



*“The chief cause of the present indifference is to be found above all in ignorance of things divine.”*

## Pope St Pius X, Memorial, 21<sup>st</sup> August

### Opening Prayer

O God, who to safeguard the Catholic faith and to restore all things in Christ, filled Pope Saint Pius the Tenth with heavenly wisdom and apostolic fortitude, graciously grant that, following his teaching and example, we may gain an eternal prize.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*(Collect, Mass of the Day)*



### Scripture Reflections Judges 2:11-19

The sons of Israel did what displeases the Lord, and served the Baals. They deserted the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from the gods of the peoples round them. They bowed down to these; they provoked the Lord; they deserted the Lord to serve Baal and Astarte. Then the Lord's anger flamed out against Israel. He handed them over to pillagers who plundered them; he delivered them to the enemies surrounding them, and they were not able to resist them. In every warlike venture, the hand of the Lord was there to foil them, as the Lord had warned, as the Lord had sworn to them. Thus he reduced them to dire distress.

Then the Lord appointed judges for them, and rescued the men of Israel from the hands of their plunderers. But they would not listen to their judges. They prostituted themselves to other gods, and bowed down before these. Very quickly they left the path their ancestors had trodden

in obedience to the orders of the Lord; they did not follow their example. When the Lord appointed judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and rescued them from the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived, for the Lord felt pity for them as they groaned under the iron grip of their oppressors. But once the judge was dead, they relapsed and behaved even worse than their ancestors. They followed other gods; they served them and bowed before them, and would not give up the practices and stubborn ways of their ancestors at all.

*(Jerusalem Bible)*

## **Gospel**                      **Matthew 19:16-22**

There was a man who came to Jesus and asked, 'Master, what good deed must I do to possess eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you ask me about what is good? There is one alone who is good. But if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.' He said, 'Which?' 'These:' Jesus replied 'You must not kill. You must not commit adultery. You must not bring false witness. Honour your father and mother, and: you must love your neighbour as yourself.' The young man said to him, 'I have kept all these. What more do I need to do?' Jesus said, 'If you wish to be perfect, go and sell what you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But when the young man heard these words he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

*(Jerusalem Bible)*

- Is there a word or phrase that stands out or remains with you after reading these passages?

## **Biography**

- Born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, 1835, at Riese, near Venice, and was one of eight children. His family was poor.
- He felt a calling to be a priest at a young age and was ordained in 1858.
- After 26 years, he was named bishop of Mantua, Italy, and in 1893, he became patriarch of Venice. was the first Pope elected in the 20th century. He came to the papal office on August 4, 1903 and died 11 years later on August 20, 1914, just as World War I was beginning. He is buried under the altar of the chapel of the Presentation in Saint Peter's Basilica.
- In his will, Pope St. Pius X said, "I was born poor, I have lived poor, I wish to die poor." He was canonized on May 29, 1954, by Pope Pius XII - the first Pope canonized since St. Pius V in 1672.



## Legacy as Pope

### • **First Holy Communion:**

As Pope, he issued decrees making the age of First Holy Communion earlier (at the age of 7 instead of 12 or 14) and advocated frequent and even daily reception of the Eucharist.



Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to Heaven. There are others: innocence, but that is for little children; penance, but we are afraid of it; generous endurance of trials of life, but when they come we weep and ask to be. The surest, easiest, shortest way is the Eucharist.

(Pope Pius X)

izquotes.com

- He promoted the **reading of the Bible** among laypeople, established various Biblical institutes, **reformed the liturgy**, promoted clear and simple **homilies**, and brought back **Gregorian chant**. He **revised the Breviary**, reorganized the **curia**, initiated the **codification of canon law**.

## Encyclicals and other writings

- Pope St. Pius X announced in his first encyclical that his papacy would seek to "to renew all things in Christ"
- Taking a stand against Modernism, which he called the "synthesis of all heresies." His Holiness issued the Oath Against Modernism from his Motu Proprio Sacrorum Antistitum on 1 September 1910.

## Catechism

"[For many years] Bellarmine's Catechism was largely followed as a model all over the world, yet, owing to the modifications introduced in diocesan editions, it came to pass in the course of time that almost every diocese had its own Catechism, differing in many respects from the Catechisms of other dioceses.

The obvious inconvenience of this bewildering multiplicity of Catechisms occupied the attention of the Fathers of the Vatican Council, the great majority of whom were agreed as to the desirability of having a uniform small Catechism for the faithful all over the world.... The question being put to a vote on May 4, an immense majority was found to be in favour of the compilation of a small uniform Catechism, to be compiled in Latin, translated into every language, and made obligatory in every diocese. ....

.... During the sitting of the first Catechetical Congress in 1880, the then Bishop of Mantua (later St. Pius X) proposed that the Holy Father be petitioned to arrange for the compilation of a simple, plain, brief, and popular Catechism for uniform use all over the world. Shortly after his elevation to the Chair of Peter, Pius X at once set about realising, within certain limits, his own proposal of 1880, by prescribing a uniform Catechism — the *Compendium of Christian Doctrine* — for use in the

dioceses of the ecclesiastical province of Rome, at the same time indicating that it was his earnest desire to have the same manual adopted all over Italy. The text selected was, with slight modifications, that which had been adopted for some years by the united hierarchy of Piedmont, Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia, and Tuscany.

It contains three Catechisms:

The first... intended for infant schools and for the home... sets forth briefly the more elementary truths of faith... formulae to be committed to memory.

The second part...the "Short Catechism," is intended chiefly for primary schools and for children preparing for the sacraments... devoted to a brief exposition of the doctrine of the Creed, Sacraments, Commandments, and Prayer.

The "Larger Catechism," ... explains these at greater length... It is succeeded by an explanation of the principal feasts of the year,... a Brief History of Religion, and concludes with a certain number of daily prayers, and prayers for special occasions.

*(Introduction to A Compendium of Catechetical Instruction by the Right Reverend Monsignor John Hagan, Irish College, Rome Feast of Saint Charles Borromeo, 1911.)*

## **Significance for Catechists**

For reflection: What does the life and work of Pope St Pius X say to us as catechists? What can we learn from him?

## **Closing Prayer**

Pope of the Eucharist, Saint Pius X, you sought "to restore all things in Christ." Obtain for me a true love of Jesus so that I may live only for Him. Help me to acquire a lively fervour and a sincere will to strive for sanctity of life, and that I may avail myself of the riches of the Holy Eucharist in sacrifice and sacrament.

*Benedict XVI, General Audience, Wednesday, 18 August 2010, Saint Pius the Tenth*

## **'Take Away' : Going Deeper**

Detailed biography: <https://www.catholic365.com/article/12818/pope-saint-pius-x.html>

Rome Reports, A look at St. Pius X's legacy: From reforms to World War I

<https://youtu.be/m2GSq-0rwEw>

Motu Proprio Sacrorum Antistitum, English translation :

<https://www.papalencyclicals.net/pius10/p10moath.htm>

List of Encyclicals <https://www.papalencyclicals.net/category/pius10>

Look at Acerbo Nimis, authorizing the installation of the *Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)* and the placement of a catechism class in every parish in the world.

Catechism : <https://sensusfidelium.com/bible-catechesis/catechism-of-saint-pius-x/>

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## **Acknowledgements**

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Biography notes: CatholicSaints.info