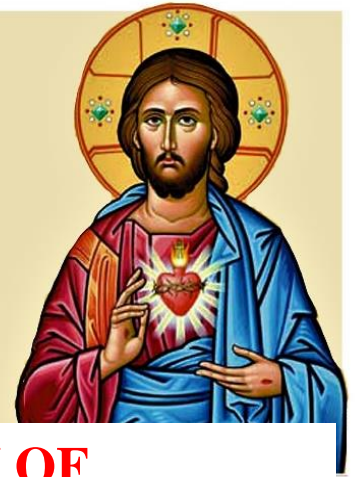


SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

June 23/24, 2018

FOR JUNE

Social Networks: That social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.

The video link for this month's intention:

<https://youtu.be/Tuz6zE4bd9w>



Pope Francis'

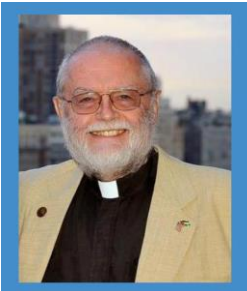
MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- June 24 – The Nativity of John the Baptist
- June 27 – Fr. John returns from U.S.
- June 29 – Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul
- July 3 – Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle
- July 4 – US Independence Day
- July 6 - First Friday; Adoration following Mass in the Francis Xavier Chapel
- July 24 – St. Charbel Makhluף
- July 25 – St. James, Apostle
- July 26 – Ss. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Mother
- July 31 – ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA, FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
(Observed as a Solemnity at the Jesuit Chapel)

MASS SCHEDULE

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|------------|-------------|---|
| Mon - Sat | 8:30 AM | Jesuit Center |
| Saturday | 5:00 PM | Sweifieh, St. Mary of Nazareth |
| Sunday | 6:00 PM | Jabal Hussein, St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle (Al Razi Street) |



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

When I visited my sister in Arizona on my recent trip to the United States, one day she took me to see the Grand Canyon. I had never been to that great natural wonder, and it was a moving experience. My sister had two comments that stuck with me. At one point, she said, “How can anyone look at this and not believe in God?” Later in the day she remarked more than once about the general atmosphere in the park. Although there were a lot of tourists from many different countries (I overheard at least six different languages being spoken), the general mood was one of reverence, perhaps even awe. Unlike other tourist sites, it was very quiet, and people tended to speak in hushed and quiet tones.

I found myself reflecting on this visit in the days after we got back. Grand Canyon is a huge and an intricate creation of nature, but the symmetry and detail makes it difficult to accept the idea that there is no “hand of God” in a natural process. Of course that doesn’t work as an argument with those who don’t believe in God, but for those of us who try to see God in all things, it is a forceful reminder of the complexity of God’s relationship with His creation.

Unfortunately, it is often more difficult to see God in our daily lives. It’s easy when we are faced with the Grand Canyon, or a beautiful sunrise, when we witness the miracle of birth, whether a human child or a litter of puppies, when someone we love is healed of an illness that leaves the doctors amazed. Those are the exceptional moments we can treasure. In the routine of our daily lives, however, it is not as obvious. It’s hard to find God in a traffic jam, or in the murder of innocents. It is even harder when a child dies of cancer or when dozens are slaughtered by bombs or poison gas.

But God is there. Often enough, we can feel that presence more than we can definitively know. The Spirit reaches out to us when words don’t work as well, because God cannot be contained by words. We don’t often have the opportunity to come face to face with something as extraordinary as the Grand Canyon, so we practice listening for God, we spend quiet time in prayer, and reading the writings and the biographies of the saints, those farther along the path of moving to God. We learn to find God in more and more moments in our lives, working to finding God in all things.

When I was in school, one of the standard homework assignments when school started in the Fall was an essay on “What I Did During the Summer Vacation.” If we were assigned that exercise, would finding God be on our list? There is a lot of summer still ahead of us, and that is certainly one activity that should be in our list – improving our ability to find God in all things.

So pray and listen – read and reflect – and be increasingly aware of the beauty and mystery in the world around us. And have a happy and productive summer.

Let us continue to pray for one another.

Fr. John’s Email: pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org

Fr. John’s Mobile: 079 013-8985 (If no answer, leave a message.)

