

October Laity Minute

October is a full month on the UMW calendar. We acknowledge October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Other important days include World Communion Sunday, International Day of the Girl, and observance of the Children's Sabbath. However, there is one day not on the UMW calendar I think is worthy of mentioning.

October 15 is National I Love Lucy Day.

I'm sure many, if not most, of you have seen at least a few episodes. Whether you are an avid fan like me or not, you know this iconic show has stood the test of time. There's nothing like it and I dare to say never will be again. (Good thing she didn't get the role of Scarlett O'Hara or TV history may have been quite different. She auditioned for the role, but was turned down.)

You may remember some of the most famous scenes. One was from the "Job Switching" episode where Lucy and Ethel decided to prove that a job is easier than housework, so they went to work at a chocolate factory. The conveyor belt caused quite a bit of mayhem. Another iconic scene is from "Lucy's Italian Movie" where she takes a job in a vineyard stomping grapes in a vat. Or how about "Vitameatavegamin?" Enough said.

One of my favorite scenes of all time comes from the "Pioneer Women" episode where Lucy and Ethel revolt against housework and try to use modern conveniences to bake bread. You may recall the two of them having to use all their strength to knead the dough. It was so heavy it took both of them to get it back in the oven. Later, when Lucy smells what she thinks is fresh baked bread and thus goes to retrieve it from the oven, she is surprised by the bread which is so huge it attacks her and pins her against the kitchen cabinet. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RA3hc4P3qe8>)

I have always admired Lucy's boldness. She tried just about everything. She wasn't really scared of the consequences and her persistence was unmatched. Who else would make her own clothes out the carpet just to prove a point?! We all laughed at Lucy, but her character was actually much more complex.

I think we are seeing a complexity right now which, just as the "*I Love Lucy*" show, may also stand the test of time. Remember when Lucy threw the grapes? Remember more recently when there was no toilet paper? I realize our current environment is no laughing matter. "It's for real," as my students would say. There's no question it has caused unrest, pain, suffering, and a sense of fear. And while *I Love Lucy* didn't address anything as serious as a pandemic, she has left us with one golden, sacred thing: laughter.

Laughter is difficult to find it right now. Look on the news and you won't see much of it. Your social media feed may have a little, but unless you only follow some kind of account which only reports good news, laughter will be scarce. But, Lucy reminds me that there are still things to laugh at. There are still bright spots in this world and so many of them can make us laugh. Even a little giggle is worth it.

I hope you can find some laughter in your life. It's good for the soul and can see us through some trying and unsettling moments. Let's laugh as Lucy would want us to.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without the fear of the future.

~ Proverbs 31:25

