. You see, we have a choice in the matter. We can't control the storms, but we can control our response to those storms. So when all the contradictory voices of Covid—what to do, what not to do; what to believe, what not to believe—swirl around us and leave us confused, we need to see Jesus right in the midst of that storm, walking on the water towards us. In times like these, when we can't access the Sacraments as much, we need to truly believe that God is *not limited* to the Sacraments.

As I said last Sunday, the Federal government can lock us down, the State can lock us down, the County can lock us down, the City can lock us down, even our Church can lock us down; but, my brothers and sisters, **God CANNOT be locked down!** This is where faith really comes in to play. Sure, God is made present in a powerful way in the Mass and in the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, but He's also present in that still small voice of our prayer, *WHEREVER WE ARE*. This is what Peter forgot. He took his eyes off the quiet, reassuring presence of Jesus and focused on the drama around him, on the wind and the waves. *That's* when he began to sink! My brothers and sisters, that's when *OUR* faith also begins to sink...OR to stink—take your pick. When we get caught up in the chaos and the drama around us, we forget that Christ is right with us, saying, **"It is I; do not be afraid."**

Speaking of not being afraid, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our great Carmelite saint of the day, St. Edith Stein, known in Carmel as St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. We're not celebrating her feast or her Mass today because, obviously, Sunday takes precedence; but we couldn't get better Sunday readings to recall her great self-sacrifice in Auschwitz for her Church and for her people during World War II. Talk about a storm swirling around!

I have a recommendation for a fairly recent movie called *A Hidden Life*, about another beatified saint of our Church, Blessed Franz Jägerstätter. As a devout Catholic Austrian man, he was a conscientious objector to being in Hitler's army. The movie really depicts the chaotic storm around the War. Many Church leaders went silent in fear of the Nazis. Sound familiar? However, some did speak out, like the Bishops in the Netherlands. As a repercussion, many Jews and Jewish Catholic converts, like Edith and her sister Rosa, were sent to the death camps. But Edith, St. Teresa Benedicta, was unflinching. Up until her death, she was consoling and ministering to those around her. Everyone there noticed her peaceful demeanor. She didn't have access to the Sacraments then, but God was still with her. This was because of her prayer life and because she kept her eyes fixed on Jesus and His presence in her midst. She became the "calm in the storm" because she was constantly encountering Jesus in that still small voice of prayer.

As Christians, this is our goal, too. If Catholics aren't the calm in the Covid storm, then who will be? Who of us here will rise up and become the saints of Covid? We have great examples to follow: Edith Stein, her sister Rosa, and Elijah. We also have the cautionary tale of Peter, the anti-example of the calm in the storm. Unlike Peter when he was beginning to drown, we have to take our eyes off ourselves, stop our navel gazing, and focus on Christ, who is always waiting for us and always saying to us, as He does today in the midst of this pandemic, **"It is I; do not be afraid."**

TODAY'S READINGS

The readings for today (Sunday, August 16) invite us to consider both the human tendency to build boundaries between people and God's tendency to cross and even to break these boundaries. The prophet Isaiah (Is 56:1, 6–7) and the Disciple Paul (Romans 11:13–15, 29–32) both speak of God's ongoing desire to bring all of humanity under His divine care. In Jesus, God invites the whole world into His loving care. The person of Jesus is to be worshiped as God's active presence within human life.

Matthew opens the scene in today's Gospel (Matt 15:21–28) by setting up a conflict with the woman who is described as "a Canaanite." This label serves to evoke the ancient animosity between Jews and other peoples of the region. The woman begs for help for her daughter, but the disciples actively dismiss her, as a woman and as a foreigner, and deem her to be unworthy of their attention.

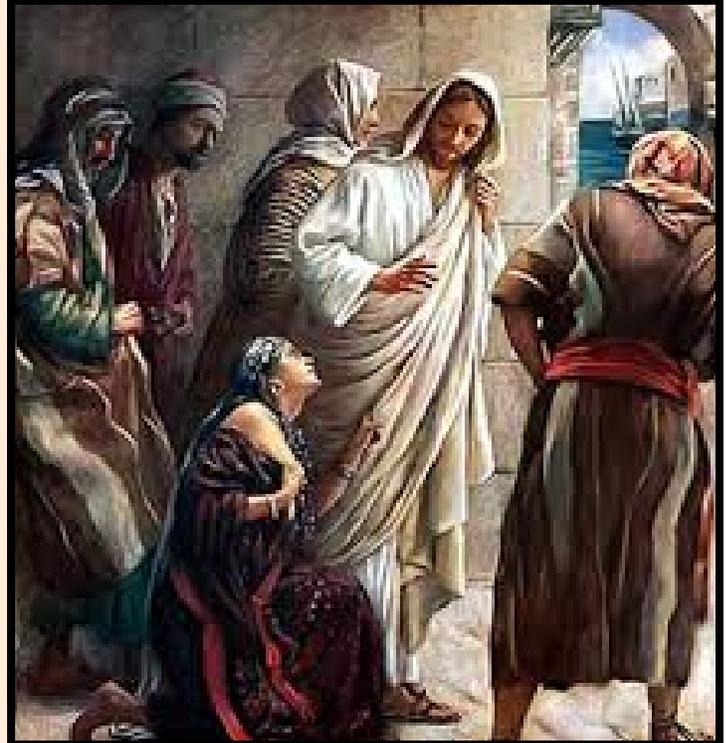
But why is Jesus Himself being so difficult with the Canaanite woman? At first He seems to be putting her off. He doesn't answer her and tells the disciples that He came only for the "lost sheep of Israel," adding the remark

