

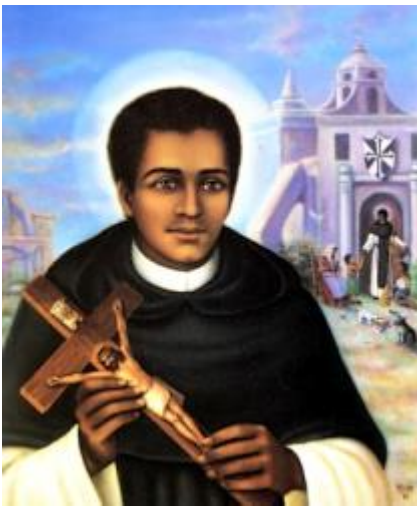
CHILDREN'S PRAYERLEAFLET: THE JOY OF GOD

(November 2023)

The saints have shown great experience of the joy that God brings. The joy of living with God was so extraordinary in Saint Paul that nothing could stop him from following Christ. He gave up everything for Christ. He said: "For me, life is Christ". And then: "Now all those things that were gains for me I have considered a loss for Christ's sake. But yes, I consider everything a loss in the face of that supreme good which is the knowledge of Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have lost everything. I regard all things as rubbish, that I may gain Christ" (Phil 3:7-11).

Jesus wants children to be joyful, not just to play. The joys of the world, even if they do not lead to sin, are momentary. Yes, God is truly the source of deep joy. Joy is great and beautiful with him. That's why he insists that children follow him. Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me". This is the good news of Jesus. This month, let's pray and ask Jesus to let us experience his joy.

THE LITTLE STORY: Saint Martin de Porrès Religious of the Third Order of St Dominic (1579-1639).



This Saint was born in Lima, in South America. His father was a Spanish conqueror and his mother a black slave who had become free. As Martin was very similar to his mother in colour, he became a cause of humiliation for his father, who abandoned him to his fate. His admirable purity of morals, his modesty, his humility and his charity for the poor were the characteristic virtues of his childhood and throughout his life.

At the age of fifteen, Martin de Porrès entered the Third Order of St Dominic. The young novice loved humility. He called himself the greatest of sinners, kissed on his knees the feet of those who insulted him and begged them to trample him under their feet. His hatred for the smallest faults was implacable. To avoid them, Saint Martin de Porres constantly punished his body with fasts and iron chains. He loved Jesus so much that the strength of this love one day made him rise from the ground, fly towards a crucifix and kiss the wound of the Heart of Jesus. He spoke only of God or with God, and poured out his divine love on all people, especially the sick and dying. This Saint of charity displayed his inexhaustible devotion in the nursing duties he was entrusted with.

Saint Martin de Porrès knew the secrets of hearts, foretold the future, revealed the tricks of demons and repelled their attacks with authority. He guessed at the distance desires of patients and transported miraculously to their bedside. During an epidemic which broke out at the convent of the Rosary, all the doors were kept closed. The patients were amazed to notice the presence of the Saint near their bed. Saint Martin de Porrès was heard and seen in Europe, in China, in Algeria, in Japan, meanwhile he never left America. Though he had no background of religious studies, he solved the most serious questions of theology. God revealed to him in advance the day of his death. The Saint asked that all religious at the convent to be present at his last moments and asked them for forgiveness for all the offenses that he had committed towards them. His brothers recited the Apostles' Creed with emotion, and when they heard the words "The Word became flesh", Saint Martin de Porres gently placed the crucifix on his chest and returned his innocent soul to God at the age of sixty.



DAILY READINGS AND EXERCISES TO BE PUT INTO PRACTICE BY CHILDREN

(November 2023)

