

## Some Thoughts for September 2024

Marge Loenser

September is unique because it signifies both endings and beginnings. Vacations are ending and school is beginning. Summer season is ending, and autumn season is beginning. We experience sadness and joy and accept the changes (sometimes reluctantly, especially if you're a kid.)

On the 11th we take time out to remember that very tragic day in 2001. We lift up to God all the souls that died and we ask God's healing for all the families that lost loved ones; we pray for the many that have serious illnesses from working in an atmosphere totally polluted. Let us honor all the sacrifice: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands: one Nation, under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all!" (born and unborn).

Let us look at some of the saints we celebrate this month:

Sept. 3, we have a memorial mass for St Gregory the Great who was elected pope in 599AD. He managed to promote peace although many barbarian tribes were invading Rome. He even managed to save the souls of the invaders.

On the 9th we celebrate St. Peter Claver a Spaniard from the 1500's. His vocation was to bring peace and relief to the slaves. He was a Jesuit priest, and he would visit these horrible slave ships and bring much comfort and peace to these terrified African slaves who were being treated most inhumanly.

St. Robert Bellarmine's memorial is on the 17th. He became a Jesuit priest then a Cardinal. He was named a doctor of the church and was a very important figure in the Counter-Reformation. He was a zealous critic of the heresies spread by Martin Luther and John Calvin.

On the 21st we celebrate the feast of St. Matthew, one of the twelve apostles, known for his occupation as a tax collector in Capernaum. He wrote one of the four gospels, primarily for the Jews and it was written in Hebrew. After, he wrote an expanded gospel for Jews and Christians in Greek.

On the 23rd we celebrate St. Padre Pio who probably is one of the most famous saints of our times. He had mystical experiences with Jesus from childhood. He became a priest and was noted for hearing confessions, as he could read hearts. He had the stigmata (wounds of Christ) for 50 years. He could bi-locate and even stopped time at one point.

We ask these wonderful saints to pray for us and we especially pray to St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael, Archangels. May God bless and protect us all.

Love,  
Marge



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Mark's Church in Sea Girt where she is a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at Saint Mark's. She has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion for about 30 years and is also a member of Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Community for about the same length of time. She writes for a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.