



Racine Dominicans  
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

# PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

August 2021

## *Your Little Room*

August brings us the full fruit of the Green Time. The grain is ripening. The corn cobs are peeking out of those lush green stalks. The tomatoes are turning red. August shows us the full fruit of our risen life too. We have a preview of what we shall be in the Transfiguration of the Lord, and a glimpse of it in the Assumption of Mary. These feasts are not just celebrations of past events. They come in this green time to repeat a pledge: “Where I am, there you too shall be.”



We need this. The day-to-day can be a grind. But our Community Focus is another reminder. It calls us to ‘be present.’ Yes, to those around us and to our environment, but the readings of this month can also call us to be present in our ‘little room.’ There we can just fall asleep in the strong arm of the Shepherd.

This is Jesus’ way of calling us to the deepest center of our soul, to our own heart, where God dwells. From this Fountain of Life comes our little life, day by day, moment by moment. We are called to come sit by this Fountain, perhaps to sit in it. To just be. Little by little our risen life grows until we to are transfigured, until we look like our Mother in her new transformed humanness. So, when you are ‘hot and bothered,’ when you are anxious and fearful, when you are just plain tired, go to your little room.

*It is the tabernacle of my own body-church - this heart of mine.  
You are always there for me, but I am out and about.  
Teach me to come home often during the day  
for a hug or just to look at you  
looking at me...present.*

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*Thank you to Associate Steve Gilbert for this month’s reflections.*

**Sunday, August 1, 2021 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - John 6: 24-35**

Alleluia Verse (Mt. 4: 4b) : “One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.”

John 6: 35 - Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

Are we reminded of the importance of shutting out and avoiding all the noise of the world, to go alone to our secret dwelling place to commune privately with God? Can we build, individually, an intimate relationship with Christ, a quiet place where we are fed the true bread, and God is revealed to us?

**Sunday, August 8, 2021 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - John 6: 41-51**

Alleluia Verse (Jn. 6: 51) : “I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

John 6: 45 - “It is written in the prophets: ‘They shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.”

Are we growing a personal relationship with God, listening for God’s guidance through contemplation and prayer? Are we cultivating an individual, private, and secret prayer connection to Christ, allowing the seeds of knowledge of the Lord to be planted in our hearts? Are we learning to interiorly shut ourselves away into our secret, sacred place with Christ, listening, seeing, and believing that we are receiving God’s revelation of Truth and Grace?

**Sunday, August 15, 2021 - Solemnity of The Assumption  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Luke 1: 39-56**

Alleluia Verse - Vigil Mass (Lk. 11:28) : “Blessed are they who hear the word of God and observe it.”

And, happier too! Mary is a true believer whose strong faith stands in stark contrast to Zechariah. Mary has listened to God and said yes! Will we faithfully listen to God? Will we say yes?

Alleluia Verse - Mass During The Day: “Mary is taken up to heaven; a chorus of angels exults.”

Mary, the Mother of Christ, our Savior, and our God has triumphed over death, risen up into heaven, and is at the right hand of her Son to intercede for us. How will we pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our heavenly advocate to intercede for us?

**Sunday, August 22, 2021 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - John 6: 60-69**

Alleluia Verse - (Jn. 6:63c, 68c) : “Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.”

John 6:63 - “It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

In quiet communion with God, do we realize how the supernatural strength of God’s Spirit provides the source of all life, revealing God’s plan for us?

**Sunday, August 29, 2021 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Alleluia Verse - (James 1:18) : “The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth, that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

Mark 7:15 - “Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.”

Are we looking at people’s outsides making judgements about them? Have we realized it is easy to judge, find fault, and criticize? Are we looking for the good in people, realizing transformations are not made by judgement and criticism? Can we see how blessed we are and go and bless others?