

## **Scriptural Questions for First Reading Cycle C (Volume III)**

CCC...*Catechism of the Catholic Church* — NAB...*New American Bible*

### **14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Gal 6:14-18

Gospel: Lk 10:1-2, 17-20

CCC: 293-301

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Is 66:10-14**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What is symbolized by Jerusalem in verse 10?
  - b. Who were the ones mourning over her?
  - c. What reason is there for rejoicing?
  - d. Discuss the imagery and meaning of verse 11.
4.
  - a. What is this prospering that will come to her (12)?
  - b. How does the wealth of nations figure in (compare the feast of Epiphany)?
  - c. Discuss the intimacy conveyed by the imagery in verse 13.
  - d. Discuss how you have experienced the “Lord’s power” and abundant blessings (14).
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Col 1:15-20

Gospel: Lk 10:25-37

CCC: 1913-1916

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Deut 30:10-14**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What will happen if you heed the voice of the Lord (10), (see Deut 30:9)?
  - b. How does the voice of the Lord come through to us?
  - c. What is the law (see first NAB article, “The Pentateuch” located before the Book of Genesis)?
  - d. What is this book of the law (see introduction to Book of Deuteronomy)?
4.
  - a. Discuss the meaning of “return to the Lord...with all your heart...”.
  - b. What is meant by the words “this commandment...is not too mysterious and remote to you”(11), (see verse 10)?
  - c. Discuss how easily accessible God’s word is to us (14).
  - d. What is meant by: the commandment is already in your mouths and hearts?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Col 1:24-28

Gospel: Lk 10:38-42

CCC: 2725-2728

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Gen 18:1-10**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What is a terebinth (1), (see English Dictionary)?
  - b. In what form did the Lord appear to Abraham (2)?
  - c. Discuss Abraham's generous hospitality in verses 3-8.
  - d. Discuss Abraham's "bowing to the ground" (2) and compare it to our acts of courtesy to people.
4.
  - a. Discuss the kind of person Abraham was in considering himself their "servant" in verses 3 and 5.
  - b. What are the "curds" (8), (see NAB footnote)?
  - c. Who is speaking to Abraham in verse 10 (see NAB footnote)?
  - d. Why did Sarah laugh at the Lord's promise (10-15)?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Col 2:12-14

Gospel: Lk 11:1-13

CCC: 2598-2619; 2734-2741

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Gen 18:20-32**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What grave sin cries out to God for attention (see NAB footnote and Gen 19:1-11)?
  - b. Discuss the meaning of the word anthropomorphism in light of the words of the Lord, "I must go down and see...I mean to find out" (21).
  - c. How do you think Abraham will pick God's conscience with the words of his question in verse 23?
  - d. What does Abraham's familiar conversation with the Lord tell you about him?
4.
  - a. Discuss the force of Abraham's reasoning in verses 25-26.
  - b. What does verse 27 tell you about the kind of person Abraham was?
  - c. What prompted Abraham to intercede for his people to such a degree?
  - d. What does verse 32 tell you about the power of the prayer of intercession?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Col 3:1-5, 9-11

Gospel: Lk 12:13-21

CCC: 2534-2550 / 1681-1683

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What is vanity (see English dictionary)?
  - b. Who is Qoheleth?
  - c. What does the expression “vanity of vanities” mean (see NAB footnote and NAB introduction to Ecclesiastes, esp. last paragraph)?
  - d. What truth is there in the saying that “all things are vanity”?
4.
  - a. Discuss the point being made in verse 21.
  - b. What answer do you give to verse 22?
  - c. What truth is being brought out in verse 23?
  - d. What truths can you point out about verses 21, 22, and 23 by taking a different perspective than the author?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19

Gospel: Lk 12:32-48

CCC: 27-35

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Wis 18:6-9**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. To what does “that night” refer (6), (compare Ex 12:11-13)?
  - b. How did the chosen people come to know about that night (see Ex 11)?
  - c. What “oaths” are being considered here (6), (compare Gen 12:1-3; 15:1-16; 17:1-8; esp. 22:15-18)?
  - d. What is the value of putting faith in God’s promises (6), (compare Gen 15:6 and NAB footnote)?
4.
  - a. How do God’s promises or oaths give us courage (6)?
  - b. To what is “the salvation of the just and the destruction of their foes” referring (7), (compare Ex 14:5-31)?
  - c. What does “you glorified us” mean (8), (compare Wis 19:22; Is 43:3-4)?
  - d. Which divine institution were the chosen people putting into effect (9), (see Ex 12:21-28)?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Cor 15: 20-26

Gospel: Lk 1: 39-56

CCC: 964-975

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Rev 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What is the Ark of the Covenant (11:19), (see Bible Dictionary)?
  - b. Why did it reappear (see 2 Mac 2:4-8)?
  - c. How is the ark a symbol of Mary?
  - d. What is this great sign (12:1), and how can it be applied to Mary (see NAB footnote)?
4.
  - a. What is the other sign (see 12:9), and what does it symbolize (3), (see NAB footnote)?
  - b. What might “his tail swept a third of the stars from the sky” symbolize (4)?
  - c. Who is this child who would later be caught up to God’s throne (5), (compare 19:11-16)?
  - d. Discuss this story’s happy ending (10).
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