about it not being right to take the "food of the children and throw it to the dogs." He says this not to discourage her, but to draw a response of faith and to see how persistent she is in her request. The woman's clever reply to Jesus shows us that she trusted in Jesus' power and willingness to help. We can tell ourselves that we are people of faith, but how easily are we discouraged? Do we think God has forgotten us when we experience trouble? Sometimes it is our childish belief that everything has to go our way, and we blame God when it doesn't.

Jesus finally responded to her persistence. Like the woman who wouldn't go away, we can keep praying until we get an answer to our prayer. Sometimes our request is granted, but other times God has a good reason to delay or even say no. The more time we spend in prayer, the more likely we are to hear God's answer. Prayer can help us come to the peaceful acceptance that God only does what is best for us. Sometimes faith means standing fast, in care for others or in fidelity to truth, even when it seems that no one supports you. Somehow, the woman recognized God's power and care within Jesus; and Jesus recognized that faith was active within her, manifested in her commitment to her daughter. Jesus saw His Father's care for everyone manifested within this faith-filled woman.

Jesus was also teaching His disciples that faith is more important than nationality. They were all Jews and wanted Jesus to send the Canaanite woman away. Long after Jesus' resurrection, the Church struggled with the question of non-Jewish believers. Today, we may be doing the same thing in reverse. Some people think that only Catholics can be saved and that there is no hope for Protestants, much less for Jews. God's covenant with the chosen people cannot be rescinded. Paul says that the rejection of Jesus by Jewish leaders led to salvation for the rest of the world. But though some rejected Jesus, God never rejected the Jews. The "foreigners," as Isaiah calls them, the "Gentiles," as Paul calls them, or the "Canaanites," as Matthew calls them, are called to worship the one true God in prayer.

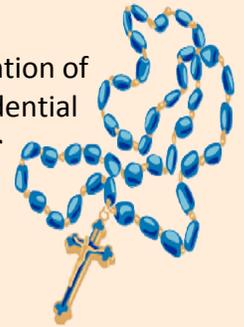
John Donne, a fifteenth-century poet, knew what the qualities of good prayer were. Donne asked God to treat him differently from most Christians. The poet does not want God to merely "knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend," but also to "break, blow, burn, and make me new" (Holy Sonnets, XIV). It takes a dynamic faith on our part to come to God in prayer. As Jesus once said, "Knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). It may take pounding the door down, but if we are as persistent as the woman in today's Gospel, the results will follow.



54-Day Miracle Rosary Novena for Peace

Queen of Peace Media, spearheaded by Fr. James Blount and Fr. Tony Blount (brothers), is asking all U.S. Catholics to join in praying this miraculous novena. The first day is on the Assumption, August 15 (but you can join in any time), and the last is on the Feast of the Holy Rosary, October 7.

PETITION: From August 15 to September 10, pray the Rosary in PETITION for the intention of peace and blessings for our country, especially surrounding the November Presidential election, that there will be no violence or civil unrest; **THANKSGIVING: From September 11 to October 7, pray the Rosary in THANKSGIVING**, believing the favor was already granted. For more information, go to www.QueenofPeaceMedia.com. On that site, you can download a calendar to help you keep track of your rosaries.



HISTORY OF THE 54-DAY MIRACULOUS ROSARY NOVENA:

On March 3, 1884, a young Italian girl, named **Fortuna Agrelli**, was graced with an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary and given this special devotion which she passed onto others. At the time, Fortuna was ill with three separate incurable diseases and her doctors had said her case was hopeless. In desperation, she and her family began praying the Rosary. Our Lady appeared to the girl, holding a rosary in her hand. The sick girl greeted the Blessed Virgin with the following words: "Queen of the Holy Rosary, be gracious to me, restore me to health! I have already prayed to Thee in a novena, O Mary, but have not yet experienced Thy aid. I am so anxious to be cured!" "Child," responded the Virgin, "you have invoked me by various titles and have always obtained favors from me. Now, since you have called me by that title so pleasing to me, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, I can no longer refuse the favor you petition; for this name is most precious and dear to me. Make three novenas of the Rosary, and you shall obtain all." Once more, the Queen of the Holy Rosary appeared to the young girl and said, "Whoever desires to obtain favors from me should make three novenas of the prayers of the Rosary in Petition, and three novenas in Thanksgiving." Obeying Our Lady's instructions, the young girl was healed and restored to perfect health.

