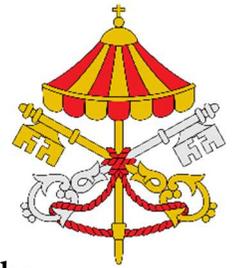




Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 10, 2020



Notes on the Gospel

Jesus told his followers: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God and believe in Me. In my Father's house, there are many rooms reserved for you. I will go to prepare a place for you, and I will come back again and I will take you with ME, so where I am, you might also be. Where I go, you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where You go." Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

As God dwells infinitely, so does his kingdom. There are "many rooms" where one can stay in the Kingdom. The analogy of rooms in the Father's house, however, does not refer to space, but to relationship. The Father's "house" is his extended family. Like Jesus, we are God's children. And he invites all people into his family.

Before he could invite believers to enter the Kingdom, Jesus must go before them to prepare the way. The way to the Kingdom was the cross. Throughout John's gospel, Jesus foreshadowed and prophesied his death. And his death would bring new, eternal life.

Even though His followers would walk the same road of suffering as Jesus, He would return to travel with them as a companion and bring them safely back to him. His return referred to his immediate assistance through his Spirit and at the Second Coming. To those who lived with Jesus and his community, the way of suffering to glory seemed obvious.

Thomas didn't know the way. Here, Jesus opened with his famous line: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." In context, we should place the emphasis on the "way." Jesus was the means to Father. The key word in the Jesus' declaration was "truth." "Truth" connected "way" and "life". Jesus was the "true" way to life with the Father - "truth" bridged "way" and "life."

When Jesus said "I AM...the TRUTH...," He asserted his divinity. The phrase "I AM..." echoed the name of God revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14-15. The "TRUTH" revealed the only reality that mattered in the world. Any belief that detracted from Jesus was false. Any choice away from a life as a follower was a false choice. For the Christian, Jesus was the "TRUTH" because he was God!

In the phrase, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," Jesus declared that He was the only means to the Father and he was the very presence of God on earth. Christians professed an adage that summed up the Jesus' phrase well: "Wherever God acts, God is." In Jesus, God acts because God is.

The followers of the Jesus knew him because they lived with him, ate with him, argued with him. However, experience can breed disbelief. They knew what Jesus did in the past. They did not know what he could do in the future. At one point in time, He would reveal the impossible, the very face of the Father.



PILGRIMAGES TO THE BASILICA

The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption welcomes all visitors encouraging them to come, pray, and enjoy our beautiful church. If you are a member of a group who would like to tour our Basilica or make a spiritual pilgrimage, please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:



- June - 23, - Bishop's dinner for priests 6:00 – 9:00 pm.
June - 24, - Diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica
Sept. - 9, - CWC Convention Keynote speaker

REVERENTIAL QUIET IN THE BASILICA

It is an ancient tradition in the Church to have a reverential quiet tone in a Catholic Church – especially in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. More and more, this tradition is being ignored in the Basilica. Sometimes, people are trying to pray before or after Mass – we need to respect them. Please observe a quiet tone when you are present in the Basilica.



DECEASED PRIESTS OF DIOCESE

On Wednesday, we remember the 7th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Paul Metzger. May God grant peace and eternal memory to Msgr. Metzger and all deceased priests who served the people of our Diocese of Steubenville.

ANNUAL PARISH/SHARE CAMPAIGN

The Twenty-eighth Annual Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign has begun. This year the Diocesan goal is \$1,340,000.00. Our new Parish goal is \$102,711.52. In addition to funding the Diocese, the D/PSC provides an opportunity for us to raise funds for our own Parish needs. After the Parish goal is reached, all other funds are returned to the Parish in the form of rebates. At the present time, \$86,704.00 has been pledged. 27% of parishioners have participated in the campaign.

I am sincerely grateful to you for your gift in the past, and I ask you to support this annual campaign again this year. I urge you to be part of the mission of the Church. May God bless you for all you have done in the past and for all that, with God's grace you will do now and in the future.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT THE BASILICA



The Eucharist is Jesus Christ Himself, and He invites us to a personal visit with Him in our basilica. In the Eucharist, Jesus fulfills His promise: "Behold I am with you always, even to the end of the world." Eucharistic adoration is the most powerful means that we have, to transform our lives and the life of our parish. Adoration provides the opportunity to spend time in the presence of the very Son of God.

