

Saints to Remember - August

St. Alphonsus Liguori

(1696 – 1787) Bishop and Doctor. Patron Saint of confessors (1950 by Pope Pius XII), final perseverance, moralists (1950 by Pope Pius XII), scrupulous people, theologians, vocations, against arthritis, scrupulously.

Feast Day: August 1

Trained as a lawyer, St. Alphonsus left the legal profession to become a priest. The founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) and later a bishop, he used his gifts to preach and write on moral theology. However, St. Alphonsus understood stewardship, too. Listen to these words from a sermon he preached on the love of Christ: “Since God knew that man is enticed by favors, he wished to bind him to his love by means of gifts... He gave him a soul, made in his likeness, and endowed with memory, intellect and will; he gave him a body equipped with the senses; it was for him that he created heaven and earth and such an abundance of things. He made all these things out of love for man, so that all creation might serve man, and man in turn might love God out of gratitude for so many gifts.” Do I have St. Alphonsus’ “attitude of gratitude” for all the gifts the Lord has given me?

St. Eusebius of Vercelli

(died 371) Bishop.

Feast Day: August 2

St. Eusebius served as Bishop of Vercelli during a time of theological controversy about the divinity of Jesus. Zealously defending the faith, St. Eusebius tried to make peace between the feuding factions and found himself persecuted and eventually exiled instead. While in exile, he wrote a letter to the people of his diocese which says in part, "I beg you to keep the faith with all vigilance, to preserve harmony, to be earnest in prayer, to remember me always, so that the Lord may grant freedom to his Church which is suffering throughout the world, and that I may be set free from the sufferings that weigh upon me, and so be able to rejoice with you." St. Eusebius, pray for us that we, too, may be good stewards of the gift of faith.

St. John Mary Vianney

(1786 – 1839) Priest. Patron Saint of confessors, Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, Personal Apostolic Administration of St. John Mary Vianney, priests, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa.

Feast Day: August 2

St. John Vianney, sometimes called the Curé of Ars, is known for his kindness and dedication as a confessor and spiritual director. But this good man had to struggle to become a priest. He found his studies difficult, but finally the decision was made that “his goodness was sufficient to offset his deficiencies in learning,” and he was ordained in 1815. Assigned to the parish church in Ars, France, St. John Vianney gave himself entirely to the service of God’s people, sometimes spending 12 or more hours a day hearing confessions and helping people become reconciled with God. In this way, he devoted all of his time and talent to the Lord. And of treasure, he said, “The Christian’s treasure is not on earth but in heaven. Our thoughts, then, ought to be directed to where our treasure is. This is the glorious duty of man: to pray and to love. If you pray and love, that is where a man’s happiness lies.”

Dedication of St. Mary Major

Feast Day: August 5

Today we celebrate not a saint but the dedication of a church that was re-built after the Council of Ephesus to honor Mary, the Mother of God. The dedication of St. Mary Major in Rome was the culmination of a long theological debate about whether Mary was simply the mother of the man Jesus or should rightly be called the Mother of God. The council that she was, indeed, theotokos, the Mother of God. In a homily delivered at that Council, St. Cyril of Alexandria said, “Mary, Mother of God, we salute you. Precious vessel, worthy of the whole world’s reverence, you are an ever-shining light, the crown of virginity, the symbol of orthodoxy, an indestructible temple, the place that held him whom no place can contain, mother and virgin.” In their stewardship pastoral, the U.S. Bishops say of Mary, “As Mother of God, her stewardship consisted of her maternal service and devotion to Jesus, from infancy to adulthood, up to the agonizing hours of Jesus’ death.” Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray that we, too, may be good stewards in the service of your son.

Transfiguration

Feast Day: August 6

Peter, James, and John believed in Jesus. They believed so completely that they had willingly left behind their former lives-their relationships and livelihood-to follow him. They had heard him preach, had seen him turn water into wine and restore sight to the blind. Peter had even declared with sudden understanding, “You are Messiah.” But somehow none of that prepared them for this mountain-top experience, seeing the Lord, transfigured and dazzling in all his glory, and hearing the voice of God saying, “this is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him.” They were dumbstruck and uncertain about what to do next. Eager, enthusiastic disciples, their first impulse was to do something to mark the event. But to be good stewards of the spiritual gift, they were instructed instead to be still, to listen to Jesus, and to wait for his direction. That is good advice-and good stewardship-for today’s disciples, too.

