



The Word

Mary Undoer of Knots,
Bless you today and
forever. Amen!

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

Artists: That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

Liturgical Reflections

August is often considered the transitional month in our seasonal calendar. It is the time of the year we begin to wind-down from our summer travels and vacations and prepare for Autumn — back to school, fall festivals, harvest time, etc. The Church in her holy wisdom has provided a cycle of events in its liturgical year which allow the faithful to celebrate the major feasts in the life of Christ and Mary. Most notably, during August, we celebrate the feast of the **Transfiguration** (August 6) and the feast of the **Assumption** (August 15).

The days of summer have provided a welcome change of pace. However, while vacations afford us the time to relax and refresh, the change of habits and routines can also have a negative impact on our spiritual lives. As if to re-ignite us, the Church offers us in the plethora of August feasts vivid examples of the virtue of perseverance: six martyrs — two who are named in Canon I of the Mass and two who were martyred during World War II; seven founders of religious congregations, as well as three popes and two kings; the apostle, St. Bartholomew; the great Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine and St. Monica, his mother; the humble patron saint of parish priests, St. John Vianney, and the patron of deacons, St. Lawrence, who joked with his executioners while being roasted alive.

It is never too late to begin — as the life of the reformed sinner, St. Augustine teaches us — nor too difficult to begin again, as demonstrated by the conversion of the martyr, St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein). We present-day members of the Mystical Body are certain of the reward to which we are called; for Christ's Transfigured body (August 6) is a preview of that glory. Moreover, in the Assumption of his Mother (August 15), Our Lord has demonstrated his fidelity to his promise. Her privilege is "the highest fruit of the Redemption" and "our consoling assurance of the coming of our final hope — the glorification which is Christ's" .

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the most perfect example of Christian perseverance, but she is also our advocate in heaven where she is crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth (August 22). Mary is the "Mother of Perpetual Help", the patroness of the Congregation founded by St. Alphonsus Ligouri (August 1). "No one who has fled to her protection is left unaided" is the claim of the *Memorare* of St. Bernard (August 20). Heretics have returned to the faith by the prayers of her Rosary, first preached by St. Dominic (August 8) in the twelfth Century, and hearts have been converted by the graces received while wearing her Miraculous Medal, promoted by St. Maximilian Kolbe (August 14) and adopted as the "badge" for the Pious Union he founded. *Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope!*

Here is a well-known prayer to meditate on during a warm August evening.

OUR FATHER

I cannot say "**Our**" if my faith has no room for others and their needs.

I cannot say "**Father**" if I do not manifest this intimate relationship in my daily living, I cannot say "**who art in heaven**" if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot say "**hallowed be thy name**" if I do not have honor, glory and trust in God all the way.

I cannot say "**thy kingdom come**" if I am unwilling to have God's kingdom grow in my heart, my home, my school, my church, my country, and the entire world.

I cannot say "**thy will be done**" if I am unwilling or resentful of having it done in my life.

I cannot say "**on earth as it is in heaven**" unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.

I cannot say "**give us this day our daily bread**" if I ignore the genuine needs of my family, friends, and neighbors.

I cannot say "**forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us**" if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone or if I gossip.

I cannot say "**lead us not into temptation**" if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot say "**deliver us from evil**" if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapon of the Word of God and prayer.

I cannot say "**thine is the kingdom**" if I have not made the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes my rule of life.

I cannot say "**thine is the power**" if I live my life trying to be in total control. I cannot say "**thine is the glory**" if I am seeking my own glory first.

I cannot say "**forever**" if I am more concerned about each day's happenings than about your presence here in my life.

I cannot say "**Amen**" unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Something to consider as we less hurriedly make our Communion visits remembering that we are bringing the LORD of Compassion to those waiting for Him. "Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human."

— [Henri J.M. Nouwen](#)

Important Items

Hospital Ministers: Remember Sarah's farewell
Wednesday, August 16, 2017
2:00 pm in the Auditorium



Third Week Ministry Enrichment is Thursday, August 17th in Rm. 221 at 7:00 p.m. This is the last Enrichment for the year.

Pastoral Care Training will be held at St. Elizabeth of Hungary on Hampton RD. October 14, October 28 and November 11.

ONLY 2 MORE SNOW CONE FRIDAYS under the bell tower.



When my absence
doesn't affect your life,
then my presence has
no meaning in it.

