



# COLUMBIA





SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S CHALLENGE

A monthly reflection and practical challenge from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

“Jesus said, ‘My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another’” (Gospel for May 19, Jn 13:34).

We have heard this teaching of Jesus before, but do we personalize it and truly know it to be true? Each one of us is called to love in the most profound way — by caring about others’ eternal well-being. But Catholics in



America today are, sadly, not known for loving one another to the point that we risk sharing our faith with others. One recent poll found that only 6% of Catholics believe sharing their faith is a “high priority.” Jesus invites us to do more, and he does not call the equipped; he equips the called.

**Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:** This month, I challenge you to invite one person out for coffee, to your home or an event at your parish. Tell them what you enjoy about the Catholic faith. If they have been away from the Catholic Church, invite them back. If they are not Catholic, ask them if they would consider joining. Either way, be welcoming and nonjudgmental in your conversation. ♦

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION



That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- May 1** St. Joseph the Worker
- May 2** St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- May 3** Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
- May 10** St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
- May 13** Our Lady of Fatima
- May 14** St. Matthias, Apostle
- May 20** St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
- May 21** St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions, Martyrs
- May 22** St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
- May 27** St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
- May 29** St. Paul VI, Pope
- May 30** The Ascension of the Lord
- May 31** The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

CATHOLIC MAN OF THE MONTH

Father Pierre-Jean De Smet (1801-1873)

CHIEF SITTING BULL faced Jesuit Father Pierre-Jean De Smet, the only white man allowed to enter his camp of 5,000 Sioux warriors. He said, “I will listen to your good words, Black Robe.” Regarded by Native Americans as “the white man whose tongue does not lie,” the priest had arrived to negotiate a peace treaty between the U.S. government and the Lakota Sioux nation in 1868. It was signed later that year.

De Smet was born and raised in Flanders, Belgium. At age 19, he was inspired by a missionary visiting from the United States. De Smet set sail the following year and joined the Jesuits in Baltimore. He was later ordained in St. Louis in 1827.

After a decade of teaching and administrative duties, Father De Smet began his missionary work among Native Americans. He made many trips along the Missouri and Columbia Rivers and even farther afield; one grueling trek over the Canadian Rockies in snowshoes led him up the Saskatchewan River into present-day Alberta. His cheerful disposition, child-like trust in God and intrepid spirit



won him numerous friends, as well as converts, and made him a celebrated peacemaker among warring tribes.

Father De Smet also traveled frequently to Europe to secure funds and recruits. In 1844, he enlisted six religious sisters and four priests to travel back with him around Cape Horn and up to Oregon. In all, he traversed over 180,000 miles, including 16 trans-Atlantic voyages.

Beginning in 1851, the U.S. government repeatedly sought Father De Smet’s aid as a mediator with the Native Americans. He wrote, “My heart, I admit, is ever with the Indians.” Until his death in St. Louis on May 23, 1873, he tirelessly sought to build bonds of peace. ♦

POPE FRANCIS: CNS photo/Paul Haring — FATHER DE SMET: Photo courtesy of the Wyoming State Archives Photo Collection