



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint of the Week



Pius X
1835–1914
Feast Day—August 21

Known as the “pope of the Eucharist,” Pius X was born Joseph Melchior Sarto in northern Italy. After being ordained for the Treviso Diocese in 1858, he served in small parishes before being named diocesan chancellor and spiritual director of the seminary. Pope Leo XIII named him bishop of Mantua in 1884 and a cardinal and patriarch of Venice in 1893. He was elected pope in 1903. During his pontificate, he lowered the age for receiving first Communion, encouraged daily Communion and daily Bible reading and promoted biblical study.

Reflecting on the Eucharist

The following is an excerpt from a homiletics resource written by Fr. Michael Seavey of Portland, Maine in 2015.

The risen Lord draws us into his eternal sacrifice at every gathering for the Eucharist. Our life is called to a complete transformation into the life of Christ. As we consume the Eucharist, the Eucharist is meant to consume us. Our life becomes the life of Christ. Our pleasures and desires are transformed into the Lord’s pleasures and desires. Our hopes and dreams are shaped by God’s dreams. Our vision becomes Christ’s vision. Our heart becomes the very heart of Jesus loving all humanity with a passion that also becomes a divine passion within us.

The Eucharist calls us to a life of solidarity. Solidarity is a connection and a commitment to the common good. It is a vision of justice that embraces all people and realizes that God’s creation is meant to sustain the basic human needs of all people and enable the flourishing of human communities. Solidarity requires a demanding moral vision, an uncompromising respect for the dignity of each and every person, and a justice that serves all people.

“This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

(John 6: 58, Lectionary)