St. Sixtus II

(Died 258) Pope and Martyr, and companions, martyrs.

Feast Day: August 7

St. Sixtus and the four deacons assisting him were arrested and slain on 6 August 258, as they celebrated mass in the catacombs. The emperor Valerian had begun a widespread persecution of Christians and had decreed that "...bishops, presbyters and deacons shall suffer the death penalty without delay. Senators, distinguished men and members of the equestrian class, are to be deprived of their rank and property, and if after forfeiting their wealth and privileges, they still persist in professing Christianity, they too are to be sentenced to death. Ladies of the upper classes are to be deprived of their property and exiled. In the case of members of the Imperial staff, any who have either previously confessed or do now confess to being Christians shall have their property confiscated and shall be assigned as prisoners to the imperial estates." Clearly, the Christians in St. Sixtus' time assembled for the Eucharist at great peril and sometimes paid for their faith with their lives. What does it cost me to be a disciple? How willing am I to sacrifice for my faith?

St. Cajetan

(1480 – 1547) Priest. Patron Saint of job seekers and unemployed people.

Feast Day: August 7

St. Cajetan studied canon law and served first as a canon lawyer and then as a priest in the Roman Curia. Later, he joined the Oratory of Divine Love, which devoted itself to works of charity among the sick poor. He was eager to reform the social order as well as the Church and opened a Christian “pawn shop” in Naples in order to help provide for the poor and to protect them from usurers. In 1536, St. Cajetan founded his own order, the Order of Divine Providence, or the “Theatines.” He was a prayerful man who took seriously the Gospel injunction, “Seek ye first his kinship, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides” (Mt. 6:33). That was his advice to a friend, too: “Nor, my child, must you receive Jesus Christ simply as a means to further your own plans; I want you to surrender to him, that he may welcome you and, as your divine Savior, do to you and in you whatever he wills.” Surrendering to Christ is the first step to stewardship for us as well.

St. Dominic

(1170 – 1221) Priest. Patron Saint of Astronomy, astronomers, falsely accused people, scientists.

Feast Day: August 8

St. Dominic was born in Spain and began his ministry as the canon of a cathedral. But his focus shifted when he encountered the Albigensians, heretics who denied the truth of the Incarnation and the validity of the sacraments. To counter this heresy, St. Dominic became a preacher and gathered around him a group of like-minded companions. The Order of Preachers (or “Dominicans”) practiced personal and community poverty, devoted themselves to preaching the Gospel, and believed in thorough and diligent study of Scriptures. A capable and inspiring preacher, St. Dominic was a living example of the holiness he preached. “Wherever he went he showed himself in word and deed to be a man of the Gospel. During the day no one was more community-minded or pleasant to his brothers and associates. During the night hours no one was more persistent in every kind of vigil and supplication. He seldom spoke unless it was with God, that is, in prayer, or about God.” This steward saint used his talents to combat the heresies of his day. How are we using our gifts to meet the needs of the Church in our time?

St. Lawrence

(Died 258) Deacon and martyr. Patron Saint of the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, archives, archivists, armories, armourers, brewers, butchers, Ceylon, chefs, comedians, comediennes, comics, confectioners, cooks, cutlers, deacons, glaziers, laundry workers, librarians, libraries, paupers, Picuris Indian Pueblo, poor people, restaurateurs, school children, seminarians, stained glass workers, students, tanners, vine growers, vintners, wine makers, against fire, against lumbago.

Feast Day: August 10

Very little is known about St. Lawrence except that he was a deacon, responsible for the distribution of alms to the poor, and was martyred during the persecution of Emperor Valerian in 258. Devotion to St. Lawrence was widespread by the fourth century and the fact that we celebrate today as a feast day and mention his name in the canon of the Mass reflects the importance of this saint. According to legend, St. Lawrence sold some of the possessions of the Church and gave the money to the poor. When the emperor heard about it, he demanded that St. Lawrence bring him the treasures of the Church instead. For three days, St. Lawrence gathered the poor, St. Lawrence gathered the poor, the widows and orphans, and sick of Rome and then presented them to Valerian declaring, "These are the riches of the Church." Enraged, the Emperor ordered him killed. St. Augustine says of him, "in his life he loved Christ; in his death he followed in his footsteps." St. Lawrence, pray for us that we, too, will love Christ and follow your example by seeing and serving others as the treasure of the Church.

