

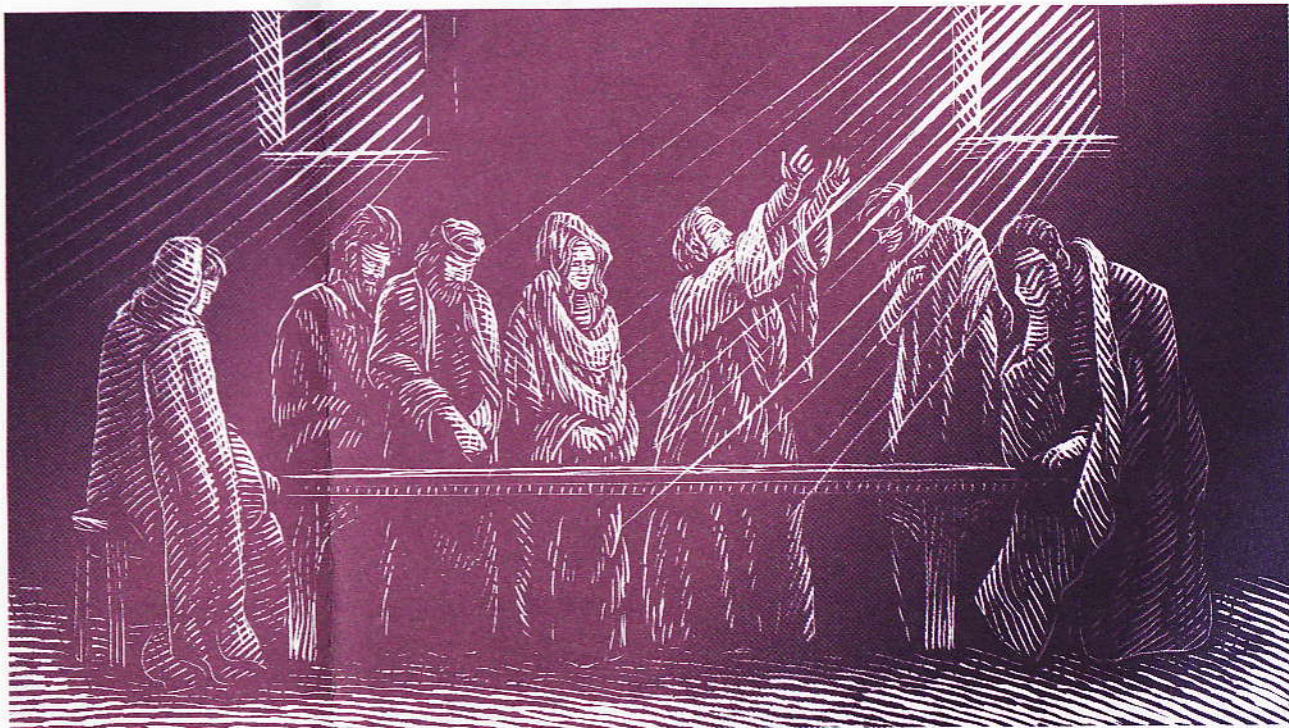
# Seventh Week of Easter

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

Help us, O God, to be at peace.  
You sent your Son to bring us peace.  
It is up to us to carry that gift,  
that challenge, in our lifetime.

Help us to have peace in our own hearts,  
the peace of life lived well,  
peace in our homes and families,  
peace among the faithful,  
peace in our nation,  
peace among tribes, ethnic groups, nations,  
peace that comes not from being perfect,  
but from continuing to try to live as you did.

Help us, O God, to be your people,  
people of peace. Amen.



MAY 4, 2008

### SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER — A MISSION

(For a reflection on the Ascension of the Lord, see Thursday of the previous week.) Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1:12–14) tells us that after Jesus ascended to the Father in heaven, the 11 apostles went back to Jerusalem. They gathered in the upper room with Jesus' mother, Mary, and other women of the group to pray. Jesus' mission on this earth was finished. The mission of these faithful followers was just beginning. There was no doubt how they were to spend the rest of their time on earth.

Every person is born with a life mission to carry out. It is not the same mission as the apostles, nor is it the same as the mission of any other human being. Some people may

wrongly think that their mission is the same as their job. We discover our mission by noticing what talents and gifts God has given us and how we can best use them. It may be the gift of hospitality, of listening to others, skills to help people overcome personal conflicts, or some other blessing. Like the work of the apostles, the work of our life is to use our gifts in God's service. If you need help naming your mission, ask those who know you well to share their impressions of you. Think about things you have done that people seem to especially appreciate. Then remind yourself each day in your morning prayer that this is what God has given you to do. This is your mission.



# This Week at Home

## MONDAY, MAY 5 WHO IS ALONE?

In the reading from the Gospel according to John today (16:29–33), Jesus says that even though in the difficult days ahead his disciples will scatter and leave him, he will not be alone. The Father will be with him. The same is true for us. We are never really alone because God is always with us. There are, however, people in our community who *feel* alone, who have little contact with others. Discover who they are. Make time in your week to be with them in person or by phone. No one should feel alone.

## TUESDAY, MAY 6 THE ROSARY

One of the most popular private devotions in the Catholic Church is the Rosary. This prayer developed because many people could not read to pray the Psalms along with the clergy. It became popular to pray 150 Hail Marys interspersed with Our Fathers in place of the 150 Psalms. Eventually the Hail Marys were divided into three groups of five each. Each set was prayed while meditating on different significant events, or mysteries, from the lives of Mary and Jesus, as told in scripture. The three groups were the Joyful, the Sorrowful, and the Glorious Mysteries. In 2002, Pope John Paul II created another set, the Luminous Mysteries. Pray the Luminous Mysteries tonight in your household and talk about why those events are called luminous. (See [www.newadvent.org/images/rosary.pdf](http://www.newadvent.org/images/rosary.pdf) for instructions.)

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 WE ARE ONE

“... so that they may be one as we are one,” Jesus prays in the beautiful prayer in today’s Gospel, John 17:1b–19. Jesus not only asks the Father to help his followers, but he also teaches us a vital lesson of our faith. We are redeemed as a community and need to live and worship as a community, not just as individuals. The Mass, our most important liturgy, is not private prayer but community prayer. We greet each other, we sing and pray with one voice, we share the Eucharist as a community meal. Remember to show by your participation that you understand we are gathered here as a community, so that we may be one as Jesus and the Father are one.



## THURSDAY, MAY 8 BE SAFE

“Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.” This simple, powerful, and beautiful prayer is from the Responsorial Psalm in today’s liturgy. Say it three times aloud. Pray it with confidence. Remember this simple prayer and repeat it to yourself anytime you feel uncertain or afraid. God will give you hope. God will keep you safe.

## FRIDAY, MAY 9 MARY’S MONTH

The month of May is devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Some people put flowers by her statue or even a crown of flowers on its head. Tonight at the dinner table, talk about the Blessed Virgin Mary and see how many things you can recall about her from scripture. Pray the Hail Mary together.

## SATURDAY, MAY 10 BLESSED DAMIAN

It is a long way from Belgium in Europe to Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean. This is the trip that Blessed Damian made, a trip that took even longer in the 1800s. Damian, a priest, volunteered to go there when his brother became sick and couldn’t go as a missionary. The people Damian served on the island of Moloka’i suffered from leprosy, or Hansen’s disease. Damian stayed there the rest of his life, improving their lives, ministering to them as a priest, and building houses and schools for the people. Damian died of complications of the disease in 1889.