



# Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 19, 2018



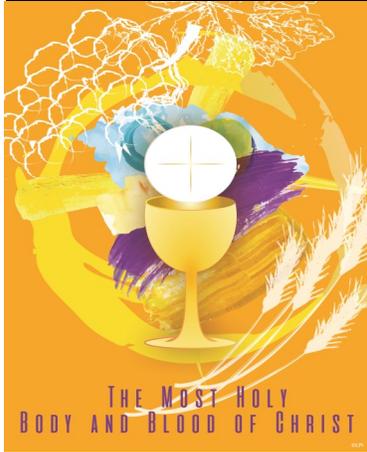
SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



***“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise Him up on the last day” (John 6:54).***

These words caused consternation and alarm among Jesus’ listeners, and with good reason. Jews were forbidden by the Law of Moses to drink the blood of animals, for blood was the symbol of divine life. Therefore, for Jesus to suggest that His blood was life was blasphemy and rather revolting, for it suggested cannibalism. But, for Christians, these words inspire hope. Our Lord’s will is to be united to us. Jesus knows how long and rugged the road to heaven can be. Therefore, He gives us the divine food of the Holy Eucharist, to strengthen us and sustain us. The Holy Eucharist will raise us up on the last day. This is a promise from Jesus Himself.

## ***Humanae Vitae, fifty years young***



As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, the papal encyclical wherein Blessed Pope Paul VI upheld the Church’s teaching concerning the regulation of birth and the moral means to do so, it dawned on me that many Catholics perhaps have never read this profound and beautiful document. So, over the course of the year, we will run this document in its entirety in our bulletin, so that it may win hearts and minds to the profundity of the Church’s teaching on this important matter.

- 1) Honored brothers and dear sons, health and apostolic benediction. The transmission of human life is a most serious role in which married couples collaborate freely and responsibly with God the Creator. It has always been a source of great joy to them, even though it sometimes entails many difficulties and hardships.

The fulfillment of this duty has always posed problems to the conscience of married people, but the recent course of human society and the concomitant changes have provoked new questions. The Church cannot ignore these questions, for they concern matters intimately connected with the life and happiness of human beings.

- 2) The changes that have taken place are of considerable importance and varied in nature. In the first place, there is the rapid increase in population which has made many fear that world population is going to grow faster than available resources, with the consequence that many families and developing countries would be faced with greater hardships. This can easily induce public authorities to be tempted to take even harsher measures to avert this danger. There is also the fact that not only working and housing conditions but the greater demands made both in the economic and educational fields pose a living situation in which it is frequently difficult these days to provide properly for a large family. [*To be continued*]

## **A great one-day pilgrimage**

Thank you to the youth in grades 1-6 and the chaperones who joined us for the pilgrimage last Friday up the Enchanted Highway, with stops at Saint Elizabeth Church of Lefor and Assumption Abbey. The day concluded with ice cream at the Dairy Barn, a perfect treat on a 100-degree day! God bless Kris Ehlis for lining up this faith-filled fun day; we are grateful for her hard work and efforts. I still hope the plans are in place for that sculpture of me along the Enchanted Highway. Some suggested putting my face on Mount Rushmore, but I’m a North Dakota boy and want to be memorialized here.



**MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE**

**Monday, August 20**

**7:30 AM SM—Communion Service**

**Tuesday, August 21**

**7:30 AM SM— Communion Service**

**6:00 PM SE Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00 PM SE—+Lorin Lucklum by Elven & Kathleen Kaufman**

**Wednesday, August 22**

**7:30AM SM— Living & Deceased Family Members of +Frank & +Seraphina Schmitt by a friend**

**Thursday, August 23**

**7:30 AM SM-Living & Deceased Family members of +Joseph & +Gertrude Schwartzbauer by Patty Flohr**

**Friday, August 24**

**7:30 AM SM— +Ardelle Kovar by SM Altar Guild**

**12-3:00 PM—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Saturday, August 25**

**8:30 AM SM—Saint Pius Verein Members by St. Pius Verein**

**5:00 PM SM—+Irene Benz by Cely & Robert Stagl**

**Sunday, August 26**

**8:30AM SE-+Steve & +Bertha Anton by Kathy & Duane Schwab**

**10:30AM SM—Pro Populo**

*Please Keep in Your Prayers:*

Chuck Brusich, Stephanie Geerts, Nate Hernandez, Andy Prokop, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Alice Candrian, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Linda Reisenauer, Rose Krebs (SE), Russ Lefor, Lori Lefor, Herbert Emmil, Reggie Gentz, Cindy Martin, Tim Theil, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Alyssa Binstock, Yvonne Fettig, Dale Reindel, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

**Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents:** Dan Frank, Aggie Wandler, Ken Stagl, Charlotte Krebs, Harvey Herberholz, Archie Jalbert, Benny Benz, Joan Binstock, Joe Wandler, Sylvia Koppinger, Leona Gordon, Joan Madler, Cecelia Jung, Donnella Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick, Dale Schroeder

**Our Deceased Loved Ones** +Darwin Schaefer, +James Gatzke, +Ed Koppinger, +Eleanor Keck, +Ardelle Kovar, +Eugenia Stagl, +Nick Lenhardt, +Mike Urlacher, +Keith Herold, +Carla Rohan, +Alvin Rotering, +Jeanne Kovar, +Bridget Urlacher, +Laura Grundhauser, +Florian Urlacher, +Paul Schiwal, +LeRoy Jacobs, +Victor Roller, +John Herold, +Viola Martin

**On the Lighter Side**

A little boy opened the old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he turned them. Then something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old oak leaf, that had been pressed between the pages. "Mama, look what I found", the boy called out. "What have you got there?", his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "It's Adam's suit!"

**Help wanted**

We are still looking for a chairman for the Saint Mary's Fall Festival. Please know that I will gladly assist with the duties, especially on the days leading up to the Fall Festival. I can hold out looking for a chairman until mid-September, but if no one comes forward, we may have to eliminate the gambling aspects of that day (BINGO, pull tabs, and Black Jack) which require most of the effort on the part of the Fall Festival chairman. Let's hope someone will come forward to help us keep the Fall Festival vibrant and exciting. A Fall Festival without BINGO could signal the end times!



**St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments August 25 & 26, 2018**

MINISTRY	Saturday 5PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Richard Wandler	Jon Wert
Mass Servers	Katie S./Molly W.	Leah E./Addison F.
Eucharistic Ministers	Martina S./Richard W.	Gordon S./Susan S.
Gifts	Leonard & Kathy G.	Helen Koppinger
Rosary Leader	Martina Stagl	Ann Wandler
Greeters	Nicholas D./Eileen L.	Jake Wolf
Homebound Minister	Toni J.	Toni J.

**Collection Report St. Mary's August 4 & 5, 2018/August 11 &12, 2018**

Adult		Youth
\$ 1456.00/\$1036.00	Envelopes	\$ 27.00/\$32.00
\$ 160.00/\$61.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 1643.00/\$1129.00	Total	\$
\$ 1643.00/\$2772.00	Monthly Total	

**St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments August 26, 2018**

Lector	Stetson
Mass Servers	Bailey
Eucharistic Ministers	Arlene & Trish
Gifts	Mary & Stockton
Greeters	Michele & Curt
Ushers	Arlen & Dustin

**Collection Report St. Elizabeth's August 5, 2018; August 12, 2018**

Adult		Youth
\$ 100.00/ \$255.00	Envelopes	\$ 2.00/\$2.00
\$ 66.00/ \$119.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 168.00/\$376.00	Total	\$
\$ 301.51	Votive candles	\$

### **Difficult Moral Issues, “*Why is the Church against capital punishment?*”**

When we hear news stories about domestic terrorists who kill and mutilate people (children included); or of pedophiles who abuse and kill their victims; or of robbers who kill innocent victims in their homes or places of business, our first reaction is to demand retribution. Put them to death! An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth! More and more as a nation, we are bringing back capital punishment; our state is one of the few without it. Even Catholics in the United States are overwhelmingly in favor of capital punishment and ignore the Church’s teachings on this moral issue. Is the Catholic Church thus out of step in regards to capital punishment? No, if one prayerfully considers aspects often misunderstood or overlooked as they pertain to the morality of capital punishment.

