

FREEDOM: GIFT AND RESPONSIBILITY

“Jesus wants us free, and this freedom - where is it found? It is to be found in the inner dialogue with God in conscience.”

– Pope Francis

SAINTS AND PRAYERS

St. Ivo of Kermartin (patron saint of advocates) Feast Day: May 19

St. Ivo Born was born to a wealthy noble family. From age 14 he studied civil and canon law, philosophy, and theology in Paris and Orleans. As a lawyer, he practiced in both civil and ecclesiastical courts, often defending the poor without charge, and ministering to them in prison while they awaited trial. He practiced great personal asceticism, with frequent fasts. He fought the state over taxes and the rights of the Church. He was ordained a priest in 1284. He resigned his legal position in 1287 to tend to his parishioners at Tredez and Lovannec. He built a hospital from his own funds, tended the poor in it, and gave away the harvests from his land to feed them.



St. Thomas More (patron saint of lawyers) Feast Day: June 22

Thomas More was born into a noble family in London in 1477 and studied law. He enjoyed great fortune with the ascent of Henry VIII, who used him for diplomatic missions, had him knighted in 1521, and made him lord chancellor. He came to oppose the king, however, and refused to support him as the head of the English Church against the Roman Catholic Church. In 1535, he was accused of treason, imprisoned, and beheaded. A celebrated man of letters, More was the author of “Utopia” among other works. Beatified in 1886, he was canonized in 1935 by Pope Pius XI.



A Prayer by St. Thomas More

Give me the grace, Good Lord to set the world at naught.

To set the mind firmly on You and not to hang upon the words of men's mouths.

To be content to be solitary. Not to long for worldly pleasures.

Little by little utterly to cast off the world and rid my mind of all its business.

Not to long to hear of earthly things, but that the hearing of worldly fancies may be displeasing to me.

Gladly to be thinking of God, piteously to call for His help. To lean into the comfort of God. Busily to labor to love Him.

To know my own vileness and wretchedness.

To humble myself under the mighty hand of God.

To bewail my sins and, for the purging of them, patiently to suffer adversity.

Gladly to bear my purgatory here. To be joyful in tribulations.

To walk the narrow way that leads to life.

To have the last thing in remembrance.

To have ever before my eyes my death that is ever at hand. To make death no stranger to me.

To foresee and consider the everlasting fire of Hell.

To pray for pardon before the judge comes.

To have continually in mind the passion that Christ suffered for me.

For His benefits unceasingly to give Him thanks.

To buy the time again that I have lost.

To abstain from vain conversations.

To shun foolish mirth and gladness.

To cut off unnecessary recreations.

Of worldly substance, friends, liberty, life and all, to set the loss at naught, for the winning of Christ.

To think my worst enemies my best friends, for the brethren of Joseph could never have done him so much good with their love and favor as they did him with their malice and hatred.

These minds are more to be desired of every man than all the treasures of all the princes and kings, Christian and heathen, were it gathered and laid together all in one heap.

Amen.

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SAINTS AND PRAYERS

Prayer for Religious Freedom

O God our Creator,
From your provident hand we have received
our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
You have called us as your people and given us
the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God,
and your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,
you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,
bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel
to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;
give us courage in making our voices heard
on behalf of the rights of your Church
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,
a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters
gathered in your Church
in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,
so that, with every trial withstood
and every danger overcome—
for the sake of our children, our grandchildren,
and all who come after us—
this great land will always be “one nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.