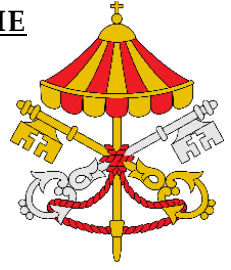


THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 9, 2020

Notes on the Gospel



Multiple responsibilities and conflicting schedules frazzle most of us. Modern life runs thick with stress. Add just one disaster to our stressed lives and we fall apart.

Imagine, then, the stress Jesus' followers endured as they sailed during an all-night storm on the Sea of Galilee.

Immediately after he fed the people with bread and fish, Jesus made his followers get into a boat and set sail for the other side of the Sea of Galilee without him. Meanwhile, he sent the people home. After that, he went up a mountain by himself to pray. During the evening, Jesus was there alone. But the boat with His Apostles, some distance from the shore, was tossed around by the waves, since a strong wind blew against them.

Before dawn the next morning, Jesus walked toward them on the water. The Apostles saw him walking on the water, and cried out in fear. Peter cried out, "Lord, if it's you, command me to join you on the water." "Join me!" Jesus said.

Peter got out of the boat and walked out on the water toward Jesus. But, when Peter saw how strong the wind was, he panicked. As he began to sink into the water, Peter shouted, "Lord, save me!" Jesus quickly reached out his hand and grabbed Peter. "Why did you doubt me? You really don't trust me." Jesus said.

The scene of Jesus walking on the water can be divided into three sections: Jesus praying alone, the appearance of Jesus on the water during the storm, and the disciples' reaction.

Storms that the followers endured still ravage the Sea on a regular basis. Geographically, the Sea of Galilee (really a fresh water lake) lies 700 ft. below sea level. The surrounding hills, however, climb to over 1200 feet above the lake's surface. Toward evening, the shore temperature drops quickly, while the water temperature cools slowly. Cold air rushes down through canyons that cut through the foothills toward the lake and meets warm air rising from the lake surface. The rush of air causes strong wind storms that can whip wave crests up to six feet high. The storms can last as long as it takes for the lake to cool off.

Jesus' action (walking on water) and his words ("I am") in the midst of the violent wind storm on the lake connected his power and identity with YHWH.

Jesus used two statements of encouragement like bookends that surround his title. "Courage!" and "Don't be afraid!" were meant to reassure the disciples. These words denote the sheer immanence of God's transcendent power. In the title "I AM," God revealed himself; in the admonition "Fear not," God called his people to faith in his presence, not to despair. When Jesus used this language, He, too, revealed his divine power and called his followers to faith.



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 Tuesday, we remember the 24th anniversary of the death of Fr. Michael Helmer. On Wednesday, we remember the 53rd anniversary of the death of Fr. John Priest, and the 69th anniversary of the death of Fr. Anthony Nickel. Next Sunday, we remember the 66th anniversary of Fr. Mieceslaus Dzikowski. 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

Monday, August 10, Saint Lawrence, (Deacon & Martyr)

Lawrence was martyred in 258. He cared for the temporal welfare of the Roman Church. He was burned alive on a gridiron.

Tuesday, August 11, Saint Clare (Virgin)

Clare of Assisi died in 1253. She was a disciple of St. Francis. She founded the Poor Clares at Assisi.

Wednesday, August 12, Saint Jane Frances de Chantal (Religious)

She was a wife & mother. As a widow, she founded in 1610 the Visitation Sisters. She established 85 monasteries before her death in 1641.

Thursday, August 13, Saints Pontian & Hippolytus (priests - martyrs)

Pontian was the bishop of Rome banished to Sardinia. He abdicated his office as pope to make way for his successor. He was martyred in 235. Hippolytus was a priest who is the source of Eucharistic prayer II.

Friday, August 14, Saint Maximian Kolbe (Priest & Martyr)

Fr. Kolbe died in 1941 at Auschwitz by lethal injection. He was born in Poland and founded the Militia of Mary Immaculate.

Saturday, August 8, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Assumption or (Falling Asleep) of Mary was celebrated by the 5th century.



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 9, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel, Jesus took Peter's hand and said to him, "Why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind died down. But the (disciples) in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God!"

The disciples reacted to Jesus in two ways. First, Peter tested Jesus when he asked Jesus to help him walk on water (in other words, to share in Jesus' divine power). At first Peter could, then his doubt made him shift his focus toward the storm. He faltered. In his panic, Peter cried out to Jesus for help.