First, many people in support of the death penalty often use the Bible to bolster their position. They will quote from Exodus 21:23-25, Leviticus 24:19-20; or Deuteronomy 19:21, the well-known “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” passages to demand justice for the victims of heinous crimes. Interestingly, they never quote from the New Testament. Why? Because in the Gospels, Jesus radically criticized the law of retaliation: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth’, but I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:38, 44). Despite the evil of those who commit horrible crimes, we as Christians have to break the cycle of violence; we don’t take one life for another life. Every person, as sinful as he or she may be, is still created in the image and likeness of God and must be loved. This is not an option, but a command from the Lord.

Second, capital punishment may put to death innocent victims. We are well aware that our criminal justice system is not perfect. Sadly, because of shoddy investigations, biased juries, incompetent lawyers, and dishonest witnesses, many people have been unjustly accused of crimes, including those crimes worthy of capital punishment. Did you know that since capital punishment was reintroduced in the mid 1970’s, one hundred fifty people on death row have been acquitted or have had their charges dropped? This is a staggering number! Sadly, what if many people who were put to death by capital punishment were innocent victims who didn’t get their second chance in court? For this reason, capital punishment should be abolished, because we never know with one hundred percent certitude the guilt or innocence of people on death row. As people who live in a Christian nation, we never want innocent blood on our hands.

Thirdly, many people on death row are guilty of their heinous crimes, by their own admission, so why not just save the taxpayer’s money and put them to death? Why should we have our tax dollars pay for these evil felons who brought so much sorrow into the lives of their victims and their families? Well, because we hope and pray for their conversion and the more time they spend in prison may bring about their conversion. The Church has had many saints who were once evil people. Saint Paul had Saint Stephen put to death; Saint Vladimir of Kiev used to sacrifice humans to his pagan gods; and Saint Ignatius of Loyola went to war for love of money and glory. Yet, God called them out of their spiritual darkness and they became fervent witnesses of the love of Jesus Christ. These saints remind us to never place limits on the power of God’s grace. God desires all of His children to return to Him, including those on death row. If we call for an immediate end to their lives, could we impede a conversion process and thus the eternal loss of a soul? Despite our anger and resentment towards those on death row, deep down we know in our hearts that the loss of a soul forever in hell is the greatest tragedy of all.

Lastly, some may challenge the Church’s teachings on capital punishment by pointing to the Church’s support of capital punishment in the past. Isn’t this just hypocrisy? Not really, because with theological and pastoral reflection, the Church has come to the realization that the concerns of the past are not necessarily those of today. Perhaps there was a need for capital punishment in the past to defend society, especially on the fringes of society, where lawlessness and mayhem were daily realities. Capital punishment was a means to bring stability and order to great chaos. But, with great advancements in governance and in the penal system, especially in the first world nations, these dire situations of lawlessness and threats to the fabric of society are moot points. This has led Pope Francis to promulgate the Church’s complete rejection of capital punishment and we should thank God for the advancements in society which have made this possible.

Catholics may question the Church’s teaching on capital punishment, but they should be careful about not allowing the emotions of this issue to cloud the heart and mind. Ultimately, we must remember that God’s mercy far outweighs His justice. This is the foundation of the spiritual understanding of the Cross of Jesus Christ. When our thoughts are of vengeance towards people on death row, think of how Jesus forgave us in His great mercy when we did not deserve it. Now, extend that same gift towards those you believe are beyond mercy.

### **A point to ponder**

*At death, we leave behind all that we have and we take with us all that we are.*