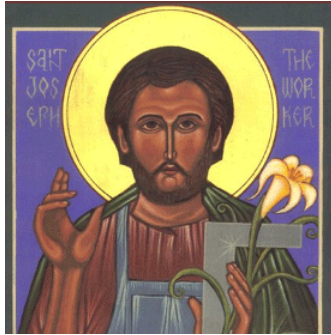


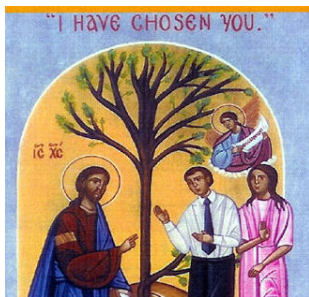
MAY 2009 FEAST DAYS

Friday, May 1 — Saint Joseph the Worker



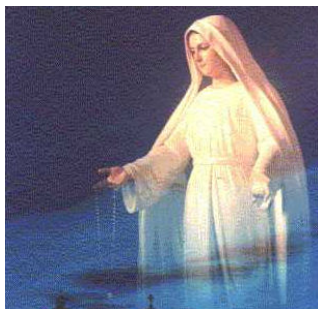
On a day devoted to the celebration of work, workers, and Saint Joseph as the patron of workers, we can ask ourselves: How are we to see work with a sacred dignity and meaning? We can do so in the same way we make anything holy: by doing it with an awareness of the presence of God. Proclaimed in 1955 by Pius XII, the feast celebrates Joseph the carpenter, who exemplifies working people who are dignified by their labor and who bring Christ into the workplace.

Sunday, May 3 — Fourth Sunday of Easter, World Day of Prayer for Vocations



While this day is a call to the universal church to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, it is also a call to *live* our vocation. God is not so much calling us to *do* what Jesus did but to be like he was — kind, patient, loving and compassionate. When we live our vocation like that, the world becomes a more loving and peaceful place.

Tuesday, May 12 — Mary, Mother of Graces and Mediatrix



This memorial reminds us of the anniversary of May 12, 1865, when Pope Pius IX approved the Society of Mary. It also calls us to give thanks for the commendation of the Society of Mary and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate by Pope Gregory XVI on April 12, 1839.

Wednesday, May 13 — Our Lady of Fatima



Our Lady of Fatima is venerated under this title following the apparitions to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. The message of Fatima includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance from sin, and prayer, especially the Rosary.

Thursday, May 14 — Saint Matthias, Apostle



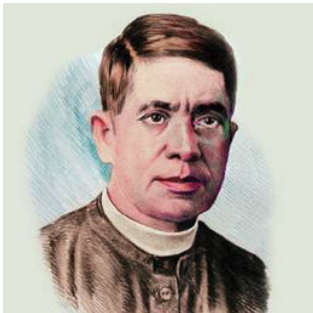
The selection of Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot restored the number of apostles to 12 and also reflected the requirement that an apostle be one who knew Jesus in his earthly life and after his resurrection.

Friday, May 15 — Saint Isidore, farmer



Isidore founded no order, accomplished no great deeds and left no teachings. He was a simple farm worker born in Madrid who spent his entire life in the service of the same wealthy landowner. With his wife, Maria, he bore one son who died in childhood. He loved animals and the poor. The miracle of the multiplication of food occurred when Isidore shared his food with a large group of beggars. He died in 1130.

Thursday, May 21 — Saint Christopher Magallanes and companions



Canonized in 2000, Magallanes and his 24 martyr companions ministered under an anti-Catholic Mexican government in the 1920s. From his jail cell he shouted, "I am innocent and I die innocent. I forgive with all my heart those responsible for my death, and I ask God that the shedding of my blood serve the peace of our divided Mexico."

Sunday, May 24 — Ascension



This feast commemorates the commissioning of the disciples to baptize in the name of Jesus, reminding them that he is always present through his Spirit. We, too, are witnesses, and are called in the same way to preach the Good News.

Monday, May 25 — Mary, Help of Christians



This memorial is a reminder to us of May 25, 1816, the day on which the Daughters of Mary Immaculate were founded, and of May 25, 1891, when Pope Pius VII granted the first spiritual privileges to the two Marianist societies.

Friday, May 30 — Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



“The Lord loved you.” “Love is of God ... God is love.” Scripture’s words of love come on a day celebrating the human and divine love of Jesus.

Sunday, May 31 — Visitation



(This feast is superseded by the Feast of Pentecost. It may be transferred to Monday, June 1.) This day is unique. It does not commemorate a saint but an extraordinary meeting between two pregnant women. The feast remembers the joy of the encounter and celebrates the sisterhood of two women joined by their faith in the God of the Impossible.

Sunday, May 31 — Pentecost



All of us have been baptized into one and the same Spirit. That same Spirit, the Advocate, was given as gift to the disciples to strengthen them to go forth in the name of the Lord, “to renew the face of the earth.”