Website: Jordanjesuits.org **Facebook:** Go to Parish Group and ask to be admitted to the group. You will be.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St. Irenaeus

Saint Irenaeus was born in the year 120; he was of the Greek tongue, and probably a native of Asia Minor. His parents, who were Christians, placed him while still young under the care of the great Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. It was in this holy school that he learned the sacred science which later made him a great ornament of the Church and the terror of her enemies. Saint Polycarp cultivated his rising genius and formed his mind to piety by his precepts and example, and the zealous young scholar was careful to reap all advantages offered him by the solicitude of such a master. Such was his veneration for his tutor's sanctity that he observed all the acts and virtues he saw in that holy man, the better to copy his example and learn his spirit. He listened to his instructions with an insatiable ardor, and so deeply did he engrave them in his heart that the impressions remained vivid even in his old age. In order to confound the heresies of his age, this Doctor of the Church acquainted himself with the conceits of the pagan philosophers, and thereby became qualified to trace every error to its sources and set it in its full light. By his writings he was already known to Tertullian, Theodoret and Saint Epiphanius, who speak of him as a luminous torch of truth in the darkness of those times.

After Irenaeus had spent a number of years in combat against the eastern gnostics and philosophers of error, Saint Polycarp determined to send him to Gaul, where many of the heretics of Asia Minor had already migrated to pursue the Catholic religion, which was beginning to find roots there. With a company of about forty Christians, the valiant soldier of Christ ascended the Rhone to Lyons to rejoin and aid Saint Pothinus, its bishop. Saint Pothinus was already advanced in age, and his church's neophytes could not always distinguish truth from the gnostic aberrations. Saint Pothinus received the apostles with joy and soon ordained Saint Irenaeus.

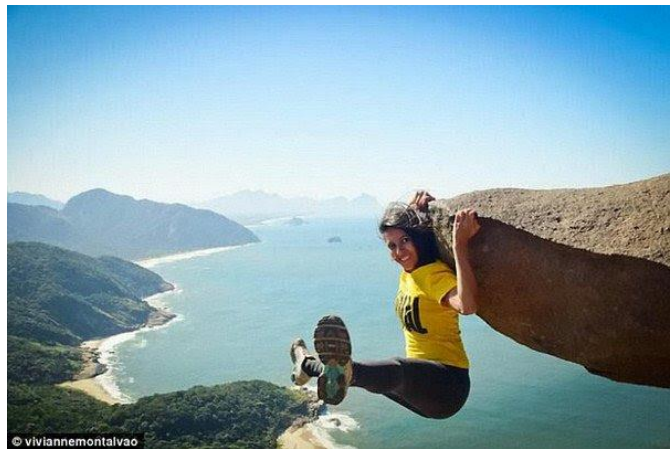


A hundred times he exposed himself to martyrdom by his zeal, acting as the right arm of the aging bishop, but God was reserving that crown for him twenty-five years later. When Saint Pothinus had glorified God by his splendid martyr's death in the year 177, Irenaeus was chosen to be the second bishop of Lyons. The persecutors imagined that Christianity had been stifled in Lyons, and they ceased their pursuits for a time.

This great Doctor of the Church wrote many important works, of which the most famous is his *Adversus Haereses*, *Against the Heresies*, in explanation of the Faith. By his preaching, Saint Irenaeus in a short time converted almost the whole country to the Faith; the Christians of Lyons became models by their candor, their estrangement from all ambition, their poverty, chastity and temperance, and in this way confounded many adversaries of their religion. Saint Irenaeus continued to imitate what he had seen done by his beloved master, Saint Polycarp, himself the disciple and imitator of Saint John the Apostle. One can readily imagine the excellence of the administration and the breadth of charity reigning in the Church of Lyons.

Finally he suffered martyrdom there, with many others, in the year 202, under the Emperor Septimus Severus, after eighty years spent in the service of the Lord. The imperial decrees renewing the persecutions arrived at Lyons at the time of the celebration of Severus' tenth year of reign; the pagans found amid the celebrations an opportunity to take vengeance on the Christians, who refused to participate in the debaucheries which accompanied these feasting. Assassins armed with daggers, stones and knives filled the city with blood, and thousands of Christians won, with their bishop, the crown they had always admired as the greatest glory God could grant His servants.

In Brazil, near Rio, people take spectacular pictures tempting fate by hanging from this famous rock.



The truth is, the rock is only a few feet above the ground. All that is required is the proper perspective!

Remember this lesson when you read/view material on the internet. Sometimes, the truth is a lot different than it appears.

