

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: TO GO WHERE GOD LEADS US

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” 1 Corinthians 6:19

OVERVIEW

When pursuing the work of science, technology, and mechanics, we must remain centered on who we are, where we come from and the moral guidelines written in our hearts. That is why Catholics place tremendous value on each and every human person from conception until natural death. We believe that all life is sacred and must be protected; not created for experimentation or exploitation for another's benefit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does forming our conscience help us determine what actions are morally right or wrong?
- How does loving God and our neighbor bring us closer to the Kingdom of God?
- Why is opposing evil and doing good essential obligations for Catholic?
- What changes in your own life can you make to love God and love neighbor better?
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- If we are made in God's image, why do some people and some institutions commit morally wrong actions?

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MEDIA RESOURCES FROM THE BISHOP GRADY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

To reserve resources from the Bishop Grady Memorial Library, contact BGML@orlandodiocese.org, call 407-246-4895, or visit the website at: www.orlandodiocese.org/ministries-offices/bishop-grady-memorial-library

DVD-0517	The Science of Stem Cells
DVD-0516	Stem Cell Research: Finding Cures We Can All Live With
DVD-0601	The Science of Climate Change
DVD-0317	Cosmic Voyage
DVD-0774	Cosmic Origins
CD-0133	Earth is the Lord's: Catholic Theology of Creation, Ecology, and the Environment
DVD-0801	Serving God, Saving the Planet
DVD-0554	Thomas Berry, the Great Story
DVD-0706	Food, Inc.
DVD-0717	I Am
DVD-0534	A Look at Parish Nursing
DVD-0108	Cutting through the Spin: On Stem Cells and Cloning

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SAINTS AND PRAYERS

Saint Gabriel Archangel (patron saint of communication workers)

Feast day: September 29,

The name Gabriel means "man of God," or "God has shown himself mighty." It appears first in the prophecies of Daniel in the Old Testament. The angel announced to Daniel the prophecy of the seventy weeks. His name also occurs in the apocryphal book of Henoch. He was the angel who appeared to Zachariah to announce the birth of St. John the Baptizer. Finally, he announced to Mary that she would bear a Son Who would be conceived of the Holy Spirit, Son of the Most High, and Saviour of the world. The feast day is September 29th. St. Gabriel is the patron of communications workers.

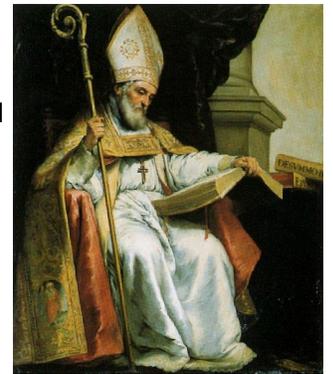


St. Isidore of Seville (patron saint of computer technicians, internet)

Feast day: April 4

Isidore was probably born in Cartagena, Spain to Severianus and Theodora. His father belonged to a Hispano-Roman family of high social rank while his mother was of Visigothic origin and apparently, was distantly related to Visigothic royalty. His parents were members of an influential family who were instrumental in the political-religious maneuvering that converted the Visigothic kings from Arianism to Catholicism. The Catholic Church celebrates him and all his siblings as known saints:

- An elder brother, Saint Leander of Seville, immediately preceded Saint Isidore as Archbishop of Seville and, while in office, opposed king Liuvigild.
- A younger brother, Saint Fulgentius of Cartagena, served as the Bishop of Astigi at the start of the new reign of the Catholic King Reccared.
- His sister, Saint Florentina, served God as a nun and allegedly ruled over forty convents and one thousand consecrated religious. This claim seems unlikely; however, given the few functioning monastic institutions in Iberia during her lifetime, the claim could be creditable.



Proclaimed Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XIV in 1722, and became the leading candidate for patron of computer users and the internet in 1999.

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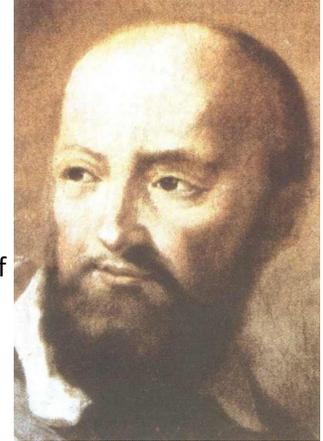
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SAINTS AND PRAYERS

Saint Francis of Sales (patron saint of journalists, writers)

Feast day: January 24

Born in France in 1567, Francis was a patient man. He knew for thirteen years that he had a vocation to the priesthood before he mentioned it to his family. When his father said that he wanted Francis to be a soldier and sent him to Paris to study, Francis said nothing. Then when he went to Padua to get a doctorate in law, he still kept quiet, but he studied theology and practiced mental prayer while getting into swordfights and going to parties. Even when his bishop told him if he wanted to be a priest that he thought that he would have a miter waiting for him someday, Francis uttered not a word. Why did Francis wait so long? Throughout his life he waited for God's will to be clear. He never wanted to push his wishes on God, to the point where most of us would have been afraid that God would give up!



