

DAY BY DAY WITH THE CATECHISM

MINUTE MEDITATIONS FOR EVERY DAY
CONTAINING AN EXCERPT FROM
THE CATECHISM, A REFLECTION,
AND A PRAYER

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Illustrated



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Y *faith* man completely submits his intellect and his will to God.† With his whole being, man gives his assent to the revealer.

**JAN.
21**

—No. 143

REFLECTION. It seems like such a difficult choice to turn our whole lives over to God, but to think that a creature can have anything of value apart from the Creator is utter self-delusion.

PRAYER. *Father, you are constantly pouring yourself out for us, through your Son by the working of the Holy Spirit. Help us to respond to your generosity by our faith in you.*



THE Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. By faith, Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that “with God nothing will be impossible.”††

**JAN.
22**

—No. 148

REFLECTION. The first chapter of Luke captures the beginning of God’s plan of salvation in two of the most beautiful stories in Scripture—the Annunciation and the Visitation. Though just a little girl, Mary’s faith and obedience are as great as any other hero of the Bible.

PRAYER. *Lord, increase our faith! May the prayers of the Virgin Mary support our efforts to believe in you.*

† Cf. DV 5.

†† Lk 1:37-38; cf. Gen 18:14.



MAN is the summit of the Creator's work, as the inspired account expresses by clearly distinguishing the creation of man from that of the other creatures. † —No. 343

FEB.
14

REFLECTION. We often hear it said of humans that “we are just another animal,” though everything from art to airplanes seems to prove otherwise. As children of God we must cherish our privileged status and gravely own up to the responsibility that goes with it.

PRAYER. *Father in heaven, as your children, may we always be mindful of the dignity that is ours.*



BEING in the image of God, the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone. —No. 357

FEB.
15

REFLECTION. The only beings in the known universe who share the title of “person” are humans, angels, and the three divine persons of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are in good company.

PRAYER. *Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help us to fully live our personhood, which we share with you.*

† Cf. Gen 1:26.



WO other sacraments, Holy Orders and Matrimony, are directed towards the salvation of others; if they contribute as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that they do so.

—No. 1534

JULY
25

REFLECTION. In Marriage the spouses minister to each other in a priestly fashion. In Holy Orders, the Priest loves the faithful with the sacrificial love of a spouse. Both states are similar in their demand to pour oneself out for others.

PRAYER. *Father, give us the courage to give ourselves totally to others.*



HILE the common priesthood of the faithful is exercised by the unfolding of baptismal grace—a life of faith, hope, and charity, a life according to the Spirit—the ministerial priesthood is at the service of the common priesthood. It is directed at the unfolding of the baptismal grace of all Christians.

—No. 1547

JULY
26

REFLECTION. The priest exercises in a concentrated and pure form the same priestly calling which we all receive at our Baptism. In his ministerial priesthood the priest teaches the laity how to live the common priesthood by example.

PRAYER. *Jesus, help us to live out our baptismal priesthood.*



HE fruitfulness of conjugal love extends to the fruits of the moral, spiritual, and supernatural life that parents hand on to their children by education. . . . In this sense the fundamental task of marriage and family is to be at the service of life.†

AUG.
12

—No. 1653

REFLECTION. Marriage is all about life. It is the fundamental building block of a civilized society. When spouses and their children live in a mutual exchange of love and faithfulness to each other they increase the quality of life in the society they inhabit.

PRAYER. *Father, give to families the grace of unity.*



HE Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called the “domestic church,” a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.

AUG.
13

—No. 1666

REFLECTION. Christians often bring a consumer mentality to their local church, when in reality they are contributors, not consumers. They build the Church first within the walls of their own home, and then bring that experience of grace and prayer to their local parish.

PRAYER. *Father, give to Christian families the grace of holiness.*

† Cf. FC 28.