

Thoughts for October 2023

Marge Loenser

October, October! How did you get here so quickly? I can tell you're here, all right, by all the leaves the wind has blown down. You're shouting autumn at us, and summer is barely over! Oh well, welcome anyway! (Especially since October is the month of the Holy Rosary)

On October 2nd we celebrate The Holy Guardian Angels. Jesus, Himself, speaks of them in Luke's gospel, chapter 18; He tells us that unless we become like little children, we shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. He says, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the Face of My Heavenly Father." Dear guardian angels, thank you for always being there for us. We hope to meet you one day in heaven.

One of our favorite Saints is St. Francis of Assisi. We celebrate him on the 4th. As a young man, Francis turned away from earthly things; he became poor and went out to preach Jesus on the streets of Assisi. He is well remembered for his miracles involving birds and animals, and his compassion for critically ill and injured people. He attracted a good following of young men and founded the Franciscan Friars. St. Francis, please pray for us. On the 18th we celebrate St. Luke. He was a doctor and disciple of St. Paul. He wrote the third gospel and The Book of Acts. St. Luke, thank you for the beautiful Infancy Narrative and the lovely "Magnificat" of Mary. Please pray for us.

On the 19th we celebrate St. John de BreBeuf, Isaac Jogues and companions. They were Jesuit missionaries to native Americans in North America in the 1600's. I was blessed to be on retreat to upstate New York and Canada where they ministered to the Indians. We visited the place where they were martyred. I picked up a stone from a brook near where they were killed, and I have it to this day. I'm thinking I'd better give it someone with a garden, as when God calls me home and my kids have to go through my things, they might not understand why I kept a fist-size stone in my dresser drawer. Dear St. John and St. Isaac please pray for America.

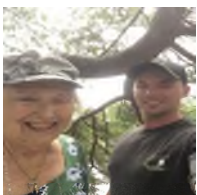
On the 28th we celebrate St. Simon and St. Jude, apostles. Tradition tells us that after Pentecost, Simon preached the gospel in Edessa and Jude in Egypt. They met in Persia where they suffered martyrdom. St. Jude, of course is the patron saint of impossible cases. St. Jude and St. Simon, please pray for us.

I would like to leave you with some empowering words. These were favorites of my Aunt Rose:

When you come to the edge of all the light you have known,
And are about to step into the darkness,
Faith is knowing that one of two things will happen:
There will be something to stand on,
Or you will be taught how to fly!

God bless you, each one.

Love,
Marge



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Mark's Church in Sea Girt where she is a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at Saint Mark's. She has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion for about 30 years and is also a member of Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Community for about the same length of time. She writes for a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.