

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 12, 2020

Notes on the Gospel



Jesus told parables to explain many things about God's kingdom. He said, "There was a farmer who threw seeds around to plant grain in his fields. As he threw the seeds around, some of them fell on the path where the farmer walked. The birds came and gobbled all of it up. Other seed fell on rocks only covered with a little soil. They quickly sprouted because the soil was so thin. When the sun came up, it dried the new plants out since they did not have long enough roots to get water. Other seeds fell on ground which also had thorn seedlings. The thorn plants grew so quickly that the grain seeds could not grow. But some seeds fell on good soil. And the seeds produced grain, one hundred times, sixty times, and thirty times more than what the farmer planted.

The parable of the sower and the seed shocked Jesus' audience for wasteful planting and the abundant harvest. Ancient people saw waste as an abuse of the rich. When they discussed economics, most ancient people agreed on two points. First, there was only a limited amount of wealth in the world. Second, God willed the distribution of that wealth within a rigid social class system.

Imagine the audience's attitude toward waste. They would recycle any useful object and pick up any useful seed so they could replant it in good soil. Yet the farmer in the parable threw seed around without thought.

In the end, however, the harvest vindicated the farmer's sowing practices. When most people gained yields of two to five times the amount of grain planted, the farmer in the parable gained 30 to 100 times! The yield boggled the mind of the ancients.

Jesus considered this parable important enough to give it two emphatic statements: "Look!" at the beginning and "Those who have ears, listen!" at the end. Why? To emphasize the blessings of God's Kingdom. God's blessings seemed as irrational to Jesus' audience as they do today. God blessed the wicked with riches while the good suffer. Yet, the suffering of the good led to much greater blessings. Such was God's Kingdom.

Like any good story, the parables of Jesus had many levels of meaning. Jesus interpreted this parable for the missionary ministry of the apostles. Jesus viewed the sower as the missionary preaching to the crowds. Some in the crowd reject the message outright (like seeds on the hardened path). Others receive the message but are immature and quickly lose interest in the face of opposition (like the seeds on rocky soil which the sun burnt). A third group become Christians but never enjoy spiritual growth, since worries of the world get in the way (like the seeds sown with thorn weeds). The last group grows abundantly in Christ, since they willingly place themselves at risk (like seeds in a deep, rich soil that is turned over and over). Jesus meant his parables to shock and befuddle his audience for a reason. He told parables to make his audience think. Applied to our modern life, the parable of the sower and the seed still poses a challenge.



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:



- July - 26, - Bishop offers the 10:00 am. Mass
- June - 15, - LEAC School meeting - 6:00 pm.
- Aug. - 12, - RCIA Inquiry meeting 7:00 pm.
- Sept. - 9, - CWC Mass (Bishop & Keynote speaker – 10:00 am Mass (Basilica)
- Oct. - 23, - Closing of the Eucharistic Congress & the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese (Bishop)
- Nov. - 8, - Diocesan Women Religious Celebration
- Nov. - 22, - Marriage Anniversary Mass (Noon - Bishop
- Mar. - 20, - DCCW Lenten Day of Spirituality for Women

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

Today we remember the 16th anniversary of the death of Fr. Ashley Pettis. On Thursday, we remember the 19th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Patrick Maher. On Saturday, we remember the 47th anniversary of the death of Fr. Robert Clouston. May God grant peace and eternal rest to them and all deceased priests who have served the people of our Diocese of Steubenville.



Perpetual Help Devotions on Monday

On Monday evening at 6:15 pm., Perpetual Help Devotions will be celebrated. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this devotion. Perpetual Help devotions are the official devotion celebrated in this Basilica. We thank all parishioners who regularly attend the devotion.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT THE BASILICA

Jesus Christ Himself invites us to a personal visit with Him in our basilica. 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 experience that love. In the silence of the Eucharist we enter the silence of the Father from whom the Word eternally springs.

Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament is making Jesus the very center of our lives and the very center of our Parish. Jesus stays with us in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh us in mind, in heart and in spirit.

Take advantage of Eucharistic Adoration which takes place at our Basilica. You will never regret the time you spent. This is what Adoration means. Come and visit the Lord in Adoration this Wednesday and/or Friday.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday, July 13, Saint Henry

Henry II along with his wife assisted the poor. As emperor, he respected the Church's freedom, fostering ecclesiastical and monastic reform. He founded the See of Bamberg as a center to the Slavic people. He died in 1024.

Tuesday July 14, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (Virgin)

Kateri died in 1680 at the age of 24. She led a life of austerity and love in spite of ridicule and abuse. She is called the "Lily of the Mohawks". She is the first native American to be canonized.

Wednesday July 15, Saint Bonaventure (Bishop & Doctor)

Bonaventure died in 1274. He was a cardinal, and authored many biblical commentaries and many spiritual treatises. He is known as the "Seraphic Doctor".

Thursday July 16, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

At the beginning of the 13th century, the Order of Carmelites had their beginning under the title of 'St. Mary of Mt. Carmel'. Today, the Carmelites number 1,915.