Jesus responded quickly to Peter and pointed out the obvious. Peter faltered because he lacked faith. He didn't trust Jesus. Isn't it human nature to focus the most immediate and pressing concerns, and not to see the bigger picture? Jesus picked Peter up and together they reentered the boat. At this point, the disciples reacted to the Lord bowing in worship. The power of the Lord replaced the power of the storm.

Many have commented on the symbolism of the passage. The boat has been a traditional symbol for the Church. The night storm represented persecution, when the presence of Christ seemed so distant and the presence of evil so close. In the midst of persecution, evangelists (symbolized by Peter) attempt missionary efforts, only to falter with the many pressing concerns. Then the Lord comes to comfort, to strengthen, and to be present to the congregation and its leadership. The response to the Lord was worship of the Church.

Matthew's passages on the disciples in the storm remind us that faith remains a relationship between God and us, his people. In spite of trouble, God will always be present. Together, we need only realize that fact and act upon it.

This Gospel passage presents us with so many levels of meaning. The boat, the storm on the lake, the power of Christ in the midst of chaos, and the response of the disciples, all make this passage so accessible, yet so deep. Accessible in the emotions of the moment: stress, fear, doubt. Deep in the mysterious yet powerful ways God responds to that moment.

In Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell
(Rector)

EVENTS & MASSES FOR THE WEEK



Monday, August 10,

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

Tuesday, August 11,

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

Wednesday, August 12,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration
7:00 PM. – RICA Inquiry Meeting

Thursday, August 13,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. – Mass

Friday, August 14,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration
12:05 pm. - Mass

Saturday, August 15,

9:00 am. - Mass
2:00 pm. - Wedding
3:30 pm. - Confessions
5:30 pm. – Mass

Sunday August 16,

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

REGARDING MASKS: FROM THE BISHOP



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

One of the doctors from our parish was distressed on Sunday noticing that fewer the 1/3 of those who attended the Mass had a mask on. He indicated that this virus is very serious, and easily transmitted to others. Wearing a mask is an act of charity to other parishioners present at the Mass, and definitely is helpful in not spreading of acquiring the virus. Your adherence to the bishop's and the governor's directive is deeply appreciated.



THE BELL RINGER

Centuries before mega-churches built in the suburbs and introduced electric signs, churches attracted attention with cross-topped steeples. The taller the better. One day there was a village church with a steeple that could be seen for miles around. It was perfect, except for one thing – the bell wouldn't ring.

The church officers invited people from all around to try their hands at remedying the problem – but to no avail.

One day, a small fellow came to church and announced to the pastor, "I can make the bell ring." The pastor said, "Okay, try it."

So the little guy climbed up to the base of the belfry in the steeple, took three steps back, and then ran into the bell with his face. BONG! The bell rang, and he was hired on the spot.

One windy day, as the little man ran toward the bell, the wind moved it, causing the small bell ringer to fall out of the steeple and into the ground below. As a crowd gathers, the pastor asked, "Does anyone know this fellow's name?" Just then a woman bent low to look at him and then replied, "I don't his name, but his face sure rings a bell."

Authorities in China return to demolish Christians' homes after razing Church

A month after partially demolishing a church structure, dozens of security guards and officials came back to bulldoze homes in the residential compound where the church once stood. Guards and officials from the local Ethnic and Religious Bureau stormed the Church building in Xiamen city last Wednesday for further demolition of Christian homes in conjunction to the church.

For the Chinese government to frantically persecute Christians even after their churches were shut down shows how Beijing has no interest in respecting religious freedom. What the Chinese Communist Party does not understand is that Christianity will not be wiped out just because the buildings no longer stand. The more the government erodes the rights of Chinese citizens, the more enemies it creates within its territories. One day, this pressure cooker will explode, threatening the regime.

The Italian-based magazine Bitter Winter, a publication produced by the Center for Studies on New Religion which covers human rights issues in China, reported in June that authorities removed crosses from more than 250 state-sanctioned churches in Anhui province between January and April.

TODAY'S READINGS

St. Paul expresses profound anguish in today's second reading for his people. He longs that they accept Christ, who is "God blessed forever," and the only hope of the human family. For every disciple, Christ is everything. Each event and decision of life, each project and plan, finds its standard, meaning, and fulfillment in him.

