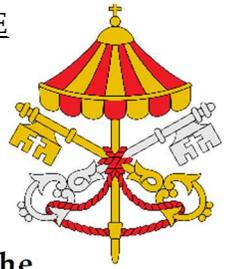




THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 2, 2020

Notes on the Gospel



When Jesus heard Herod had killed John the Baptist, He left there by boat to a deserted place so he could think by himself. The people heard Jesus was gone, so they left the local towns and followed him on foot. When Jesus came ashore, he saw how many people followed him. He felt sorry for them and healed their sick. Just before sunset, Jesus told His disciples to feed the people. "We don't have any food except five biscuits and two fish!" his followers exclaimed. "Bring them to me," Jesus said.

The setting provided Jesus a chance to challenge the faith of his followers. They wanted the crowds to return to the local towns from where they came for the evening meal. But Jesus commanded them to feed the people. How could they? Among all of his followers, all they possessed were five small loaves (the size of dinner rolls or biscuits) and two dried fish. Small rolls and fish marked the food of the poor. The contemporaries of Jesus baked small loaves useful for individual meals alone or for dipping into foods at communal gatherings. Without utensils, people used these small loaves as the only means for sanitary eating. The loaves were usually baked from barley grain, since wheat grain was considered a luxury for the rich. Fish was a food staple in Palestine. The government controlled the catch and production of fish from the Sea of Galilee. Fish could be dried, pickled, or cured, or salted. Fish was more easily distributed in these states. Thus, people preferred it as a protein source.

Jesus told the people to sit down. Then, he took the five biscuits and two fish his followers brought him, looked up to heaven, and thanked God by blessing them. He broke the bread and gave it to his followers, so they could pass it around the people. Everyone ate until they were full. After the meal, his followers collected twelve baskets full of leftovers. There were five thousand men in the crowd, not counting the women and children.

Jesus fulfilled the hunger of the crowd, both with God's word and healing. And with sustenance for the body. The theme of this miracle is: Eucharist.

Jesus took the bread and fish, looked up to heaven and prayed. Matthew implied Jesus pronounced a blessing prayer for bread like this one: "Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. (Blessing for Matzoh from a Passover Haggadah)

After the blessing, Jesus had the followers distribute their food, and the distribution produced an abundance of twelve baskets. In this context, the number twelve had many powerful symbolic references - the twelve tribes of Israel. The audience symbolized the gathered nation. The number represented the apostles (a basket for each) who served them. Finally, the number itself represented fullness or completion. The event pointed fullness of time in God's Kingdom, when the chosen would feast in the presence of the Lord.



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:

- 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

On Wednesday, we remember the 38th anniversary of the death of Fr. James Donaldson. On Thursday, we remember the 40th anniversary of the death of Fr. Louis Phillips. On Saturday, 50th anniversary of the death of Fr. Francis Schutz. 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH WHO ARE ILL



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

Tuesday, August 4, Saint John Vianney, (Priest)

John Vianney is known as the "Cure of Ars". He was a compassionate counselor who spent no less than eleven hours every day in the confessional. He is the patron saint of parish clergy.

Wednesday, August 5, Dedication of Saint Mary Major Basilica

Following the Council of Ephesus in 431, Pope Sixtus III erected in Rome this oldest basilica in the west dedicated to the Mother of God.

Thursday, August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord

Celebrated in the Eastern Church in the fifth Century, the Feast was inserted into the general calendar in 1457 by Pope Callistus III to celebrate the defeat of the Turks at Belgrade

Friday, August 7, Saint Sixtus II & Companions (Pope)

Sixtus and four deacons were arrested as they celebrated the Eucharist in the cemetery of Callistus. By order of the emperor Valerian, they were decapitated that same day.

Saturday, August 8, Saint Dominic (Priest)

Dominic was born in Spain, and founded the Order of preachers (Dominicans). Today the Order has 6,550 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!





THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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



August 2, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel, we hear of Jesus feeding 5,000 men – not counting the women and the children with the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. This miracle was a foreshadowing of the gift of the Holy Eucharist.