Silent Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament brings many riches. When we place ourselves in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament we place ourselves before the gaze of Christ who loves us and wants us to know that love. God comes rushing up to welcome and embrace us, and we need to let our heart welcome His extravagant, self-risking love that flows from heaven. In the silence of the Eucharist we enter the silence of the Father from whom the Word eternally springs. This is what Adoration means. Come and visit the Lord in Adoration this Wednesday and/or Friday.



GRATITUDE FOR YOUR DONATION AT THIS TIME

Thank you to all of you have been sending in your weekly offerings either by mail, direct deposit, or by simply dropping off your offering at the rectory. Your efforts are very much appreciated since it really helps our parish to meet our church administrative expenses. God bless you for the love that you show to our parish.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, May 12, Saints Nereus & Achilleus (Martyrs)

Nereus & Achilleus were martyred at the end of the first century. They were Praetorian soldiers who converted to Christianity. They were beheaded during the reign of Trajan.

Wednesday, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima

Three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917 saw the Blessed Virgin Mary. The message was conversion of heart, repentance for sin, and prayer – especially the Rosary.

Thursday, May 14, Saint Matthias (Apostle)

Matthias was chosen to replace Judas. He was martyred in Jerusalem and is mentioned in the Roman Canon.

Friday, May 15, Saint Isidore

Isidore was a layman whose wife is also a saint. He was a farm laborer associated with miracles.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

506 4th STREET • MARIETTA OH 45750
(740) 373-3643
2020



Dear Parishioners,

Jesus lived and died for one reason: to show everyone the face of the Father. When He revealed his Father's face in the crucifixion, Jesus invited everyone to a reconciliation with God, to a love relationship with the Father, and to a sharing in God's very life. In this way, Jesus shows us how to be holy, how to reveal the face of the Father to others.

In the moment of His crucifixion, Jesus' followers saw the face of a loving Father in the self-giving of his Son. By gazing upon the crucifixion in faith, the followers of Jesus saw the face of the Father. They knew him. The power of the Father through Jesus presented the beginning for faith. One could see the results of this power in great miracles and mighty deeds. But the power of the Father resulted in something greater, the self-giving love of the follower. In the love of the disciple, the world saw the face of the Father and it could now see the intimate union of the Father and the Son.

The declaration of Jesus that he is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," and his reference to the "works" that he and his people do, can be effectively summarized by saying that Jesus is *the Way* precisely *because* he is truth and life. The Son of God came into the world to destroy the works of the devil" (1 Jn. 3:8), and as John 8 reveals, those works are lies and murder. Jesus, the Way, overcomes those works precisely by being the Truth (undoing the devil's lies) and the Life (undoing the devil's works of death.)

Sincerely in the Risen Lord,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

Evangelizing the Closed-Minded

Do you know someone who isn't exactly hostile to God and religion, but just doesn't seem to care much about them one way or the other? Such a person exhibits religious indifference: the failure to think seriously about religion and, accordingly, to give God his due. This is a general definition, but in real life indifference occurs in a variety of forms and to varying degrees. One common form of indifference involves a failure to take religion seriously due to disbelief in a personal, present God. Such disbelief leads the indifferentist to treat all religious beliefs and behaviors as absurd since God—whatever he may be—cannot know (or care) what we do in this life. This radical closed-mindedness towards religion that results from such skepticism is called closed indifference. Not every unbeliever is a closed indifferentist. Some skeptics take religious claims very seriously. This was notably evident in the twentieth century, before the rise of the New Atheism.... Catholics everywhere have found the Aristotelean approach to arguing for God—especially as developed later by St. Thomas Aquinas—to be deeply compelling.... [U]nlike the new atheists, I take scholarship seriously. I have written that *The God Delusion* made me ashamed to be an atheist and I meant it. Trying to understand how God could need no cause, Christians claim that God exists necessarily. I have taken the effort to try to understand what that means. The New Atheist movement is ignorant of such claims and positively contemptuous of those who even try to understand them, let alone believe them. Thus, like a first-year under-graduate, he can happily go around asking loudly, "What caused God?" as though he had made some momentous philosophical discovery.

