

May 15, 2023

Good Morning!

1. Today's Readings: [Monday of the Sixth Week of Easter | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: “In March 1622, five great saints were canonized together. They included St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Avila and St. Philip Neri. The fifth, St. Isidore, stood apart. He founded no order; he accomplished no great deeds (apart from tilling the land).” – *From Give Us This Day: Daily Prayer for Today's Catholic*

So why was Isidore canonized along with these well known and loved saints? As we will learn in the article, his wife was also canonized at a later date. A story told about St. Isidore is that he often came later to work in the fields than other laborers because he would first attend Mass in the morning. Yet his work never suffered, and he always met the chores required of him. Make sure to also see the litany of prayers associated with St. Isidore.

3. Reflection of the Day:

~Many implications can be found in a simple laborer achieving sainthood: Physical labor has dignity; sainthood does not stem from status; contemplation does not depend on learning; the simple life is conducive to holiness and happiness. Legends about angel helpers and mysterious oxen indicate that his work was not neglected and his duties did not go unfulfilled. Perhaps the truth which emerges is this: If you have your spiritual self in order, your earthly commitments will fall into order also. “[S]eek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness,” said the carpenter from Nazareth, “and all these things will be given you besides” (Matthew 6:33). franciscanmedia.org

St. Isidore, Pray for Us!

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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May 15: Feast Day of St. Isidore the Farmer

“In March 1622, five great saints were canonized together. They included St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Avila and St. Philip Neri. The fifth, St. Isidore, stood apart. He founded no order; he accomplished no great deeds (apart from tilling the land).” – From *Give Us This Day: Daily Prayer for Today’s Catholic*

Isidore was born in 1070 to a peasant family near Madrid, Spain. He was baptized “Isidore” in honor of the famous archbishop of Seville.

Isidore the farmer was actually a day laborer, working on the farm of the wealthy John de Vergas at Torrelaguna, just outside Madrid. He married a poor girl, Maria Torribia. Their only child, a son, died in infancy.

The couple took a vow of continence to serve God. Isidore's life is a model of simple Christian charity and faith. He prayed while at work. He shared what he had with the poor, even his meals. He often gave them more than he had for himself. A story told about St. Isidore is that he often came later to work in the fields than other laborers because he would first attend Mass in the morning. Yet his work never suffered, and he always met the chores required of him. It was said two angels, one on either side of Isidore, appeared and joined their pious companion in plowing the fields.

St. Maria (feast day, September 9) always kept a pot of stew on the fireplace in their humble rural dwelling. She knew that her husband Isidore would often bring home anyone who was hungry. One day he brought home more hungry people than usual. After serving many of them, Maria told him there was no more stew in the pot. He insisted that she check the pot again and she was able to spoon out enough stew to feed them all.

In representations, St. Isidore is portrayed as a peasant with a sickle or staff and sometimes with an angel or white oxen near him. He died in 1130 and was canonized in 1622.

After Isidore's death, Maria became a hermit, but she too performed miracles and merited after her death the name of "Santa Maria de la Cabeza", meaning Head, because her head (conserved in a reliquary and carried in procession) has often brought rain from heaven for an afflicted dry countryside. Her remains are honored by all of Spain by pilgrimages and processions at Torrelaguna, where they were transferred in 1615. She was beatified in 1697.

The virtues found in the lives of Isidore and Maria – commitment to family, love for the land, service to the poor and a deep spirituality – are qualities that still can be found in rural America. "We thank God for our rural lives, formed still by the rhythms of nature and church. With you, help us to rejoice in the relationships with God and each other. Isidore and Maria, pray for us." Amen.

Litany in honor of St. Isidore the Farmer, patron of farmers & workers

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

St. Isidore, pray for us.

St. Isidore, patron of farmers, pray for us.

St. Isidore, illustrious tiller of the soul, pray for us.

St. Isidore, model of laborers, pray for us.

St. Isidore, devoted to duty, pray for us.

St. Isidore, loaded down with the labors of the field, pray for us.

St. Isidore, model of filial piety, pray for us.

St. Isidore, support of family life, pray for us.

St. Isidore, confessor of the faith, pray for us.

St. Isidore, example of mortification, pray for us.

St. Isidore, assisted by angels, pray for us.

St. Isidore, possessor of the gift of miracles, pray for us.

St. Isidore, burning with lively faith, pray for us.

St. Isidore, zealous in prayer, pray for us.

St. Isidore, ardent lover of the Blessed Sacrament, pray for us.

St. Isidore, lover of God's earth, pray for us.

St. Isidore, lover of poverty, pray for us.

St. Isidore, lover of fellowmen, pray for us.

St. Isidore, most patient, pray for us.

St. Isidore, most humble, pray for us.

St. Isidore, most pure, pray for us.

St. Isidore, most just, pray for us.

St. Isidore, most obedient, pray for us.

St. Isidore, most faithful, pray for us.
St. Isidore, most grateful, pray for us.

Jesus, Our Lord: we beseech You, hear us.
That You would vouchsafe to protect all tillers of the soil: we beseech You, hear us.
That You would vouchsafe to bring to all a true knowledge of the stewardship of the land...
That You would vouchsafe to preserve and increase our fields and flocks...
That You would vouchsafe to give and preserve the fruits of the earth...
That You would vouchsafe to bless our fields...
That You would vouchsafe to preserve all rural pastors...
That You would vouchsafe to grant peace and harmony in our homes...
That You would vouchsafe to lift up our hearts to You...

Be merciful, spare us, O Lord.
Be merciful, graciously hear us, O Lord.

From lightning and tempest: deliver us, O Lord.
From pestilence and floods...
From winds and drouth...
From hail and storm...
From the scourge of insects...
From the spirit of selfishness...

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

Let Us Pray: Grant, O Lord, that through the intercession of Blessed Isidore, the husbandman, we may follow his example of patience and humility, and so walk faithfully in his footsteps that in the evening of life, we may be able to present to You an abundant harvest of merit and good works, Who lives and reigns world without end.

Amen.