For Catholics, the Eucharist sums up the Christian life. Christ calls his faithful together under headship (represented by the ordained presider) to hear his Word, to present all they have to share (the bread and wine), and to receive the life-giving "bread of heaven." In the Eucharist, we see various aspects of the life Christ has called us to. A life together, a life of sharing especially with the needy, and life that comes from and is fed by God himself.

The core of the Eucharist lies in the prayer of thanksgiving (and consecration) called the anaphora. The prayer contains 1) *A thanksgiving preface*, 2) *An epiclesis, a prayer that asks the Father to send the Spirit upon the gifts of bread and wine*, 3) *An institution narrative, where the Word that remembers Christ's self-giving at the Last Supper is proclaimed. Catholics believe the risen Christ himself proclaims the Word ("This is my Body...This is my Blood...") through the ordained presider (bishop or priest who acts "in persona Christi," in the person of Christ). And, through the power of the Spirit, the risen Christ makes himself present (Body, Blood, soul, and divinity) in the bread and wine*, 4) *An anamnesis, a declaration recalling the mystery made present in the bread and wine: Christ's self-giving on the cross and his risen life*, and 5) *Intercessions for the whole Church, both the living on earth and in heaven, both universal leaders and local ministers. The Eucharist proclaims: the presence of God's Kingdom in the risen Lord.*

All four evangelists remembered the multiplication of the loaves in their gospels. While the experience crackled with symbolic overtones, it was the scarce changed into abundance that transformed the meal into an event. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all record the same message. For, the story itself proclaims what the Christian celebrates in worship. With God, what little he gives us will overflow into never-ending life. We can only respond by blessing God with a grateful heart.

In Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell
(Rector)

EVENTS & MASSES FOR THE WEEK



Monday, August 3,

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

Tuesday, August 4,

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

Wednesday, August 5,

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

Thursday, August 6,

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

Friday, August 7,

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

Saturday, August 8,

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

Sunday August 9,

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

Reopening of bombed Syrian cathedral 'a miracle'

A Syrian Catholic cathedral struck by missiles over a five-year period has reopened following its restoration. The Maronite Cathedral of St Elijah in Aleppo was hit by missiles on at least three occasions between 2012 and 2016, and suffered extensive damage when jihadists entered the Christian quarter of Al-Jdayde in 2013.

Thomas Heine-Geldern, executive president of ACN International, described the reopening as a miracle. Explaining that he was unable to attend the reopening due to the coronavirus pandemic, he said: "ACN has been with you throughout the most difficult times, and it would have been wonderful if we had been able to celebrate together today. Sadly, the circumstances do not permit this; however, we see the Cathedral of St Elijah and it is a miracle. It is wonderful to see it shining with its former splendour. I hope that it will once again become the center of the whole Christian community, just as it was before this terrible war." Only 30,000 Christians remain in the city, compared to a pre-war population of 180,000. Aleppo was Syria's most populous city before the war, but now is the second largest after the capital, Damascus.

Knights of Columbus founder to be beatified in October

Fr. Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus Catholic fraternal organization, will be beatified on October 31, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints announced this week. A miracle credited to the intercession of McGivney was approved by the Vatican and announced by Pope Francis. A child who was diagnosed as terminally ill in the womb was miraculously healed following prayers for the intercession of Fr. McGivney. The priest's beatification Mass is expected to be celebrated in his native Connecticut.

Satan's Open Spiritual Warfare in America

God usually keeps Satan on a tight chain. His power and actions are limited. However, in this time, it appears that the Prince of this World has been almost completely unleashed. It used to be that Satan did his evil in a hidden way. Now, it is open warfare.

Statues are pulled down; sacred images are being desecrated. Religion is being mocked and God's laws are rejected. One of the strongest signs of Satan's presence is a hatred for the Catholic Church. Churches are burning. Another strong sign of Satan's presence is discord, violence and death. The increasing civil discord in this country has erupted into open conflict.

The demonic is way more active than before; their activity is more pronounced, and they have less fear than normal... Their 'limit' seems to be nonexistent lately; their violent actions have been increasingly daring and brutal.