Yet those events, projects, plans, and the circumstances of life under which they unfold, are very much like the tempestuous behavior of nature that we see in both the first reading and the Gospel. Wind, waves, earthquakes, noise, danger, and the confusion of constant change mark many chapters of life. Yet there isn't a single chapter, nor a single moment, in which the believer cannot cling to Christ, find him present, and embrace his hand that saves them from drowning.

China accused of hacking Vatican ahead of negotiations

State-sponsored hackers have reportedly targeted Vatican computer networks in an attempt to give China an advantage in negotiations to renew a provisional deal with the Holy See. A report, released July 28, said that hackers may have used a counterfeit condolence message from Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, to gain access to Vatican communications.



The report was compiled by the research arm of the U.S.-based cybersecurity company Recorded Future. Researchers said they had uncovered "a cyberespionage campaign attributed to a suspected Chinese state-sponsored threat activity group," which they referred to as RedDelta. Investigators said that RedDelta had targeted the Vatican and the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong from early May.

Researchers said that the network intrusions took place ahead of talks to renew a "provisional agreement" between the Holy See and China, which was sealed in 2018 and expires in September. The suspected intrusion into the Vatican would offer RedDelta insight into the negotiating position of the Holy See ahead of the deal's September 2020 renewal. The technology publication said that hackers associated with the Chinese authorities repeatedly attacked officials with the Diocese of Hong Kong with legitimate-looking documents that actually install malware on the user's computer.

Pope Francis appoints Spanish layman as secretary general of Vatican's economy office

Pope Francis Tuesday appointed a Spanish layman with a long career in finance economics to the number two position in the Secretariat for the Economy. Maximino Caballero Ledo, 60, is from Merida, Spain, but has lived in the United States since 2007, where he is vice president of international finance at Baxter Healthcare, Inc., a medical products company. As secretary general, Caballero joins prefect Fr. Juan Antonio Guerrero, SJ, who has led the Vatican's economy office since January. Caballero will start as secretary general in mid-August, according to Vatican News.

Beuronese art in the Dome

was revolutionary for its time, and also characteristic of its time. It offered a stylized, simplified, and hieratic approach to art which went against the grain of contemporary romantic forms.

A series of murals entitled "Life of the Virgin" was created under the direction of Desiderius Lenz, Gabriel Wuger, and Lukas Steiner between 1880 and 1887. A set was created by the Revs. Bonaventure Ostendorp and Raphael Pfister of the Order of St. Benedict. The "Life of the Virgin" series was restored and relocated in Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. A second set of duplicates resides at the Abbey Church of the Immaculate Conception Benedictine Abbey in Conception, Missouri. A partial set has been placed in the dome of our Basilica to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- 1.) Announcement to St. Anne that she would conceive Mary
- 2.) The Annunciation to Mary by Gabriel
- 3.) The Betrothal of Mary & Joseph
- 4.) The Birth of Jesus
- 5.) Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
- 6.) The flight into Egypt
- 7.) The Holy Spirit of Pentecost
- 8.) The falling asleep (Dormition of the Holy Theotokos) of Mary

Mexican Supreme Court rejects effort to expand abortion nationally



The Mexican Supreme Court on July 29 overturned a lower court's ruling that could have opened the door to legalized abortion throughout the country. In a 4-1 ruling, the panel of justices rejected a lower court's attempt to require the state of Veracruz to legalize abortion.

Rodrigo Iván Cortés, president of the National Front for the Family, hailed the decision. "Today, life has triumphed," he said. He voiced gratitude for "all the effort, the dedication of the entire society" to defend life in recent days. Veracruz state's constitution protects life from conception to natural death, and state law provides few exceptions. Cortés said that although the July 29 ruling constitutes a significant victory, threats to life are still looming in the country. "The fight for life is going to continue," he said, noting that most of the states in Mexico have bills pending that could expand legal abortion.

The Mexican bishops' conference and other pro-life organizations had spoken out strongly against the expansion of legal abortion.

More than 200 local and federal legislators, joined by more than 200 jurists, had presented an open letter to the Supreme Court on July 28, asking them to overturn the lower court's decision.

In addition, more than 200,000 people signed a CitizenGO petition asking the Supreme Court to reject the appeal and defend the right to life.