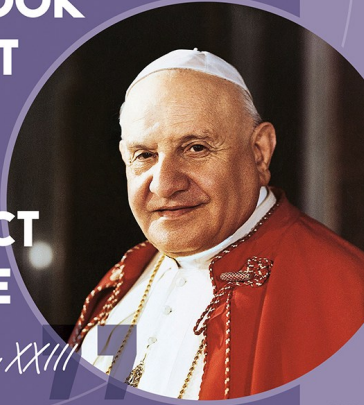


FROM FR. JASON

SEE EVERYTHING,
OVERLOOK
A GREAT
DEAL,
AND
CORRECT
A LITTLE

Pope Saint John XXIII



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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the Feast of St. John XXIII on Saturday, October 11, our hearts are filled with gratitude for this extraordinary saint, often called the “Good Pope,” whose life and legacy continue to inspire us in our journey of faith. We are called to see this feast not merely as a commemoration but as a vibrant invitation to deepen our conversion, rediscover the beauty of our baptism, and embrace our mission to proclaim the Kerygma - the Good News of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection - to a world in desperate need of hope.

St. John XXIII, born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, was a man of profound humility, simplicity, and trust in God’s providence. His papacy, though brief (1958–1963), was a turning point for the Church. By convening the Second Vatican Council, he opened the windows of the Church to the Holy Spirit, allowing a fresh wind to renew her mission.

He believed the Church must not remain closed in on itself but go out to meet the modern world with the joy of the Gospel. We are called to live the faith authentically, supporting one another through the Word of God, the Eucharist, and fraternal love.

What can we learn from St. John XXIII today? His life teaches us that holiness is not reserved for the extraordinary but is found in the daily “fiat” to God’s will, much like the Blessed Virgin Mary’s surrender at the Annunciation. Despite his high office, he remained a pastor at heart, close to his people, with a warm smile and a fatherly love that disarmed even the most hardened hearts. He once said, “See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little.” This wisdom challenges us to approach our brothers and sisters with mercy and patience, recognizing that we are all sinners in need of God’s grace, walking together toward conversion.

We are invited to rediscover the treasures of our baptism, to die to ourselves and rise with Christ. St. John XXIII’s life mirrors this paschal mystery. He faced challenges - war, division, and a rapidly changing world - yet he trusted in God’s goodness. His courage to call the Second Vatican Council was not a reckless act but a bold response to the Spirit’s prompting, trusting that God would guide the Church into a new era of evangelization. We, too, are called to this courage. **Through the Word, we confront our weaknesses; through the Eucharist, we are nourished by Christ’s presence; and through the parish community, we bear one another’s burdens.** This is the path of conversion that St. John XXIII invites us to embrace.

This feast also challenges us to reflect on our missionary call. The Second Vatican Council, inspired by St. John XXIII, reminded us that the Church exists to evangelize. We are sent out as missionary disciples to the peripheries - geographical, social, and existential. Are we ready to share the Good News with those who have never heard it or who have drifted away from the faith? Are we open to the Holy Spirit’s surprises, as St. John XXIII was, trusting that God can work through our poverty and weakness? Perhaps it’s a kind word to a struggling neighbor, a gesture of forgiveness in our family, or an invitation to someone far from God to join us to be catechized. These small acts, done with great love, are the seeds of the Kingdom.

Let us also remember St. John XXIII’s deep devotion to prayer and peace. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, he appealed for peace, helping avert a global catastrophe. His encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth) remains a powerful call to build a world rooted in justice, truth, and charity. In our own time, marked by division and conflict, his intercession is more vital than ever. Let us pray through him for peace in our hearts, our families, and our world, and for the grace to be peacemakers wherever we are.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Jason". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.