St. John Vianney was regularly attacked by demons at night. He was especially viciously attacked the night before a sinner came to confession. When John experienced these intense demonic attacks at night, he knew Satan would be losing one of his "prizes" the following day.

COVID-19 Kills 13 Sisters in Michigan Convent: - "It Went Through Like Wildfire"

Thirteen Felician sisters in The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Convent in Livonia, Michigan died from COVID-19, a recent report reveals. Twelve of those sisters died within one month, between April 10 and May 10. The other sister died at the end of June. Additionally, 17 other sisters in the convent contracted the virus and recovered.

The first death came on Good Friday, and 12 more followed through the month. When the virus hit the convent, "it went through like wildfire," convent superior Sr. Mary Andrew Budinski said. "They weren't giving us numbers," she added. "Just every day, they'd say, 'Another sister.' 'Another sister.' 'Another sister.' It was very frightening."

The sisters remain vigilant in preventing the virus' spread through social distancing and other convent restrictions. The sisters cannot even attend each other's funerals. Felician Sisters' Provincial Minister Sr. Mary Christopher Moore, CSSF, said: the order is "still very much dealing with the loss of so many sisters."

"Faith in the God of Jesus Christ means faith in the God who still opens up, really and truly, a future behind the wall of death. Only if that happens is the future truly promised."

— Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI)

Sister Ruth Lewis cared for children with disabilities



Sister Ruth Lewis in 1969.

Sister Ruth Lewis, a Pakistani nun who dedicated her life to helping underprivileged people with disabilities, died last Monday following coronavirus complications.

Sister Ruth, head of Dar-ul-Sukun, a Karachi home for children with disabilities, died at age 77 at the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi July 20. She was sent to the hospital July 8 and placed on a ventilator after contracting the coronavirus. She was a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of Christ the King and helped establish Dar-ul-Sukun in 1969.

“She took care of such children all her life. The children whom their own families abandoned, children who were called monsters because of deformities and chronic disability, children whose sight could traumatize a layman, children whom people visited to cherish their fully functional body and brain. But Sister Ruth became their mother. They were not objects of misery and charity to her but her own children, each unique. She worked tirelessly to make their personality. In such a world where people hire maids and nannies to clean the mess of their own children, she wiped their bums and noses with bare hands. She truly was the mother of forgotten ones. No one can fill the void she has left.”

Her services to humanity and to the destitute, severely disabled children and elderly, socially displaced girls and boys is remarkable. Her service spans around 51 years.

Churches burned, people beheaded in Mozambique’s escalating extremist violence

Bishop Luiz Fernando Lisboa of Mozambique’s Pemba diocese has deplored the world’s indifference to escalating extremist violence in northern Mozambique, where multiple churches have been burnt, people beheaded, young girls kidnapped, and hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the violence. He has been an outspoken advocate for the needs of the more than 200,000 people who have been displaced by the violent insurgency.

During Holy Week this year insurgents perpetrated attacks on seven towns and villages in Cabo Delgado province, burning down a church on Good Friday, and killing 52 young people who refused to join the terrorist group, the bishop said. More than 1,000 people have been killed in attacks in northern Mozambique since 2017, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Some of these attacks have been claimed by the Islamic State, while others have been carried out by a homegrown extremist militant group, which has been kidnapping men and women.

Pope Francis addressed the suffering in the Cabo Delgado region in his Easter Sunday Urbi et Orbi message, asking for prayer for “people who are going through serious humanitarian crises, such as in the Cabo Delgado region, in northern Mozambique.” During his visit to Mozambique last September Pope Francis urged Church leaders in the country to seek solutions through dialogue, rather than conflict.

Persecuted Christians ordered to renounce faith or lose COVID-19 aid: 'It is a tragedy'

Catholic devotees wear face mask and attend Mass at the Saint Joseph's Church on the first day after the reopening of religious services after the government eased restrictions imposed as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus, in Hyderabad on June 8, 2020.

