

Getting Ready for Chapter 16

Take Home



Trust and Prayer

God invites us into a relationship of trust and caring. We sustain that relationship through faith and prayer. The Old Testament story of Esther shows us that we can overcome even extraordinary challenges if we put our faith in God and pray for the strength to carry out his plan for us.

ACTIVITY

What's in a Word? Together, make a mobile that displays some words that exemplify the main ideas of this chapter, such as *faith*, *prayer*, and *trust*. Display the mobile in a prominent place in your home.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

As the General Intercessions are said, pray that you will be a courageous and trustworthy friend.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Monica
(333–387)

For seventeen years, Saint Monica prayed for her son's conversion to the Christian faith. Her persistence was rewarded. Augustine, later to be known as Saint Augustine, was baptized in 387. Saint Monica died later that same year.

Patron Saint of: wives and mothers

Feast Day: August 27



A Prayer for the Week

Even when we grow weary, Lord, give us the faith to trust in your goodness and compassion and to persist in our prayers. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Esther and the Virgin Mary Esther's name comes from the Persian word for "star." Esther was a Jew, but for a time she hid her Jewish identity. When King Xerxes of Persia met Esther, he made her his queen. In this role, Esther was able to intercede with the king to save the Jews from death according to a plot devised by the king's adviser, Haman. For Catholics, Esther is a model of virtue and courage. She is even seen as prefiguring the Virgin Mary in her beauty, chastity, and especially in her ability to intercede for others. Read how Esther saved the Jews in the Book of Esther 2—8.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in World History

Pope Pius XII During World War II, the Nazis, under the leadership of Adolph Hitler, killed more than 12 million people, including 6 million Jews. In Vatican City in Italy, Pope Pius XII did everything he could to resist and defeat Hitler. He worked to save the Jewish people, concealing many Jews in the Vatican and at Castelgondolfo, the papal summer home. He told bishops, priests, and nuns to help the Jewish people whenever they could and asked that convents and monasteries be opened to Jews. He gave Jewish people Vatican citizenship and helped them escape Europe.

At Pope Pius XII's death in 1958, Golda Meir, Israel's foreign minister, said, "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the pope was raised for its victims.... We mourn a great servant of peace."