

Compiled by Michael Pekar for the Area Catholic Community of Lastrup, Harding, Buckman and Pierz
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May 25 Monday

CCC 843 The Catholic Church recognizes in other religions that search, among shadows and images, for the God who is unknown yet near since he gives life and breath and all things and wants all men to be saved. Thus, the Church considers all goodness and truth found in these religions as "a preparation for the Gospel and given by him who enlightens all men that they may at length have life."¹

May 26 Tuesday

CCC 846-847 "Outside the Church there is no salvation" How are we to understand this affirmation, often repeated by the Church Fathers?² Re-formulated positively, it means that all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is his Body:... This affirmation is not aimed at those who, through no fault of their own, do not know Christ and his Church:...

CCC 851 ... Indeed, God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth";³ that is, God wills the salvation of everyone through the knowledge of the truth. Salvation is found in the truth. Those who obey the prompting of the Spirit of truth are already on the way of salvation. But the Church, to whom this truth has been entrusted, must go out to meet their desire, so as to bring them the truth. Because she believes in God's universal plan of salvation, the Church must be missionary.

May 27 Wednesday

CCC 904 To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every preacher and of each believer.⁴

CCC 905 This witness of life, however, is not the sole element in the apostolate; the true apostle is on the lookout for occasions of announcing Christ by word, either to unbelievers . . . or to the faithful.⁵

¹ LG 16; cf. NA 2; EN 53.

² Cf. Cyprian, Ep. 73.21: PL 3, 1169; De unit.: PL 4, 509-536

³ ⇒ 1 Tim 2:4.

⁴ St. Thomas Aquinas, STh. III, 71, 4 ad 3.

⁵ AA 6 # 3; cf. AG 15.

May 28 Thursday

CCC 946 After confessing "the holy catholic Church," the Apostles' Creed adds "the communion of saints." In a certain sense this article is a further explanation of the preceding: "What is the Church if not the assembly of all the saints?"⁶ The communion of saints is the Church.

CCC 948 "Sancta sanctis! ("God's holy gifts for God's holy people") is proclaimed by the celebrant in most Eastern liturgies during the elevation of the holy Gifts before the distribution of communion. The faithful (sancta) are fed by Christ's holy body and blood (sancta) to grow in the communion of the Holy Spirit (koinonia) and to communicate it to the world.

May 29 Friday

CCC 954 ... All, indeed, who are of Christ and who have his Spirit form one Church and in Christ cleave together.⁷

CCC 956 Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life. (St. Dominic, dying, to his brothers) I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth.⁸

May 30 Saturday

CCC 970 "No creature could ever be counted along with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer; but just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by his ministers and the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is radiated in different ways among his creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source."⁹

CCC 982 There is no offense, however serious, that the Church cannot forgive. "There is no one, however wicked and guilty, who may not confidently hope for forgiveness, provided his repentance is honest."¹⁰ Christ who died for all men desires that in his Church the gates of forgiveness should always be open to anyone who turns away from sin.¹¹

May 31 Sunday PENTECOST

CCC 731 On the day of Pentecost when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ's Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person: of his fullness, Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance.¹²

⁶ Nicetas, Expl. Symb., 10: PL 52:871B.

⁷ LG 49; cf. ⇒ Eph 4:16.

⁸ St. Therese of Lisieux, the Final Conversations, tr. John Clarke (Washington: ICS, 1977), 102.

⁹ LG 62.

¹⁰ Roman Catechism I, 11, 5.

¹¹ Cf. ⇒ Mt 18:21-22.

¹² Cf. ⇒ Acts 2:33-36.