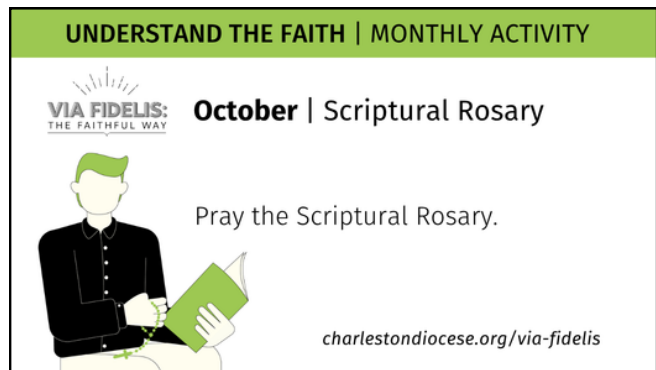


October 2026

VIA FIDELIS: THE FAITHFUL WAY

UNDERSTAND THE FAITH

charlestdiocese.org/via-fidelis



THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES

Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1812-1829; 1840-1844

- The theological virtues come from God and are “infused” into humans as a gift of sanctifying grace
- The theological virtues are directed towards God; they give one the capacity to live in relationship to the Trinity, making the meriting of eternal life possible
- The theological virtues are the pledge of the Holy Spirit’s presence and action in human faculties
- The human virtues are rooted in the theological virtues, and, therefore, the theological virtues are the foundation of Christian morality
- Faith is the theological virtue which disposes one to believe God and all he has revealed as well as all that the Church presents to us to be believed
- Faith is rooted in the fact the God is Truth itself
- In faith, one commits the whole self to God
- In faith, one strives to know and do God’s will
- Hope is the theological virtue that disposes one towards the desire for heaven and eternal life with God
- Hope is the trust in the promises of Christ rather than trust in one’s own strength
- Christian hope fulfills the hopes of God’s people in the promises of the Old Testament
- The Christian hopes for “final endurance” and the Church prays, in hope, for the salvation of all humanity
- Charity is the theological virtue that disposes one to love God above all things and one’s neighbor as oneself for the sake of this love of God
- Charity is the new commandment given by Jesus (Jn 13:34)
- Charity animates and inspires the practice of all the virtues
- Charity perfects our human ability to love by supernatural divine love



Feasts & Solemnities

OCTOBER 1: ST. THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

St. Thérèse of Lisieux is one of the most beloved saints because of her simple, yet profound spirituality. At 15, when Thérèse expressed the desire to enter the convent like her older sisters, she was told to come back when she was 21. The priest-director told her that only the bishop could make an exception. To his surprise, she actually made her petition to the bishop, who granted her request.

OCTOBER 3: THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

This celebration of the Guardian Angels commemorates that God entrusts each and every one of us to the care of one of his angels. It reminds us of the depth of God’s love, not only for humanity in general, but for each of us individually. This individualized care is reflected in Jesus’ words in Matthew’s Gospel preceding the parable of the lost sheep: “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father” (18:10).

OCTOBER 4: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. Francis’ feast day is technically classified as a “memorial” and is not observed liturgically this year because it falls on a Sunday. Yet, this year marks the 800th anniversary of his death (Oct. 3, 1226). In response, Pope Leo XIV has asked us all to focus on imitating St. Francis’ example of holiness and peace, proclaiming a special jubilee year to commemorate the occasion.

OCTOBER 7: OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

This feast day was originally called “Our Lady of Victory” by St. Pius V, as it commemorated the victory of a Catholic coalition over the Ottoman Turks at the naval battle of Lepanto on Oct. 7, 1571. Because this victory was attributed to the intercession of Mary through praying the rosary, in 1573, Pope Gregory XIII changed the name to “Our Lady of the Rosary.”

OCTOBER 15: ST. TERESA OF JESUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

St. Teresa of Avila (Santa Teresa de Jesús) is beloved as a spiritual writer and reformer of the Carmelites. Her mystical writings give clear glimpses into the intimacy with which God loves, and to the beauty of being united to him. In 1970, St. Teresa and St. Catherine of Siena were together named the first female “doctors of the Church” for making significant contributions to the Christian life and the understanding of the faith.

OCTOBER 19: STS. JOHN DE BRÉBEUF, ISAAC JOGUES & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, and their companions, were the first martyrs in the Americas to be recognized officially by the Church. These Jesuit missionaries served in Quebec and ministered to the Huron people. They were martyred over a period of a few years by the Iroquois, who were frequently at war with the Huron. The missionaries’ enthusiasm for the Gospel and love for those they served in the Huron people are an example of Christ’s love for his Church.

OCTOBER 28: STS. SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

These two apostles whom we commemorate share an interesting commonality: they both have the same name as other apostles. To distinguish him from Simon (who Christ renamed St. Peter), St. Simon is sometimes referred to as the “zealot” in Scripture, which points to a possible prior connection with a first century Jewish movement for independence from the Romans. St. Jude’s name is often shortened to Jude in English to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot. St. Jude is called Thaddeus in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, while Luke calls him Jude (Judas). John refers to him once as “Judas, not the Iscariot” (Jn 14:22).