Saturday July 17, Saint Camillus de Lellis (priest)

Camillus died in Rome in 1614. He was a soldier addicted to gambling. His conversion led him to found a religious community dedicated to establishing hospitals and caring for the sick. Today the community numbers 1,130 members.



RCIA INQUIRY MEETING

If you know some who would like to know more about the Catholic Church, there will be an inquiry meeting in Wednesday, August 12, at 7:00 pm. in the church hall. Invite someone to the meeting and come along with them!



EVENTS & MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, July 6,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions

Tuesday, July 7,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass

Wednesday, July 8,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass

Thursday, July 9,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass

Friday, July 10,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass

Saturday, July 11,

9:00 am. - Mass
3:30 pm. - Confessions
5:30 pm. - Mass

Sunday July 12,

8:00 am - Mass
9:30 am. - Mass - (St. Henry's)
10:00 am. - Mass
12:00 pm. - Mass

SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE FOR SAINT HENRY CHURCH

During the summer, Mass at Saint Henry Church in Harrisville will be offered at 9:30 am. rather than 11:00 am. The celebrant of the summer Mass will celebrate Mass at 9:30 am in Harrisville and the noon Mass at the Basilica. Parishioners from the Basilica are welcome to celebrate Mass with us at St. Henry's.



Msgr. Georg Ratzinger Dies at 96

Pope Benedict XVI's elder brother, who had been seriously ill, died last Wednesday at the age of 96.

Benedict XVI visited his brother in Regensburg last month after hearing he was seriously ill, and stayed in the diocese for four days during which the two brothers celebrated Mass together on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Both Joseph and Georg Ratzinger were ordained on the same day on 29 June 1951 by Cardinal Michael von Faulhaber of Munich.

Msgr. Georg Ratzinger was an accomplished musician who directed the Regensburger Domspatzen choir from 1964 until 1994.

Msgr. Georg Ratzinger was born in Pleiskirchen near Altötting in 1924. After ordination he studied church music at the Munich University of Music. Pope Benedict said of his brother in an interview: "Since the beginning of my life, my brother has not only been a companion for me, but also a reliable guide. With his clarity and decisiveness, he was always a point of reference for me. He always showed me which way I had to take, even in difficult situations." He said Msgr. Georg always helped him "with his seriousness, his modesty and his courage to take any burden."

Cardinal Dolan Decries Statue Destruction,



-Warns Against Dangerous “Cultural Revolution”

Timothy Dolan wrote a powerful piece decrying the destruction of statues and monuments in the United States. He referred to the unrest as “unhelpful” for our “necessary common conversation on racism.”

Cardinal Dolan says eliminating the monuments can lead to the virus that is “historic amnesia.” The cardinal said that while we should still remember these people for their serious wrongs, we should also remember them for their great contributions to society. “All of them still contributed a lot of good to our nation’s progress,” Cardinal Dolan said. “Defacing, tearing down, and hiding statutes and portraits is today’s version of puritanical book-burning. “Our children need to know their country’s past, and her normative figures, their virtues and vices. That’s how we learn and pass on our story. Such rash iconoclasm can lead to an historic amnesia that will eliminate something essential for our necessary common conversation on racism: the memory of flawed human beings who, while sadly and scandalously wrong on burning issues such as slavery and civil rights, were right on so many others, and need to be remembered for both. Beware of those who want to purify memories and present a tidy – and inaccurate – history. All people are imperfect and sinners. Eliminate all figures, and only Jesus and Mary would remain. Is not the same true with our country’s historical personalities? All of them had flaws, yet all of them still contributed a lot of good to our nation’s progress.”

“I want to remember the good and the bad, and recall with gratitude how even people of the past who had an undeniable dark side can still let light prevail and leave the world better. I want to keep bringing classes of school children to view such monuments, and to explain to them how even such giants in our history had crimes, unjust acts, and just plain poor judgment mixed in with the good we honor. Most of all, I do not want to be infected by the new virus of today, ‘historical dementia.’ As the saying goes, ‘Those not familiar with the past are bound to repeat its mistakes.’”



The Devil has not Full Power

“Among the angelic powers the chief of the terrestrial order, the one to whom God had entrusted the task of looking after the earth, was not evil by nature, he had not received any trace of evil from his Creator. He was good. However, he did not maintain the light and the honor that God had given him. By a deliberate act of his own free will he rebelled against the Creator. He turned his face away from goodness and fell into evil. Evil is in fact merely the absence of good, as darkness is the absence of light. A host of angels placed under his command followed him in the fall. Despite their angelic nature, they also freely plunged from goodness down to evil and became wicked. The devils cannot do anything against us without God’s permission. But with God’s permission they are powerful. All wickedness, all the passions are inspired by them but listen: God allows them to suggest sin to a person, but they cannot force him to do it. We ourselves are responsible for accepting or rejecting their seductive suggestions.”

- St. John Damascene

St. Junípero Serra statue destroyed at California state capitol



On the evening of Independence Day, a crowd in Sacramento tore down a statue of St. Junipero Serra, set fire to it, and beat it with sledgehammers.