St. Clare

(1193 – 1253) Virgin. Patron Saint of embroiderers, eyes, for good weather, gilders, gold workers, goldsmiths, laundry workers, needle workers, Santa Clara Indian Pueblo, telegraphs, telephones, television, television writers, against eye disease.

Feast Day: August 11

St. Clare was a friend and companion of St. Francis of Assisi. Born into a wealthy family. St. Clare refused to marry when she was 15, and several years later she slipped away at night to join St. Francis and his small band of Franciscans. She and her sister, Agnes, were the first members of the second Order of St. Francis, later known as the poor Clare's. They lived a simple life of great poverty and almost complete silence in a house adjacent to San Damiano. St. Francis names St. Clare the first abbess of the Order, an office she held for the rest of her life. She was much admired for her simplicity and piety, and bishops, cardinals, and even popes came to consult her. So revered was she, that she was canonized just two years after her death. She renounced almost all of the “creature comforts” we take for granted and devoted herself to service and prayer. Few of us may find ourselves called to sacrifice so much, but all can find an inspiring example in the committed simplicity of this good steward. St. Clare, pray for us!

St. Pontian

(Died 235) Pope and martyr.

St. Hippolytus

(Died 235) Priest and martyr. Patron Saint of Horses, prison guards, prison officers, prison workers.

Feast Day: August 13

These two saints, St. Pontian and St. Hippolytus, both died in exile in Sardinia after having suffered harsh treatment and exhaustion in the mines there. St. Pontian was Pope from 230 to 235 AD and during his pontificate he was involved in theological disputes with Origen whom he eventually excommunicated as a heretic. St. Hippolytus was also a vigorous and outspoken opponent of heresy. He was a prolific writer whose works tell us much about Roman liturgy and the structure of the Church in the second and third centuries. St. Cyprian says of these two saints, “How blessed is this Church of ours, so honored and illuminated by God and ennobled in these our days by the glorious blood of the martyrs! In earlier times, it shone white with the good deeds of our brethren, and now it is adorned with the red blood of martyrs... May all Christians be found worthy of either the pure white crown of a holy life or the royal red crown of martyrdom.” St. Pontian and St. Hippolytus, pray for us, that inspired by your courage, we may remain steadfast in our faith.

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe

(1894 – 1941) Priest and martyr. Patron Saint of drug addicts, families, imprisoned people, journalists, political prisoners, prisoners, pro-life movement, against drug addiction.

Feast Day: August 14

If good stewardship is defined by the willingness to surrender all we have and are to the Lord from whom it all came and to whom it all rightly belongs, St. Maximilian Kolbe was an exemplary steward. A Polish priest, devoted to Mary Immaculate, he was arrested by the Nazis during World War II and taken to the death camp at Auschwitz. One day, after the escape of a prisoner, the prison guards chose ten men to die in retribution. Knowing that one of the men selected had a wife and children, St. Maximilian offered to take his place. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends,” Jesus said, and by his selfless offer to take the place of that condemned man, St. Maximilian Kolbe demonstrated that love. Most of us will never be asked to make so great a sacrifice. Nevertheless, this feast day prompts us to ask ourselves, “Of God’s gifts to me of life and time, of abilities and material goods, which would I be willing to sacrifice for the love of God and others?”

Assumption

Feast Day: August 15

Today we celebrate the bodily assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven. It is the perfect conclusion to what was begun with the Immaculate Conception. It has been said, “The glorification of Mary is therefore the crowning of her journey of faith and singular grace; it is the feast of her predestination of eternal happiness in glory.” When Pope Pius XII proclaimed as dogma this long-held belief of the Church, he quoted St. John Damascene, “It was necessary that she who had preserved her virginity inviolate in childbirth should also have her body kept free from all corruption after death. It was necessary that she who had carried the Creator as a child on her breast should dwell in the tabernacles of God... It was necessary that the Mother of God should share the possessions of her Son, and be venerated by every creature as the Mother and handmaid of God.” In his letter to the Philippians, St. Paul assured them “...that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6). With the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary we are given both proof that this is so and a powerful intercessor in heaven who knows the cost-and the blessings-of saying “Yes!” to the Lord. Holy Mary, all generations call you blessed; the Lord has done great things for you.