Perhaps he was wise to wait, for he wasn't a natural pastor. His biggest concern on being ordained that he had to have his lovely curly gold hair cut off. And his preaching left the listeners thinking he was making fun of him. Others reported to the bishop that this noble-turned-priest was conceited and controlling.

Francis decided that he should lead an expedition to convert the 60,000 Calvinists back to Catholicism. He wrote out his sermons, copied them by hand, and slipped them under the doors. This is the first record we have of religious tracts being used to communicate with people.

In 1602 he was made bishop of the diocese of Geneva, in Calvinist territory. He only set foot in the city of Geneva twice -- once when the Pope sent him to try to convert Calvin's successor, Beza, and another when he traveled through it.

At that time, the way of holiness was only for monks and nuns -- not for ordinary people. Francis changed all that by giving spiritual direction to lay people living ordinary lives in the world. But he had proven with his own life that people could grow in holiness while involved in a very active occupation. Why couldn't others do the same? His most famous book, *INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE*, was written for these ordinary people in 1608. Written originally as letters, it became an instant success all over Europe -- though some preachers tore it up because he tolerated dancing and jokes!

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SAINTS AND PRAYERS

Prayer for Catholic Radio

God our Father, we humbly seek your all-powerful blessing on the work we have begun and ask you to bring it to completion. Give success to the work of our hands.

Lord Jesus, we seek your blessing on this radio station and ask you to consecrate it to the bold proclamation of your living Word, proclaimed in the midst of your One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Guard us from the evil one and from all those who would sow destruction or despair. Keep us in communion of mind and heart with our Pope and Bishops, upon whom we invoke your mercy.

Spirit of God, rain upon our labors your sevenfold gifts that we may make known in truth and love the voice of Jesus. Keep us ever-faithful to your inspirations, always open to the Truth, and never allow us to be conquered by pride. Create unity in our work and broadcast through us the seeds of the Word. Make us instruments of reconciliation among all your people, and of genuine renewal and reform.

Mother of the Word incarnate, remember this work as you come into the presence of your Son. Help us to remain humble in the image of your own heart, and guide us to the Heart of your Son. Protect us from all evil and bring to us the God of Life whom you bore in your womb and nursed at your breast. Help us to proclaim the greatness of the Lord and to ever-rejoice in God our Savior.

May the offering of our service and the prayer of the blessed Archangel Gabriel, patron of radio broadcasting, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord.

Lord, show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

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DOCUMENTS AND WEBSITES

USCCB Search for these titles at www.usccb.org.

- Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services
- Marriage and Family: Reproductive Technologies
- In Vitro Fertilization: Begotten Not Made, a Catholic View of Reproductive Technology
- Life Giving Love in an Age of Technology

Vatican Documents Search for these titles at www.vatican.va.

- Donum Vitae (The Gift of Life) (also available in Spanish)
- Humanae Vitae (On Human Life, Pope Paul VI) (also available in Spanish)
- Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul II) (also available in Spanish)

Other Resources

- National Catholic Bioethics Center
www.ncbcenter.org

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: TO GO WHERE GOD LEADS US: SCRIPT

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” 1 Corinthians 6:19

When pursuing the work of science, technology, and mechanics, we must remain centered on who we are, where we come from and the moral guidelines written in our hearts.

That is why Catholics place tremendous value on each and every human person from conception until natural death. We believe that all life is sacred and must be protected; not created for experimentation or exploitation for another's benefit.

As Eucharistic people, our identity resonates through the partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ who forms us into a new creation, living in the fullness of God's love and purpose. Science alone cannot define our meaning in the created universe nor determine our potential.

“The blood of Christ, while it reveals the greater grandeur of the Father's love, shows how precious man is in God's eyes and how priceless the value of his life.”(Evangelium Vitae, no. 25)

Throughout history we have seen science and technology used to create more effective and torturous ways of killing people, destroying communities and experimenting on the weak and vulnerable. While at the same time we have seen advances that have extended the life of people across the globe and eradicated deadly diseases.

The greater man's power becomes as a result of scientific and technological progress the farther his individual and community responsibility extends and the more obligation there is to assure that it correspond, according to the design and will of God, to humanity's true good.

As Catholics we believe that science and technology must be at the service of humanity and used to benefit all consistent with the plan and will of God. Moral truth, discerned from the natural law by use of our ability to reason, helps us to see the value, dignity and sacred nature of each person and all creation.

The Christian faith demands and promotes the natural sciences. But science is not an end in and of itself; it is merely a tool that can be used to discover the wonderful beauty and mystery of the natural world. Modern, unbridled science has often times violated human dignity rather than respecting and protecting it.

Reproductive technologies that include contraception, surrogate motherhood, sex selection, human cloning, selective reduction of embryos, among others; are always morally wrong because they manipulate the natural and divine creative process and treat vulnerable new human life as a product.

Ours is a great calling and a great gift to be loved by a divine creator who freely gives life, knowledge, freedom and the ability to love and to appreciate all that we have received. We are even elevated to co-creators with God when we use our intellect and will to transform the world toward good and to realizing the kingdom of God on earth by our actions.