In the wake of the coronavirus epidemic, Christians in Southeast Asia and Sudan have been ordered by authorities to renounce their faith or risk losing emergency aid. Christians have been told their communities would only be given food if they re-converted back to their original faith. While some have returned to the dominant religion in their country, others have contemplated suicide." Christians from countries including Bangladesh, India, Sudan and Malaysia are being asked to renounce their faith in exchange for COVID-19 aid.

The Minister who coordinates Open Doors' work in Southeast Asia, said in rural Bangladesh, "governments are giving assistance to a lot of people, but many Christians, especially those who come from a Muslim background or a Buddhist background, are not receiving the support when it goes to the villages. The village head normally discriminates against the Christians. They say, 'Well, you're Christian. You became a Christian so you are not part of this support,'" he said.

People may die or convert back to Islam if they don't have the means to survive. Many Christians would certainly die of malnutrition and starvation, or decide that following Jesus is too hard.

Because people aren't able to work in lockdown they don't have money for food and are finding themselves being kicked out of their homes, unable to pay rent. When Christian converts do ask for help from their Muslim community, they are told they have to give up Christianity if they want to be helped. It is a tragedy."

One group of Christian students were told by their local mosque that they would have to convert back to Islam to receive any food aid from the community during the coronavirus lockdown.

Religious minorities in India are being mistreated during the pandemic. Many are being left out of the programs created to help the people during this crisis.

REGARDING MASKS:

Dear Father:

As you know, the State of Ohio issued a mandate regarding facial coverings (masks) for the whole state of Ohio, and the mandate went into effect at 6:00 pm on July 23. The order affects all indoor locations that are not residences; thus, churches are included in this order. One of the exceptions to the mask requirement is officiants at religious services.

Since we resumed public liturgies in the Diocese of Steubenville, I have recommended the use of masks, and I, of course, most strongly encourage people to heed this mask mandate issued by the State of Ohio. I also strongly recommend pastors to encourage their people to do so. Let us continue to do our part as good citizens to contribute to improving this current difficult situation as well as continuing to ask Our Lord the Divine Physician to intervene and bring healing.

+ Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton

Washington Post settles defamation lawsuit with Nick Sandmann - over March for Life controversy

The Washington Post has settled a defamation lawsuit filed by Nick Sandmann, who as a student at Covington Catholic High School was at the center of a national controversy after the 2019 March for Life. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed. In February 2019, Sandmann and his lawyers filed a defamation lawsuit requesting \$250 million, the price Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos paid to purchase the newspaper in 2013.

In January 2020, Sandmann settled a defamation lawsuit against CNN. The terms of that settlement were not disclosed. There are six outstanding defamation lawsuits against other media companies, including the New York Times, ABC, NBC, and CBS.

The lawsuits stemmed from a short video that was published to Twitter in January 2019. That video appeared to show Sandmann, who was wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat, standing in close proximity to Native American activist Nathan Phillips and smirking while Phillips chanted and played a ceremonial drum. Phillips was in Washington, D.C. for the Indigenous Peoples' March, and the incident occurred near the Lincoln Memorial after the March for Life, which Sandmann had attended. Phillips told the media that the students had swarmed him, and had repeatedly chanted "build the wall" or "build that wall."

The video quickly went viral, and many people called for the suspension or expulsion of Sandmann and his classmates as a punishment for their seemingly disrespectful behavior. Sandmann later explained that he had smiled in an attempt to come off as non-threatening. As the weekend progressed, however, additional video was discovered that showed a far more nuanced context to the encounter between Phillips and Sandmann.

The new footage showed that Sandmann and his classmates had been harassed by members of the Black Hebrew Israelites, and began a counter-chant of their student section chants in an effort to drown out the Black Hebrew Israelites. The students denied chanting "build the wall," and that chant could not be heard on various videos of the incident. Additionally, the extended video showed that Phillips had wandered into the crowd of Covington Catholic High School students - not the other way around - and had begun beating a drum in Sandmann's face.

A third-party investigation into the Covington Catholic students came to the conclusion that they had not instigated the encounter and that there was no evidence of them making any offensive or racist statements. Both Covington Catholic High School and Bishop Roger Foy of Covington apologized for their premature statements condemning Sandmann's behavior.

**PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR
PARISH WHO ARE ILL!**