

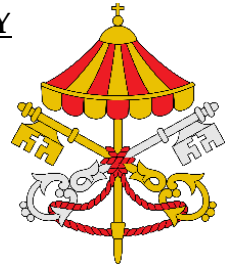


THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME

August 16, 2020

Notes on the Gospel



In Matthew's gospel, a foreign woman approached Jesus in faith. And because of her faith, Jesus ministered to someone outside his culture to the shock of his audience. The woman cried out, "Lord! Son of David! Help me! A demon has infected my daughter!" But Jesus did not answer her, not a single word. Just then, his followers came up to Jesus and kept complaining, "Get rid of her. She shouts at us no matter where we go."

Turning to the woman, Jesus said, "I was only sent for the lost sheep, the people of Israel." The woman fell at the feet of Jesus and begged him, "Lord, help me!" "It's not good to take food from children so you can feed dogs," Jesus said. "Yes, Lord," the woman answered, "but even dogs get to eat the leftovers that fall from their owner's table." Jesus reassured the woman. "Your trust (in ME) is great. Let it happen for you as you wish." Her daughter was cured at that hour.

"It is not good to take the bread of children and throw it to the dogs." Was Jesus making a derogatory remark to the woman, or was he referring to the feeding order of the family? Scholars are split on this question. Jewish contemporaries of Jesus did hold Gentiles in disdain. And Jews did have dogs as family pets; the feeding order would have been: adult males, parents, adult females, children & servants, pets. The commentary below tries to bridge the gap between these two views. After all, Jesus could have used the term "dog" in both senses.

The term "dog" implied extreme loyalty. A true pet would defend his or her master to the death if confronted. To bond with their pets, masters in Semitic households would feed their dogs from the leftovers after the meal. In this way, dogs knew their place and knew their master. The after-meal time ritual helped insure the dog's loyalty (and the family's safety).

Not to be deterred, the woman used Jesus' analogy to her advantage. Referring to the well-known bonding ritual, she affirmed her trust in Jesus. She was loyal, like a family pet. She would wear the insult (if there was one) proudly. Through her trust, Jesus acknowledged her faith and cured her daughter. She called Jesus "Lord" because she trusted him and his power. Jesus ignored her and his followers complained about her persistence.

Respect for the God-given dignity of the person must underlie any sense of justice. The dignity of the person is the only legitimate end in any society. Respect for the individual transcends cultural ideas. Society must foster the virtue of solidarity: to treat others as self. This includes the poor, the disadvantaged, the illiterate. This also includes those who look, think, or act differently. Prejudice based upon social or cultural differences is incompatible with God's plan.

Prejudice, injustice, and social separation promote the likeness of the demon. To battle this image, we all need the faith of the Canaanite woman whose loyalty broke down barriers. May our prayer be as persistent as hers and our trust as strong.



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:



- Sept. - 9, - CWC Mass (Bishop & Keynote speaker – 10:00 am Mass (Basilica)
- Sept - 17, - Marietta College Student tour of the Basilica – 1:00 pm.
- 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 8th anniversary of the death of Fr. John Belfield. On Thursday, we remember the 56th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Joseph Mehler, and the 19th anniversary of the death of Fr. James Marr. On Friday, we remember the 61st anniversary of Msgr. Raymond Harris. Next Sunday, we remember the 18th anniversary of the death of Fr. George Voytko. 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 PARISHES WHO ARE ILL.

CWC NOTES The nominating committee for new CWC officers announces that the following ladies were nominated, and have accepted the positions. They will be inducted at the next CWC meeting during mass.

Jenn Tinkler, President
Laura Riley, Vice President
Melanie Fouss, Treasurer
Penny Rose, Secretary
Carol Antill, Sunshine Lady



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.

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. Come and visit the Lord in Adoration this Wednesday and/or Friday.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, August 19, Saint John Eudes, (priest)

John founded the Congregation of Jesus & Mary in 1643. Today, the Congregation numbers 470 members. He died in 1680.

Thursday, August 20, Saint Bernard, (Abbot & Doctor of the Church)

Bernard was a Cistercian abbot of Clairvaux. He was a reformer and spiritual author. He preached against the Albigessians. He founded 86 monasteries.