St. Stephen of Hungary

(969 – 1038) Patron Saint of bricklayers, kings, masons, stone masons, stonecutters, against the death of children.

Feast Day: August 16

St. Stephen is a Hungarian national hero as well as a saint. He established Hungary as an independent nation and was crowned its first king on Christmas Day, 1000. He actively sought to Christianize his country by inviting the French Benedictines to help him evangelize and by building numerous churches and monasteries. Because of these efforts to spread the faith, the pope gave him the title of “Apostolic King,” and he was respected as a just, peaceful, and pious ruler to whom even the poor had ready access. In a letter to his son, he describes the necessity for Church in Hungary as “young and newly planted,” he said that it required “more prudent and trustworthy guardians lest a benefit which the divine mercy bestowed on us undeservedly should be destroyed and annihilated through your idleness, indolence, or neglect.” Although St. Stephen was speaking specifically about the Church, the same good advice applies to all the gifts we have received from God. All have been freely given and must be used wisely and responsibly.

St. Jane Frances de Chantal

(1572 – 1641) Religious. Patron Saint of forgotten people, parents separated from children, widows, against in-law problems, against the death of parents.

Feast Day: August 18

St. Jane Frances de Chantal suffered many losses in her life. Her mother died when she was just 19 months old, three of her six children died in infancy, and her husband died after only seven years of marriage. After her husband's death, her spiritual director, St. Francis de Sales, helped her organize a religious community for women called the Congregation of the Visitation. This order sought to help the poor and the sick and took its name from the visit of the Virgin Mary to her cousin, Elizabeth. St. Jane Frances directed the order until her death. Some saints are martyred for the faith; St. Jane Frances spoke instead of a "martyrdom of love" which lasts "from the moment we commit ourselves unreservedly to God, until our last breath. I am speaking," she said, "of great-souled individuals who keep nothing back for themselves, but instead are faithful in love." Lord, you chose St. Jane Frances to serve you both in marriage and in religious life. By her prayers help us be faithful in our vocation. Amen.

St. John Eudes

(1601 – 1680) Priest.

Feast Day: August 19

St. John Eudes lived in France and was active in a wide range of ministries. He selflessly cared for the sick during the plague, was renowned as a preacher at parish missions, worked for reform within the Church by starting seminaries for the education of priests, and fostered devotion to the Sacred Heart and the Heart of Mary. He also founded two religious communities, one of which was devoted to the care of women caught up in prostitution. This latter was the result of good intentions into action. “To some church, I suppose, where you’ll gaze at the images and think yourself pious. And all the time what is really wanted of you is a decent house for these poor creatures.” Good stewards know that faith is a gift that God is well pleased when, like St. John Eudes, they put that gift into work to make life better for others.

St. Bernard

(1090 – 1153) Abbot and Doctor. Patron Saint of beekeepers, bees, candle makers, chandlers, Cistercian Order, Cistercians, Gibraltar, Speyer Cathedral, wax-melters, wax refiners.

Feast Day: August 20

Commentators agree that the very gifted St. Bernard would have been named the “Man of the Century” if Time magazine had been published in the 1100s. At 16, he entered a Cistercian monastery accompanied by 30 friends and relations, including five brothers and two uncles. His zeal and enthusiasm helped revitalize the order. Within four years, he was named abbot of a new monastery at Clairvaux, and before he died, 68 additional monasteries had been founded. St. Bernard was also an accomplished preacher, a skillful arbiter and peacemaker, and a passionate and articulate writer. “Love is a great thing,” he said, “so long as it continually returns to its fountainhead, flows back to its source, always drawing from there the water which constantly replenishes it. Of all movements, sensations, and feelings of the soul, love is the only one in which the creature can respond to the Creator and make some sort of similar return however unequal though it may be.” It is precisely this love that longs to give back to the Beloved and is the catalyst-and the reward-for good stewardship.