How do we awaken the closed indifferentists? The solution could be as simple as re-introducing arguments for God's existence and inviting the spiritually indifferent into a serious discussion. It could be that many closed indifferentists have simply never heard a proper explanation of such proofs before. "The great majority of naturalist philosophers have an unjustified belief that naturalism is true and unjustified belief that theism (or supernaturalism) is false." We might also remind closed indifferentists of the costs of their beliefs. Many skeptics are strict materialists, for example—they believe in nothing outside of physical reality. This obviously rules out God, angels, and the like. But this also means that mental thoughts, for instance, amount to nothing more than a kind of secretion of the brain. It also means that we have, to quote biologist Anthony Cashmore, no more free will than a bowl of sugar. This calls into question whether we can really be responsible for our actions—a line of reasoning most closed indifferentists probably haven't considered. Since God has placed in our hearts a hunger for him and his truth, I would like to think that, deep down, every human being has an interest in religious questions—like those regarding the meaning of life, morality, and life after death. Our evangelical task, therefore, is first and foremost to show that we are willing to take the indifferentist's thoughts and questions seriously and, second, to be prepared to give a compelling account for the hope that is within us. We plant the seeds. God takes care of the rest. Want to help the spiritually indifferent people in your life? Matt's forthcoming book, *Just Whatever*, can help!

Murdered Nigerian seminarian was killed

- for announcing gospel, killer says



A man claiming to have killed the murdered Nigerian seminarian Michael Nnadi has given an interview in which he says he executed the aspiring priest because he would not stop announcing the Christian faith in captivity.

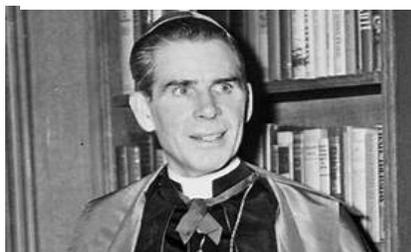
Mustapha Mohammed, who is currently in jail, gave a telephone interview to the Nigerian newspaper [Daily Sun](#) on Friday. He took responsibility for the murder because Nnadi, 18 years old, “continued preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ” to his captors. According to the newspaper, Mustapha praised Nnadi’s “outstanding bravery,” and that the seminarian “told him to his face to change his evil ways or perish.”

Nnadi was kidnapped by gunmen from Good Shepherd Seminary in Kaduna on January 8, along with three other students. The seminary, home to some 270 seminarians, is located just off the Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria Express Way. Mustapha, 26, identified himself as the leader of a 45-member gang that preyed along the highway.

On the evening of the abduction, gunmen, disguised in military camouflage, broke through the fence surrounding the seminarians' living quarters and opened fire. They stole laptops and phones before kidnapping the four young men.

Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama of Abuja called on Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari to address the violence and kidnappings in a homily March 1 at a Mass with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria. “We need to have access to our leaders; president, vice president. We need to work together to eradicate poverty, killings, bad governance and all sorts of challenges facing us as a nation,” Kaigama said.

Other Christian villages have been attacked, farms set ablaze, vehicles carrying Christians attacked, men and women have been killed and kidnapped, and women have been taken as sex slaves and tortured—a “pattern,” he said, of targeting Christians.



“There is an excuse for some anxiety today, but no one has a right to be without hope. Yet the prophets of gloom abound, and the disciples of hope are few.”

— Ven. Fulton J. Sheen

NY archdiocese prays for repose of attempted arsonist after suicide



The Archdiocese of New York has offered prayer for the repose of the soul of Marc Lamparello, who committed suicide earlier this month. Lamparello had tried to enter St. Patrick's Cathedral in April 2019 with four gallons of gasoline, two cans of lighter fluid, and two lighters, but was stopped by security and then arrested. He was charged with attempted arson.

"Every suicide is a tragedy. We pray for the consolation of his family and loved ones, and entrust his soul to the infinite love and mercy of God. May he rest in peace," Joseph Zwilling, director of communications for the New York archdiocese, said.

After his early release from prison, Lamparello was unable to receive psychiatric treatment at a hospital in New Jersey because the coronavirus pandemic had disrupted the mental health system. The month without treatment was a critical time, his family said. "The hospital dropped the ball tremendously," said his mother Dolores Lamparello, according to the New York Post. "They did nothing. My son went a whole month without any treatment whatsoever. They cost my son his life."