The statue, on the grounds of California's state capitol, was the third figure of the missionary saint to be torn down by crowds in California in recent weeks. Sacramento's bishop responded by saying that Serra worked to promote the dignity of indigenous people. A large crowd gathered around the statue in Capitol Park at around 9 p.m. on July 4, according to media reports. One man burned the face of the Serra statue with an ignited spray from an aerosol can, before it was pulled from its base using tow straps. After the statue fell, members of the crowd struck the statue with a sledgehammer and other objects, dancing and jumping upon it. The crowd chanted "Rise up, my people, rise up," while destroying the statue.

Former Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Viganò denounces Vatican II



Archbishop Carlo Viganò made headlines in August 2018, it was for a sweeping open letter concerning former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. Two years later, Archbishop Viganò is still speaking, but he has changed his topic, from the McCarrick affair to conspiracy theories about the coronavirus pandemic, the Marian apparition at Fatima, and the Second Vatican Council. Prominent analysts say the archbishop is at the point of "breaking with the Church," and may well bring his followers with him.

His arguments are similar to those of the adherents of the Society of St. Pius X or other traditionalist groups outside the full communion of the Church. Viganò's recent interviews have largely been understood as a call to reject the entirety of the Second Vatican Council.

Most of his influence is online; he has no official power whatsoever. It is also unlikely that Viganò will go away quietly if, as some observers have speculated, the archbishop is being supported by a Catholic faction with a clear objective and, through Viganò, a mouthpiece. How Viganò is supporting himself, and where he is now living, are matters only of speculation.

The voice of Archbishop Viganò has become influential among a broad swath of Catholics, who are now hearing from the archbishop that an ecumenical council should be rejected. Viganò is speaking more frequently, and more boldly. Whether the pope, and the Holy See, will decide that now is the time to say a "single word," or more, remains to be seen. Obviously, the devil is involved, and he is having a great time!

San Francisco Catholic archdiocese – 'surprised' by order to cease indoor, public Masses

The Archdiocese of San Francisco is pledging to comply with the city and county public health orders barring indoor public Masses and limiting outdoor services, including funerals, to 12 people.

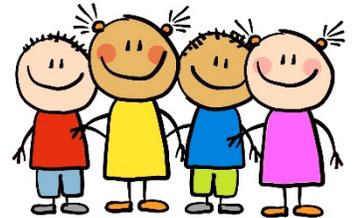
City Attorney Dennis Herrera sent a letter June 29 to the archdiocese' lawyer, ordering the archdiocese to cease-and-desist indoor public Masses and giving it one day to comply.

Archbishop Cordileone is currently seeking a meeting with "a senior city official" to discuss further "the nature of our religious services and how to fairly apply City policies to religious services," the archdiocese concluded.



THE PRIEST VS THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

There was a parish where the priest and the choir director were not getting along. As time went by, this spirit began to spill over into the Mass.



The first week, the priest preached on commitment and how we should all dedicate ourselves to God. The choir director led the song, "I SHALL NOT BE MOVED."

The second week, the priest preached on tithing and how we should give to the work of the Lord. The choir director led the song, "JESUS PAID IT ALL."

The third week, the priest preached on gossiping and how we should all watch our tongues. The choir director led, "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY."

With all this going on, the priest became discouraged over the situation and the following Sunday, told the congregation that he was considering resigning. The choir director led, "OH WHY NOT TONIGHT."

As it came to pass, the priest resigned. The next week he informed the parish that it was Jesus Who led him there, and it was Jesus Who was taking him away. The choir director led, "WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS!"

DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE P.O. Box 969 422 Washington St. Steubenville, OH 43952 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 7, 2020 Dino Orsatti Diocese of Steubenville Director of Communications Editor, The Steubenville Register Office: 740 282-3631, ext. 340 Cell: 740 424-3191 Email: dorsatti@diosteub.org Former Diocesan Comptroller Reaches Plea Agreement A plea agreement was reached today by former Diocese of Steubenville comptroller David Franklin and the United States attorney's office for the Southern District of Ohio. Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton said, "We are grateful to the work of all of the public officials who were involved in this complex investigation. David Franklin greatly compromised the diocese's ability to exercise its compassion of service including assisting our brothers and sisters in need. We also want to thank our parishioners, priests, deacons, and all our religious as well as chancery staff for their patience during this two year investigation." Franklin pled guilty to willful failure to account for and pay over employment tax, making and subscribing a false return and wire fraud. Franklin agreed to pay restitution in the amount of nearly \$300,000 to the Diocese of Steubenville. Additional restitution can be ordered by the judge. Franklin could also receive up to 28 years in prison. Sentencing will occur at a later date. Following Franklin's retirement in 2017, the diocese began to discover many irregularities in the diocese's accounting records and financial reports. An independent accounting firm determined that more than \$2.7 million in federal taxes were withheld from employees but not paid to the IRS for tax years 2004-16. The diocese paid back all the taxes owed to the IRS, state and local taxing agencies in addition to interest on the unpaid taxes.