St. Pius X

(1835 – 1914) Pope. Patron Saint of Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia, Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, first communications, Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana, pilgrims, Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Feast Day: August 21

“I was born poor, I have lived in poverty, and I wish to die poor,” wrote St. Pius X in his will. A humble man, this twentieth century pope was sometimes embarrassed by the pomp of the papal court. He was ordained in 1853 and served as parish priest, chancellor of his diocese, spiritual director of a seminary, and the bishop. Eventually he was named Cardinal and Patriarch of Venice, and in 1903 was elected Pope. St. Pius X saw it was his task “to defend the Catholic faith and to restore all things in Christ” and is remembered for his encyclical, *Pascendi*, which condemned Modernism. He was very interested in liturgical reform and urged the laity to participate more actively in the Mass. He also encouraged the early and frequent reception of Holy Communion. A gentle, sensitive, pastoral man, St. Pius X was regarded as a saint even in his lifetime. May his example remind us that great things happen when we put our lives the service of God.

Queenship of Mary

Feast Day: August 22

This feast of the Virgin Mary was established less than 50 years ago, in 1954, by Pope Pius XII, but its roots and celebration reach way back in Church history. St. Ephrem (June 8), Christian poet and hymn writer, extolled Mary as queen in the fourth century and that title has been used by believers ever since. Hymns from the early Middle Ages hail her as "Queen of Heaven" and "Holy Queen" and "Queen of Angels." St. Amadeus of Lausanne explained in a homily, "When the Virgin of virgins was led forth by God and her Son, the King of kings, amid the company of exulting angels and rejoicing archangels, with the heavens ringing with praise, the prophecy of the psalmist was fulfilled, in which he said to the Lord: At your right hand stands the queen, clothed in gold... " Mary's willingness to say "Yes" to the Lord brought her joy and sorrow and ultimately a crown of glory. God will use -- and reward -- us, too, if we let him.

St. Rose of Lima (1586-1617)

Patron Saint of embroideries, florists, gardeners, India, Central America, Latin America, needle worker, the New World, people ridiculed for their piety, Peru, Philippines, South America, West Indies

Feast Day: August 23

St. Rose was born in Lima, Peru, and is celebrated as the first saint of the Americas and the patroness of South America. She refused to marry, and when her father forbade her to enter the religious life, she retreated to a tiny hermitage in her family's garden. There, as a Third Order Dominican, she devoted herself to penances so severe they seem almost incomprehensible to us today. But she clearly loved God with an unquenchable ardor and understood that suffering is a means to grace. She wrote, "If only mortals would learn how great it is to possess divine grace, how beautiful, how noble, how precious . . . All men throughout the world would seek trouble, infirmities and torments, instead of good fortune, in order to attain the unfathomable treasure of grace." What and where is my treasure? What would I be willing to sacrifice to attain?

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Patron Saint of bookbinders, butchers, cobblers, Armenia, cheese merchants, salt merchants, leather workers, nervous diseases, plasterers, shoemakers, tanners, trappers, twitching, whiteners

Feast Day: August 24

Scripture Readings: Rv 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51

St. Bartholomew was born in Cana and was one of the 12 apostles. Scholars think he was the one called Nathanael who was brought to Jesus by Philip. It is not known for certain where he went to spread the Gospel after the resurrection, but some ancient sources suggest that he may have preached in India and been martyred in Armenia. What is certain is that he gave his whole life to Jesus when the Lord called him. And how filled with the power of the Holy Spirit he and the other apostles must have been to set out on those evangelizing journeys! St. John Chrysostom writes, "How otherwise could 12 uneducated men, who lived on lakes and rivers and wastelands, get the idea for such an immense enterprise? How could men who perhaps had never been to a city or a with the whole world?" St. Bartholomew, pray for us that we, too, may answer when Christ calls. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, may we generously use in his service the gifts we have.

St. Louis (1214 - 1270)

Feast Day: August 25

St. Louis was the king of France for 44 years. He was a prayerful, devout man, and deeply loyal to the Church. Greatly loved and trusted by his people, he practiced what we now call a "preferential option for the poor," urging his son in a letter to "be kind-hearted to the poor, the unfortunate, and the afflicted. Give them as much help and consolation as you can... Be just to you subjects, swaying neither to right or left, but holding the line of justice. Always side with the poor rather than the rich, until you are certain of the truth." St. Louis understood the need to be accountable to God in all things. In that same letter he says, "If the Lord bestows on you any kind of prosperity, thank him humbly and see that you become no worse for it, either through vain pride or anything else, because you ought not to oppose God or offend him in the matter of his gifts." This good steward ruled justly and died while leading a Crusade in Carthage in 1270.

