



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 26, 2018

SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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Master,
to whom shall we go?
You have the words
of eternal life.

“For this reason, I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my heavenly Father. As a result of this, many of His disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him.”

Many disciples found Jesus' Eucharistic teaching (cf. John, chapter six) too hard to accept, so they left Him. Jesus thus asks His apostles, “Well, do you want to leave me too?” That same question is put to us today. Why remain with Jesus? Why do we believe in Him? There are all kinds of studies written about why people leave churches. What is not often said is that those who leave had never come to a real faith in Jesus Christ, the type of faith that enables a person to look past the humanness, the sinfulness of the Church. For many, faith is dependent on the wrong reasons. True faith in Jesus Christ can be hard, because real faith has implications. If we accept that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and comes from the Father to bring us salvation, then there will be an impact upon every choice we make. The irony is that though difficult, this is the faith that gives us what we seek . . . happiness.

Humanae Vitae (continued)

2b. Also noteworthy is a new understanding of the dignity of woman and her place in society, of the value of conjugal love in marriage and the relationship of conjugal acts to this love.

But, the most remarkable development of all is to be seen in man's stupendous progress in the domination and rational organization of the forces of nature to the point that he is endeavoring to extend this control over every aspect of his own life---over his body, over his mind and emotions, over his social life, and even over the laws that regulate the transmission of life.

New Questions

3. The new state of things gives rise to many questions. Granted the conditions of life today and taking into account the relevance of married love to the harmony and mutual fidelity of husband and wife, would it be right to review the moral norms in force till now, especially when it is felt that these can be observed only with the greatest difficulty, sometimes only by heroic effort?

Moreover, if one were to apply here the so-called principle of totality, could it not be accepted that the intention to have a less prolific but more rationally planned family might transform an action which renders natural processes infertile into a licit and provident control of birth? Could it not be admitted, in other words, that procreative finality applies to the totality of married life rather than to each single act? A further question is whether, because people are more conscious today of their responsibilities, the time has come when the transmission of life should be regulated by their intelligence and will rather than through the specific rhythms of their own bodies.

Changes coming to the bulletin

We ask for your patience as we change the format, style, and content of this week's bulletin and future bulletins as well. The reason for this is that I decided to end our contract with LPI, which printed our bulletins and sent them back to us to be distributed on the weekends. I inherited this contract and I had my concerns about it, and these came to pass. On Monday, I received a bill from LPI for \$2,341! In the contract, they have to make \$7,000 in advertising fees (the ads on the back page) and if they don't get enough sponsors, we pay the difference, this being the figure above. I am convinced that we can do our own bulletin (with our own ad campaign) and save on costs. Know that for those who currently have ads in the bulletin, we will honor them until February, 2019, to be faithful to our commitment. We will keep you informed as we continue forward on this matter. In the future, you may take out an ad wishing me best wishes on my birthday, with subtitles of my favorite German foods as potential gifts. What a great way to improve our parish bulletin!

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, August 27

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, August 28

7:30 AM SM— +Keith Herold by Ken & Martina Stagl

6:00 PM SE Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE—+Paul Schiwal by Francis & Shirley Schiwal

Wednesday, August 29

7:00 PM SM— +Bridget Urlacher by Richard Stagl

Thursday, August 30

7:30 AM SM—+Luella Emmil by Family

Friday, August 31

7:30 AM SM— +Darwin Schaefer by Robert & Cely Stagl

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

Saturday, September 1

8:30 AM SM—+Luella Emmil by Family

5:00 PM SM—+Eugenia Stagl by SM Altar Guild

Sunday, September 2

8:30AM SE—+Paul Schiwal by +Keith & Deb Herold

10:30AM SM—Pro Populo

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Dan Frank, 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: 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

A point to ponder

A critical spirit is like poison ivy---it only takes a little contact to spread its poison.

Serving others through the gift of music

The world-renowned Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will be performing a humanitarian concert, September 15, 2018, at Trinity High School Auditorium, 810 Empire Road, Dickinson, ND. They not only focus on music and evangelism, but are a mission group who work to help the widows, orphans, and others affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine. This is a free will donation concert sponsored by the Ukrainian Cultural Institute, Dickinson, ND. To help with sponsorship or for more information, please contact UCI at 701-483-1486.