Lamparello was caught trying to jump off the George Washington Bridge, when he was stopped by the police. He was then taken to Bergen, where he was committed to a psychiatric ward for four days and the dosage to his antipsychotic medication was lowered. He jumped off the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge April 17, and his corpse was found that afternoon in New York Harbor.

Can Catholics Believe in Astrology & Horoscopes?



the Church Actually Teaches

"All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to 'unveil' the future.

Consulting **horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums** all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. **They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone.**" (2116)

Santa Marta Saturday: Pope Prays for Politicians Coping with Pandemic

Pope Francis prayed for government leaders, heads of state, legislators, mayors, heads of regions on Saturday morning during Mass at the Casa Santa Marta, according to the report published by *Vatican News*. He prayed that the "Lord might help them and grant them strength because their work is not easy. When there are differences among them", he prayed, "may they understand that in moments of crisis they must be very united for the good of their people because unity is superior to conflict".



Saint Thomas More – A Man for All Seasons

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in its doctrinal note “On some questions regarding the participation of Catholics in political life” (2002) said about St. Thomas More: “[He] gave witness by his martyrdom to the inalienable dignity of the human conscience. Though subjected to various forms of psychological pressure, Saint Thomas More refused to compromise, never forsaking the constant fidelity to legitimate authority and institutions which distinguished him; he taught by his life and his death that ‘man cannot be separated from God, nor politics from morality.’”

'We entrust to her all our fears': US Bishops reconsecrate country to Mary



Dioceses across the United States and Canada joined together on May 1 to reconsecrate themselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary in an act of united prayer for delivery from the coronavirus pandemic. Arch-bishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, led the American bishops in a liturgy broadcast from the cathedral of Los Angeles on Friday afternoon.

Bishops across both countries were encouraged to participate via live stream and to encourage the faithful of their dioceses to do the same. Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto led the bishops of Canada in their own prayers of consecration earlier on Friday morning.

“Today, we ask our Blessed Mother to turn her eyes of mercy towards us – to help her children in this time of trial, when many are dying and our faith is being tested. We ask her to intercede with her Son, to protect us and deliver us from this evil of the coronavirus,” said Gomez on Friday at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Gomez said Mary has always accompanied the United States even before the country was incorporated, and that in “this difficult hour” it was once again time to renew this consecration. “We entrust to her motherly heart, all our sufferings and anxieties, all our fears for the future,” said the archbishop.

The United States was first consecrated to Mary in 1792, by Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore. Carroll was the first Catholic bishop in the United States. In 1847, the consecration was renewed, and under the title of the Immaculate Conception Mary was named as the Patroness of the United States of America. As Mary was the first person to be consecrated to Jesus Christ by virtue of being His mother and submitting fully to His will, “today, we ask God to give to us that same faith, that same courage,” said Gomez. “We ask His mercy and pardon. We ask Him to purify us and strengthen us to follow Jesus in seeking His holiness and His Kingdom,” he added.

Mary, said Gomez, teaches the world about how to trust in God’s plan, and to open their hearts to Jesus. “So,” he said, “let us give our hearts to Jesus, through the heart of his mother. All for Jesus through Mary. May she who is the Mother of God and Queen of the Angels, continue to guide the whole Church in America,” said Gomez. “May we keep in our hearts what she told us: that God has done great things for us, and His mercy is from generation to generation.”

Pope Expressed Closeness to Pandemic Caregivers

Pope Francis on May 3, 2020, repeated his closeness to caregivers during the coronavirus pandemic and stressed the need for international unity and cooperation. "Once again I would like to express my closeness to the COVID-19 sick, to all those that dedicate themselves to their care and to all those that are suffering in any way by the pandemic," Pope Francis said. "At the same time, I wish to support and encourage the international collaboration that is being activated with various initiatives, to answer in an adequate and effective way the grave crisis we are living.

"It's important, in fact, to put together the scientific capacities, in a transparent and selfless way, to find vaccines and treatments, and to guarantee universal access to the essential technologies that enable every infected person, in every part of the world, to receive the necessary health care."
