



# Adult Faith Formation

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To deepen our understanding  
of our Faith and increase our  
Love for God

June 2009

## June Focus



June marks the mid point of the year and the family calendar is usually filled with many events such as graduations, weddings, Father's Day, anniversaries, and vacations or camping trips. Even in your busy schedules remember to put God first, and so imitate St. Thomas More, our saint of the month, or St. John the Baptist, another saint mentioned in the Parenting Tip of the Month. We may not be called to witness to the extent that our highlighted saints did, but we can be a witness of God's love no matter where we go or whom ever we meet.

*"O God of light, the dawning day,  
Give us new promise of your love.  
Each fresh beginning is your gift,  
Like gentle dew from heaven above."*

verse text — *O God of Light, verse 1*

## Upcoming Events

- > June 10th thru 14th — Albertville Friendly City Days—See parish related events in box below.
- > Sunday, June 14th—Corpus Christi Procession—see bulletin for details
- > Sunday, June 28th, 2 PM — Cathedral of St. Paul — Archdiocesan Prayer Service — See box below.

## Parenting Tip of the Month

The Solemnity of St. John the Baptist is June 24th, which is also close to the summer solstice. An age-old European custom was to light bonfires on the eve of the Solemnity of St. John. In some countries, Christians splash one another with water or go swimming at midnight in remembrance of their baptism—all in honor of St. John. In other places, celebrants place twigs and firs in their homes, recalling the time John spent in the wilderness preparing himself to introduce Christ.

Take the opportunity to celebrate the Solemnity of St. John with your family in one or more of the ways mentioned above. What a great teaching moment!

Reference of above information was from an article in the May/June 2009— The Catholic Answer magazine

## Dictionary for the Laity

Here are some terms commonly associated with many saints. Our saint of the month is considered a Martyr for his Catholic Faith.

**Bilocation**—is a spiritual occurrence in which a person is in one place at a given time and, at the same moment by a mysterious presence, is in another place a distance away, where impartial witnesses hear him speak and see him move in a normal fashion. It is a mystical gift to assist him in serving another person, usually when someone is dying. Some of the famous saints who bilocated are:

- St. Anthony of Padua, 1231
- St. Francis of Paola, 1507
- St. Catherine Dei Ricci, 1590
- St. Martin De Porres, 1639
- Venerable Mary of Agreda, 1665
- St. Gerard Majella, 1755
- St. Alphonse De Liguori, 1787
- St. Vincent Palloti, 1850
- St. John Bosco, 1888
- St. Pio of Pietralcina, 1968

Source—The Catholicism Answer Book by Rev. John Trigilio and Rev. Kenneth Brighenti

**Martyr**—a witness to the truth of the faith, in which the martyr endures even death to be faithful to Christ. Those who die for the faith before having received Baptism are said to have received a "baptism of blood," by which their sins are forgiven and they share in the death and Resurrection of Christ (1258, 2473).

Source—Catechism of the Catholic Church

## Parish Organizations Sponsoring Friendly City Days Events

Please support their efforts by attending their event.

- ◆ **Knights of Columbus**  
Men's Slow Pitch Softball Tournament and Beverage Stand  
Friday the 12th - Sunday the 14th — Central Park Ball Fields  
Barta Pedal Tractor Pull—Saturday the 13th — 11 AM — Lander Avenue
- ◆ **Council of Christian Women**  
Pasta Dinner—Saturday the 13th — 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM — Parish Center
- ◆ **Catholic Aid Association**  
BINGO—Saturday the 13th — 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM — Parish Center

Parade entries on Sunday the 14th will be St. Albert's Pro-Life float and the Knights of Columbus float. Cheer and give your support when they pass you!

## Archdiocesan Prayer Service

The close of the "Year of St. Paul" will be celebrated by the Archdiocese with a Prayer Service on Sunday, June 28th, 2:00PM, at the Cathedral of St. Paul. This is your chance to once more commemorate the evangelization that St. Paul began over 2000 years ago. Archbishop John Neinstadt will be hosting. Bishop Peter Christensen who will be preaching. This event is also a celebration of the Archdiocesan-wide Evangelization Initiative begun four years ago.

St. Albert's had over 70 individuals participate in the first year of the Evangelization Initiative. Even if you did not participate in the program or commemorate in any way the "Year of St. Paul", the Prayer Service is an opportunity to be filled with the Holy Spirit and have your mind and heart inflamed and inspired by the Gospels.

## Pope Benedict XVI June Prayer Intentions

**General:** That international attention towards the poorer countries may give rise to more concrete help, in particular to relieve them of the crushing burden of foreign debt.

**Mission:** That the particular Churches operating in regions marked by violence may be sustained by the love and concrete closeness of all the Catholics in the world.

## Friendly Defenders

### Church - Authority

**Question #2:** I don't need a church to tell me what to believe. I can read the Bible and decide for myself.

**Catholic Response:** Jesus told the apostles to "teach", not to hand people a Bible and let them decide for themselves.

**Bible Verse:** "Go...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."  
*Matthew 28:19-20*

**Description:** Without teachers who have learned what was handed down from the apostles, the Bible can be interpreted in a million ways! That is why there are hundreds of Protestant denominations, who each interpret the Bible differently.