CCC: 1776-1785

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Is 66:18-21**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What is being foretold in verse 18?
  - b. How has this been fulfilled (compare Acts 2:1-12)?
  - c. How will it be completely fulfilled?
  - d. What do you think this sign will be (19), (compare Mt 24:30)?
4.
  - a. What does it mean to proclaim God’s glory among the nations (19)?
  - b. Who is signified by these strange sounding nations (see NAB footnote)?
  - c. How do you think the brethren among the nations are made into “an offering to the Lord” (20)?
  - d. What do you think verse 21 means?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Heb 12:12-19, 22-24

Gospel: Lk 14:1, 7-14

CCC: 2443-2449; 1776-1794; 84-95

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What does humility mean in verse 17 (see NAB footnote)?
  - b. Discuss the meaning of the opposing vice, pride.
  - c. How does one conduct his affairs with humility?
  - d. Why do people prefer the humble over the proud?
4.
  - a. Give examples of great people who humble themselves (18).
  - b. What is too sublime for you to seek (20)?
  - c. What is a proverb (28)?
  - d. What is a sage? Explain verse 29 (see NAB footnote).
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Phil 9-10, 12-17

Gospel: Lk 14:25-33

CCC: 2464-2474

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Wis 9:13-18**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. Discuss the gap between God's mind and ours as represented by verses 13-14.
  - b. Enlightened by the New Testament, how can we know God's mind (compare 1 Cor 2:9-16)?
  - c. According to your experience, how does your body burden your soul (15)?
4.
  - a. What is your understanding of verse 16?
  - b. How has the Holy Spirit enlightened you regarding the things of God (17)?
  - c. What is meant by "paths of those on earth were made straight" (18), (compare the rest of the verse)?
  - d. Which divine institution were the chosen people putting into effect (9), (see Ex 12:21-28)?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Tim 1:12-17

Gospel: Lk 15:1-32

CCC: 2777-2785; 599-605

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What is it about human nature that causes it to go astray so easily (7), (compare Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9)?
  - b. How had God brought his people from the land of Egypt (compare Ex 7-14)?
  - c. What is it about passion and desire that made (and still makes) God's people forget what he has done for them and go astray (8)?
4.
  - a. What does "stiff-necked" mean (9)?
  - b. Discuss Moses' selflessness and love for his people (10-11).
  - c. Describe Moses' intercessory prayer (11-13).
  - d. How does this scene encourage you to intercede for your people (14)?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Tim 2:1-8

Gospel: Lk 16:1-13

CCC: 2407-2436; 1929-1938

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Amos 8:4-7**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. How is the sin of the people in the days of Amos (4) repeated in our day?
  - b. Why were the rich anxious for the new moon and Sabbath to be over with?
  - c. What do verses 4-7 tell you about the mentality of rich businessmen and why is it sinful?
4.
  - a. What was special about the new moon (5), (see Jerome Biblical Commentary, Bible Dictionary, Num 28:11-15)?
  - b. How was the new moon like a Sabbath (see Lev 23:24)?
  - c. Discuss God's partiality toward the poor throughout Scripture (4), (compare Lk 14:12-14, etc.).
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Tim 6:11-16

Gospel: Lk 16:19-31

CCC: 2437-2442

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Amos 6:1, 4-7**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What is complacency (1)?
  - b. How does this affect the spiritual life or Gospel living?
  - c. Why do you think God will punish the people for their life of luxury (4), (see NAB footnote)?
4.
  - a. Discuss the evil of self-indulgence (4), (compare Lk 16:19-23 and Lk 21:34-36).
  - b. Discuss the meaning of verse 6.
  - c. What is “wanton revelry”, and what is its punishment (7)?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14

Gospel: Lk 17:5-10

CCC: 369-373; 1602-1617; 1643-1654

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. When did the prophet speak and what were the problems of his day (see NAB introduction & *The Sunday Readings*)?
  - b. About what is Habakkuk complaining (Hab 1:2), (see NAB footnote)?
  - c. To what “violence” is he referring?
4.
  - a. Compare the way the prophet talks to God (Hab 1:3) and the way you pray.
  - b. About what vision is the prophet talking in Hab 2:3 (compare Hab 1:5-11)?
  - c. Discuss the meaning of Hab 2:4 (see NAB footnote).
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Tim 2:8-13