54-Day Rosary Novena: This novena consists of praying five decades of the Rosary each day for twenty-seven days in petition; then immediately five decades each day for twenty-seven days in thanksgiving, regardless of whether or not the request has been granted. One must pray the Rosary for 54 consecutive days, without missing a day, and must pray the particular Mystery indicated for that day. The first day of the novena always begins with the Joyful Mysteries (regardless of what the day of the week is); the second day, the Sorrowful Mysteries are prayed; and the third day, the Glorious Mysteries are prayed. The fourth day of the novena begins again with the Joyful Mysteries and continues on in that sequence throughout the 54 days of the novena. Because this novena was given by Our Lady in 1884, it does not include the Luminous Mysteries. As an option, however, the Blount brothers say you may pray the Luminous Mysteries for a personal intention on Thursdays. For more information about this particular Rosary devotion and for the prayers that go with each mystery, go to the website: <http://www.54daynovena.com/Fifty%20Four%20Day%20Novena.pdf>. Although this site includes the Litany, it is not actually part of the 54-day Novena.

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(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

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Mass Intentions

Saint of the Week

For the Week of August 15 through August 22, 2020

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: Manuel Juarez, RIP

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: Rhony & Ruth Laigo, INT

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Therese Hong Nguyen, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Dominador Tugade, Jr., & Melba Tugade, INT

1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Ursulina Aquino, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Roland de la Rosa, RIP

Monday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Mary, OCD, INT

9:00 a.m.: Ellena, Alex, and Lauren Goh, INT

Noon: Clara Grace Maringka, RIP

Tuesday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Mary, OCD, INT

9:00 a.m.: Anna Sacripanti, INT

Noon: Elvia Hernandez, INT

Wednesday

*7:30 a.m.: George Watson, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Maria Nelly Wanandhi, RIP

Noon: Linda Morey and Bro. Paul, INT

Thursday:

*7:30 a.m.: George Watson, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Patricia Jackson, RIP

Noon: Terry Kirchheiner, INT

Friday:

*7:30 a.m.: Danilo Palma & Carlos Tinga, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Piwu Chuang, INT

Noon: Clara Grace Maringka, RIP

Saturday:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

9:00 a.m.: Astrid Chan, INT

Noon: Christina Nera, RIP

*Held at the *Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road.

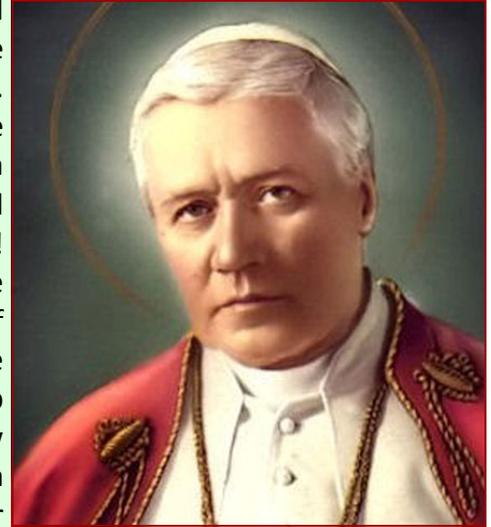
**9:00 a.m. Mass is outside
for the public;**

**Noon Mass is live
streamed on Facebook
and is private.**

SAINT PIUS X (1835-1914)

August 21

Presidential vetoes we understand. But imagine vetoing a papal election! Yet in the conclave of 1903, the Archbishop of Krakow (a predecessor of Karol



Wojtyla, the future St. John Paul II) vetoed the leading candidate on the order of the Austro-Hungarian emperor. Instead, the cardinals elected **Giuseppe Sarto of Venice** as Pius X, the first pope to hail from humble origins and one whose endearing simplicity was not altered by the papacy. Tailors eventually made his cassock cuffs detachable because he absentmindedly wiped his fountain pen on them, forgetting that his old black cassock had been replaced by papal white!

Taking as his motto, "To restore all things in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10), Pius condemned the theological innovations called "modernism," yet dramatically altered the then-common practice whereby people rarely received Communion for fear of unworthiness, mandating early First Communion and urging everyone to frequent reception.

Refusing to bless troops assembled in St. Peter's Square—"I bless peace, not war!"—he died brokenhearted as World War I engulfed Christian Europe, despite all his peacemaking efforts.



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