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| 1. Wednesday: | Mt 5, 1-12 a: | Allsaints. Pray the Pope's intention : <i>For the Pope, that, in the exercise of his mission, he may continue to accompany in faith the sheep entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy spirit.</i> Pray also for the desire for holiness. Read extract of the Catechism of the Catholic Church(CCC) 921. |
| 2. Thursday: | Mt 25, 31-46: | Commemoration of the Faithful departed : Pray one 'Hail Mary' for a deceased person in your family and plan to help a poor person. |
| 3. Friday: | Lk 14, 1-6 : | Do good to someone in your family and plan to help a poor person. |
| 4. Saturday: | Lk 14, 1. 7-11 : | Do a house chore which you do not like to do at home. |
| 5. Sunday: | Mt 23 , 1-12 : | Strive to be a good child. |
| 6. Monday : | Lk 14, 12-14: | Greet your father or mother with a big smile. |
| 7. Tuesday : | Rm 12, 5-16b | Do your work at home by putting order in your room, your books and textbooks. |
| 8. Wednesday: | Rm 13, 8-10: | Do good to your brother, your sister or a classmate |
| 9. Thursday : | Jn 2, 13-22: | Pray in order to abandon a sin that often troubles you. |
| 10. Friday : | Rm 15, 14-21: | Invite your friends at the Word of God meeting for children or read the bible. |
| 11. Saturday: | Rm 16, 3-9. 16. 22-27: | Thank your parents for something good they did to you. |
| 12. Sunday: | Mt 25, 1-13: | Have a good moment of intimate prayer and plan to help a poor person |
| 13. Monday: | Wisdom 1, 1-7: | Treat others with justice and be very polite. |
| 14. Tuesday: | Lk 17, 7-10: | Do not complain about the house chores which you have or about your homework. |
| 15. Wednesday:d | Wisdom 6, 1-11: | Be attentive to others today and avoid fighting |
| 16. Thursday: | Lk 17, 20-25: | Smile a lot today and do not get angry. |
| 17. Friday: | Wisdom 13, 1-9 : | Sing a lot of songs of praise to acknowledge the Love and Power of God. |
| 18. Saturday: | Lk 18, 1-8: | Pray for your parents with faith and serenity |
| 19. Sunday : | Mt 25, 14-30: | World Day of the Poor : Offer a gift to a poor person or offer to God what you had already done. |
| 20. Monday : | Lk 18, 35-43: | Repeat ' Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me !' and make the Sign of the Cross. |
| 21. Tuesday: | Lk19, 1-10: | Presentation of the Virgin Mary : Pray one 'Hail Mary' and prepare for the children's retreat |
| 22. Wednesday: | Lk 19, 11-28: | Pray for your parish and your group. |
| 23. Thursday: | 1M2,15-29: | Avoid sin. |
| 24. Friday: | Lk 19, 45-48: | Read the bible and remind your parents to participate at a retreat |
| 25. Saturday: | 1M6, 1-13: | Fight strongly against a sin like theft, lies, telling, anger, jealousy etc. |
| 26. Sunday : | Mt 25, 31-46: | Give something to help someone no matter how small it is and do that for the Lord Jesus. |
| 27. Monday: | Lk 21, 1-4: | Prepare your offering for mass next Sunday. |
| 28. Tuesday: | Dn 2, 31-45: | Pray for unity in your family and carry out an act of reconciliation with a member of your family |
| 29. Wednesday : | Lk 21, 12-19: | Do not worry about your problems and pray one 'Hail Mary'. |
| 30. Thursday : | Mt, 4, 18-22: | Pray for priests |

Prayerleaflet of the Incarnation Movement (Movement of the Roman Catholic Church)

Cameroon : Archdiocese of Bamenda; Archdiocese of Yaoundé ; Archdiocese of Douala ; Archdiocese of Bertoua ; Archdiocese of Garoua; Diocese of Buea ; Diocese of Obala ; Diocese of Edéa; Diocese of Nkongsamba ; Diocese de Bafoussam; Europe : Diocese of Maroua ; Diocese of Bafang ; Diocese of Ebolowa ; Diocese of Mbalmayo ; Diocese of Sangmelima ; Diocese of Ngaoundéré ; Diocese of Kribi ; **Germany:** Archdiocese of Berlin ; Archdiocese de Paderborn-Dortmund ; Archdiocese of Munich and Freising ; Diocese of Hildesheim; Diocese of Fulda ; Diocese of Freiburg ; **France :** Archdiocese of Paris ; **England :** Diocese of Westminster, London , Diocese de Namur Belgium, **Canada :** Archdiocese de Montréal, Diocese of Québec : **USA :** Diocese of Little Rock Arkansas ; Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, Asia: China

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