Gospel: Lk 17:11-19

CCC: 2637-2643; 2402-2406

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Kgs 5:14-17**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What were the circumstances that led to this opening verse (14), (see 2 Kgs 5:1-13)?
  - b. Compare the ritual prescribed by Elisha in 2 Kgs 5:10 to the one expected by Naaman in verse 11-12 & explain why God commands such ridiculous acts (compare Num 21:8 and Wis 16:12).
  - c. Where and why does Jesus praise Naaman in the Gospel (see parallel passage as indicated in verse 14)?
4.
  - a. What does verse 15 tell you about Naaman (compare Lk 17:15-19)?
  - b. Why do you think Elisha refused the gift (16)?
  - c. What is the idea of bringing back two loads of earth (17), (see NAB footnote)?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Tim 3:14—4:2

Gospel: Lk 18:1-8

CCC: 2629-2636; 2742-2745

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ex 17:8-13**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. Whom did Amalek lead and why did they engage in battle with Israel (8), (see NAB footnote)?
  - b. What was the “staff of God” referred to by Moses (9), (compare Ex 4:2-5; 7:9-12)?
  - c. Why do you think Moses went to the top of the hill to pray (9), (compare Lk 9:28)?
4.
  - a. What was the significance of raised hands and the success this brought (11)?
  - b. What was the significance of Aaron & Hur supporting Moses’ hands (12), (compare Mt 18:19-20)?
  - c. What victories have you won through prayer?
  - d. What opportunities do you take to pray with others at home?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Tim 4: 6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Lk 18: 9-14

CCC: 2683-2691; 430-435

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
  
3.
  - a. What is Justice (12)?
  - b. What is favoritism?
  - c. How is God partial toward the weak and the oppressed (13), (compare Lk 6:20-21 and 24-25)?
4.
  - a. Why does God have a special care for orphans and widows (14)?
  - b. What do these symbolize?
  - c. Why does God hear those who serve him willingly (16), (compare 1 Jn 5:14 and NAB footnote)?
  - d. Discuss the power of the prayer of the lowly in verses 17-18.
  - e. Who are the lowly?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Thes 1:11—2:2

Gospel: Lk 19:1-10

CCC: 976-983; 1822-1829

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Wis 11:22—12:2**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
  
3.
  - a. Discuss the insight of the saints regarding the all-ness of God and the nothingness of creatures (22).
  - b. How is this connected with self-knowledge and humility?
  - c. If God can do all things, such as make saints out of us, what is lacking in us for this to happen (23)?
4.
  - a. Discuss how long it takes before the repentance God's mercy has in view can take place—how long-suffering God must be with each person.
  - b. Discuss your insights about God's love for all things he has made (24).
  - c. Discuss how God sustains all of creation from moment to moment and how that impresses you (25).
  - d. What implications are contained in the words, "you spare...because they are yours" (26)?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Thes 2:16—3:5

Gospel: Lk 20:27-38

CCC: 2566-2589; 1621-1654; 2443-2449

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Mac 7:1-2, 9-14**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. How are people “forced” in our days to sin against the Catholic faith (1)?
  - b. How many would be ready to die rather than sin against their faith (2)?
  - c. How can we strengthen ourselves for such moments of testing?
  - d. Discuss this early faith in the resurrection and compare it to other such passages in the Old Testament (9).
4.
  - a. If these people died for laws, how much more should we die for the person of Jesus and our faith?
  - b. From where did this bravery (10) and courage (12) come?
  - c. How could he regard such cruel suffering as nothing?
  - d. Why is belief in the resurrection so important (14)?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

### **33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Thes 3:7-12

Gospel: Lk 21:5-19

CCC: 1038-1041; 2729-2733

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Mal 3:19-20**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
3.
  - a. What is “the Day” (19), (compare Is 13:9; 34:8)?
  - b. What does “blazing like an oven” signify?
  - c. Why do you think fire is used to symbolize judgment?
4.
  - a. What form might this punishment, or purification, by “fire” take (compare Joel 2:1-11)?
  - b. What is meant by the expression “fear my name” (20)?
  - c. What is the “Sun of Justice with its healing rays” (compare Lk 1:78-79)?
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?

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### **CHRIST THE KING**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Col 1:12-20

Gospel: Lk 23:35-43

CCC: 2471-2492; 2855-2856; 651-67

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Sm 5:1-3**

1. What word, phrase, or sentence strikes you in this reading?
2. What do you find difficult to understand or need clarified?
  
3.
  - a. What tribes are represented by “Israel” in those days (1), (see Bible Dictionary)?
  - b. How can these northerners call David “your bone and your flesh”?
  - c. What happened to King Saul (2), (see 1 Sm 15 and 31)?
  
4.
  - a. Discuss David’s leadership under Saul (2), (see 1 Sm 18:5, 13-16, 30 and 1 Sm 19:8).
  - b. When did the Lord first anoint David to be shepherd of his people (2), (compare 1 Sm 16:1, 12-13)?
  - c. Discuss the meaning and purpose of the ceremony of anointing (3), (compare 1 Sm 16:13 and 2 Sm 2:4).
  
5. What is the good news for you in this reading? How will you apply it to your life and share it with others?