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments September 1 & 2, 2018

| MINISTRY | Saturday 5PM | Sunday 10:30AM |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Lector | Connie Jalbert | Kris Ehlis |
| Mass Servers | Leonard G./Zack J. | Matthew B./Brock E. |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Bonnie J./Toni J. | Betty H./Larry H. |
| Gifts | Jim Krebs | Helen Koppinger |
| Rosary Leader | Martina Stagl | Susan Schmitt |
| Greeters | Vickie Herberholz | Helen Koppinger |
| Homebound Minister | Reenie T. | Reenie T. |

Collection Report St. Mary's August 18 & 19, 2018

| Adult | | Youth |
|------------|---------------|----------|
| \$ 2626.00 | Envelopes | \$ 13.00 |
| \$ 114.00 | Loose Plate | \$ |
| \$ 2753.00 | Total | \$ |
| \$ 5525.00 | Monthly Total | \$ 72.00 |

St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments September 2, 2018

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Lector | Elvie |
| Mass Servers | Elizabeth |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Darrell & Arlene |
| Gifts | Amanda & Dustin |
| Greeters | Trish |
| Ushers | Elvie & Dennis W. |

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's August 19, 2018

| Adult | | Youth |
|------------|---------------|---------|
| \$ 540.00 | Envelopes | \$ 2.00 |
| \$ 136.00 | Loose Plate | \$ |
| \$ 678.00 | Total | \$ |
| \$ 1222.00 | Monthly Total | \$ 6.00 |

Difficult Moral Issues, “*Is wealth a sin?*”

In the life of the Church, poverty and possessions has always been a topic of great debate. Many Catholics laud a life of simplicity, even poverty, believing that Jesus both lived and commended this way of life. Did Jesus not tell the rich young man to go and sell everything that he had and then to come and follow Him? Jesus also went on to say that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God. The Lord even called the poor blessed. Clearly, this is the way of life He wants all of His followers to embrace. Well, not so fast.

Jesus called many rich people to Himself and never commanded them to divest of all their wealth, such as Zacchaeus and Joseph of Arimathea. Jesus also relied on people of means to supply for His needs and those of His apostles as they made their way through Galilee and Judea. In addition, many saints in the life of the Church were very wealthy, including our beloved American saint, Saint Katherine Drexel, who inherited millions from her parents. So, wealth does not seem to bar one from being a devout Christian and an heir to the Kingdom, if one understands its proper role in the Christian life.

Wealth is a gift from God to be used in serving the least among us. Some wealthy people try to use Sacred Scripture to justify their hoarding of wealth and their disregard for the poor. They note that Jesus said, “You will always have the poor among you”, so its just part of our world that we cannot change; poverty has and always will exist. Sadly, their clenched fists have led them to close their hearts as well. What Jesus is saying is that the existence of wealth provides an ongoing ministry to alleviate poverty. Whether due to inheritance, educational opportunities, family stability, or just good luck, some people are wealthy and this is a divine blessing. Like every blessing, which is a pure gift, God expects us to share it with others. Some people are wealthy so they can learn how to be charitable and generous while others are poor so that they can learn humility and gratitude. Being wealthy is therefore not a sin, but dying wealthy is, because earthly wealth is a means to serve the poor and our soul in the process.

All Christians have a duty to serve the poor. We may assume that this is a duty for the “one percenters”, those rich people who live in mansions and fly around in their personal jets to exotic vacation places. But, wealth is pretty relative. Compared to a laborer in the factories of Vietnam, a subsistent farmer in sub-Saharan Africa, or a beggar in the streets of New York, most of us are fabulously wealthy. We have a home, a vehicle, a fridge filled with food, and plenty of clothing. Most of the world’s poor would believe that we live like kings! We Christians in the United States have a daily challenge before us: we can’t give into the temptations wealth presents to us, in our stable and wealthy nation. We must always act compassionately towards the poor. We can shirk both of these duties and blame the poor for their condition (they are lazy, feckless, etc.) but the words of Jesus cannot be ignored, “What you did to one of these least of my brethren, you did to Me.”

Again, wealth is not a sin, but when it becomes our god and leads us to ignore the God of love, Jesus Christ, and His command to share our wealth in His name, then wealth is a great evil. Use your wealth wisely; what a pity to gain the whole world and lose one’s soul in the process.

On the lighter side

The pastor came to the pulpit and announced, “My good people, I have three homilies in my hand: a five minute one for \$100; a twenty minute one for \$50; and an hour long one for \$20. We will first take up the collection and then let that determine which homily I will give.”