**Related Verses:** *John 16:13, 2 Peter 3:15-16, Matthew 18:17-18, 1 Timothy 3:15*

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### Prayer to St. Thomas More

*Dear Scholar and Martyr, it was not the King of England but you who were the true Defender of the Faith. Like Christ unjustly condemned, neither promises nor threats could make you accept a civil ruler as head of the Christian Church. Perfect in your honesty and love of truth, grant that lawyers and judges may imitate you and achieve true justice for all people. Amen.*

### Summertime and Movies

Summer ushers in new films at the movie theaters and theatergoers want to see good movies. When you go to a new movie be aware of its content and support ones that have Christian values.

For those who like to rent movies, check out a movie about St. Thomas More "[A Man For All Seasons](#)". It's a major motion picture made in the 1960's but one that is a classic. Check our own Lending Library for other movies about saints and related subjects.

For those who want to rent or purchase via the internet, there is a company that offers family-friendly DVDs. The site to check out is [www.faihandfamilyflix.net](http://www.faihandfamilyflix.net).

*See you at the movies!*

## St. Thomas More—June 22nd



Thomas More was born in 1477 and was educated at Oxford. He married and had one son and three daughters.

Thomas was one of the best-known men in Europe. He had been a lawyer first, as his father had been before him, then a sheriff of London, and a member of Parliament and of the king's council. The king of England, Henry VIII, made him Lord Chancellor of England. His reputation did not depend upon his political position. His writings alone were enough to make him famous and he was a friend and teacher to every learned man of Europe.

But his close friends knew other things about him: how he loved to tease and joke, how he loved fun and music and laughter, how kind he was to his family, and how he had taken poorer relatives to live with him even when he had none too much money for his own family. His friends knew also that at one time he had thought of becoming a priest, that while studying law, he had lived for four years in a monastery so that he could see just how the monks lived, and that he had been advised by his confessor to give up the idea of the priesthood, marry, and live a good life in the world.

Thomas tried to make use of his keen mind for all good causes. His piety and his love for the priesthood he had never given up. Very often his splendid court dress hid a hair-shirt, and very often, too, he was hungry because of his strict fasts. Everyone could see that he was very regular at the sacraments and faithful to daily Mass.

### Thomas Refuses to Take an Oath

One day a courtier whispered to Thomas as he was participating in Holy Mass, "My Lord, His Majesty the king wishes you to come to him at once."

The chancellor replied, "I cannot come now. Say to the king for me that I am paying court to a greater King than he. My duty to the Greater done, I shall await upon His Majesty at once." The man left and the chancellor prayed devoutly until the end of Mass.

King Henry VIII had become tired of his wife, Catherine, and had for some time been trying to get the Pope to grant a divorce so that he might marry a maid, Anne Boleyn. The Pope naturally would not consent.

The king had a law passed by a weak Parliament making him head of the Church of England, and demanded that the bishops and priests take an oath recognizing him as their superior. Thomas More could not take the oath and be true to his conscience, so he resigned his office as chancellor.

He was summoned to appear before the court at Lambeth to take the oath. Thomas went to Mass and received Communion, and then set out for Lambeth. When the court found that he could not be forced to take the oath, it had him imprisoned. Later he was taken to the Tower of London and ultimately tried for treason.

In a letter written in prison to his daughter, Margaret, Thomas wrote, "I know the unworthiness of my past life, which deserves that God abandon me. Yet I can only trust in His merciful goodness, for it is His grace that has strengthened me up to the present. It has helped me to give up my goods, my lands, and even my life rather than to swear against my conscience . . . Margaret, I also know very well that, barring some fault on my part, God will never abandon me. I shall therefore entrust myself wholly to Him in good hope. And if He should allow me to perish because of my fault, I shall at least serve to gain Him praise for His justice. But I trust that His tender pity will keep my poor soul safe and make me serve to demonstrate His mercy rather than His justice . . . Do not be troubled by anything that can overtake me in this world. Nothing can happen without God allowing it. And all that He allows, no matter how bad it may seem, is truly for the best."

### Martyrdom

Thomas was led out of the prison and came before the scaffold, weak from his long imprisonment. He prayed for a while, then bound a cloth about his eyes and laid his head upon the block. The ax came down with a thud, and Thomas, the greatest man of his time, was dead. This happened on June 6, 1535, on Tower Hill, London.

His belief that no lay ruler had jurisdiction over the Church of Christ cost Thomas More his life. He steadfastly refused to approve Henry VIII's divorce and remarriage, and opposed the establishment of the Church of England. Nor would he acknowledge Henry as supreme head of the Church in England, breaking with Rome and denying the Pope as Head. Upon conviction, Thomas declared he had all the Councils of Christendom and not just the council of one realm to support him in the decision of his conscience.

Four hundred years later, in 1935, Thomas More was canonized a saint of God. A supreme diplomat and counselor, he did not compromise his own moral value in order to please the king, and for this the Church points to him as an example of loyalty to God and his Church, and as a devoted father to his family.

Source—Best-Loved Saints by Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.