St. Joseph Calasanz (1557 - 1648)

Feast Day: August 25

St. Joseph Calasanz was born in Spain and studied theology and canon law, intending to pursue a career in Church administration. But the plight of poor children in Rome caused him to devote himself to teaching instead. Unable to convince existing institutes to undertake the task of educating these young people, he recruited friends and provided a free school for needy students. In time, others joined him in this effort and a religious community, the Clerks Regular of Religious Schools or "Piarists," was founded. The members of the order took a fourth vow to dedicate themselves to the education of poor youth. "All who undertake to teach must be endowed with deep love, the greatest patience, and most of all profound humility," he said. "they must perform their work with earnest zeal. Then, through their humble prayer, the Lord will find them worthy to become fellow workers with him in the cause of truth." Being co-workers with God is both the high calling and the reward of those good stewards who, like St. Joseph Calasanz, offer their best gifts to serve the needs of others.

St. Monica (331 - 387)

Patron Saint of abuse victims, alcoholics, difficult marriages, disappointing children, homemakers, housewives, married women, mothers, victims of verbal abuse, widows, wives

Feast Day: August 27

St. Monica could be the patron saint of parents whose children who leave the Church or whose lifestyles and career choices disappoint them. She was the mother of St. Augustine, who was anything but a saint as a teenager and young adult! But she never gave up on him. She stayed as close to him as she could, fasting and praying for his conversion. Once, when she asked a bishop to try and influence her son, the bishop answered, "Let him be, and continue to pray for him; it is impossible that a son of so many tears should be lost." In the end, her son not only was converted, but became a great saint and Doctor of the Church. St. Monica lived her faith and demonstrated the virtues of patience, trust, and perseverance in prayer. St. Monica, pray for us that we may follow your example and be good stewards of the relationships entrusted to us, never despairing, but always bringing those we love, in prayer, to God."

St. Augustine (354-430)

Patron Saint of brewers, printers, sore eyes, theologians

Feast Day: August 28

Scripture Readings: 1 Jn 4:7-16; Mt. 23:8-12

St. Augustine was born in northern Africa in 354. His mother, St. Monica, was a Christian, but Augustine studied the pagan classics and lived a dissolute life until he was 33. Then, inspired by the preaching of St. Ambrose, he was baptized, became a priest, and in 395 was ordained bishop of Hippo. He is revered as one of the greatest of the Church Fathers and wrote many letters and scholarly treatises. In one of these he says, "I tell you again and again, my brethren, that in the Lord's garden are to be found not only the roses of the martyrs, in it also are the lilies of the virgins, the ivy of wedded couples, and the class of people despair, thinking that God has not called them. Christ suffered for all. What Scriptures say of him is true: He desires all men to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth." The U.S. bishops have said much the same thing in their stewardship pastoral: "People first of all are stewards of the personal vocations they receive from God." To what has God called me?

Beheading of John the Baptist

Feast Day: August 29

Scripture Readings: Jer 1:17-19; Mk 6:17-29

Today we remember the martyrdom of St. John the Baptist. A prophet who was not afraid to speak the truth boldly, he had angered the queen by pointing out the irregularity of her marriage to Herod. Anger festered into hate and when she got the chance, she retaliated and arranged to have him killed. But John's death, like his life, pointed the way to the Messiah. St. Bede writes of John, "Through his birth, preaching, and baptizing, he bore witness to the coming birth, preaching and baptism of Christ, and by his own suffering he showed that Christ also would suffer... John was baptized in his own blood, though he had been privileged to baptize the Redeemer of the world... But to endure temporal agonies for the sake of the truth was not a heavy burden for such men as John... for he knew eternal joy would be his reward." We probably will not be asked to suffer martyrdom, but we who have been baptized into Christ Jesus must also bear witness to the truth whenever and wherever we have the opportunity. It is our responsibility as stewards of the faith.

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