Friday, August 21, Saint Pius X (Pope)

Pius X undertook liturgical and caconical reforms, especially Communion for children and frequent Communion for adults. He died August 20, 1914.

Saturday, August 22, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This memorial was prescribed in 1954 by Pope Pius XII

“Certainly a life lived by faith resembles more an expedition up a mountain than a quiet evening spent reading in front of the fire; but anyone who embarks upon this expedition knows and experiences more and more that the adventure to which it invites us is worthwhile.”

Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI)



Benedict's chosen place of burial

Pope Emeritus Benedict chose Pope St. John Paul II's former tomb St. Peter's Basilica as his burial place. The Vatican moved the late pope's body from the crypt to the upper basilica after his canonization in 2014.

Pope Benedict also wrote a spiritual testament to be published after his death.

A Prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter and Vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love and peace for all the world. Amen.

Pope Francis: Even in times of darkness, God is there



When caught in difficult moments or trials, turn your heart to God, who is near even when you do not search for him, Pope Francis said in his Angelus address last Sunday.

"Having faith means, in the midst of the storm, keeping your heart turned to God, to his love, to his tenderness as a Father. Jesus wanted to teach this to Peter and his disciples, and also to us today, in moments of darkness, moments of storms," the pope said. "Even before we begin to seek Him, He is present beside us lifting us back up after our falls, He helps us grow in faith. Perhaps we, in the dark, cry out: 'Lord! Lord!' thinking that he is far away. And He says: 'I'm here!' Ah, he was with me!" Pope Francis continued.

"God knows well that our faith is poor and that our path can be troubled, blocked by adverse forces. But He is the Risen One, do not forget this, the Lord who went through death to bring us to safety. The boat at the mercy of the storm is an image of the Church, which in every age encounters headwinds, sometimes very hard trials," Francis noted.

The episode of Peter beginning to sink "is an invitation to abandon ourselves with trust to God in every moment of our life, especially in the hour of trial and turmoil," Pope Francis said. "When we feel strong doubt and fear and we seem to sink, in the difficult moments of life, where everything becomes dark, we must not be ashamed to cry out, like Peter: 'Lord, save me!' It is the hand of the Father who never abandons us; the strong and faithful hand of the Father, who always and only wants our good," he said.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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August 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

In today's world, it can take great effort to stand up for our Catholic Faith. Even within the realm of the Catholic Church, it may be grueling just to hang on to the truths of our religion. During these enigmatic, cross-laden days, Catholics must be truly *Catholic* or they just won't find their way in the midst of the smothering darkness. Thankfully, there are a number of such Catholics carrying the torch to light the way to Heaven for us. They are not afraid to proclaim the Absolute Truth; to draw hearts to what is true, good and beautiful, and to bring all people to the saving remedy of Sacred Tradition.

What we know for sure is that the Church needs the Sacrifice of the Mass. The sacred liturgy handed down to us by tradition has never been more important in the life of Catholics, as we see the 'pilgrim Church on earth' forgetting her theology, diluting her message, losing her identity, and bleeding out her members. By knowing, loving, following, and assisting at the ancient liturgy, we do our part to bolster authentic doctrine, to proclaim heavenly salvation, to regain the full stature of Christ, and to attract new believers who are searching for truth and beauty.

When all the "numbers" are down — the numbers of regular Mass attendees, that of vocations, of seminarians, of baptisms, etc. — the faithful need to turn to God in the celebration of the Mass.

God deserves our reverence, praise and heartfelt adoration — and what better way to do so, than through the Holy Mass. The Mass is the solemn, public, formal act of adoration, thanksgiving and supplication offered by Christ the High Priest to the Father, and by His entire Mystical Body in union with Him. It is the mystery by which we offer to God a sacrifice of praise worthy of His glory. It is the Kingdom of heaven breaking in to our earthly time and space, the feast of the King of Kings. It advances the reestablishment of the entire created universe.

The Mass has raised up the vast majority of canonized saints, and carried Mother Church through eras of vicious persecution and heresy. For us and for our children, the safe refuge is the Sacrifice of the Mass, where we are truly united to Christ and found acceptable to the Father.

In Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell
(Rector)

EVENTS & MASSES FOR THE WEEK



Monday, August 17,

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

Tuesday, August 18,

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

Wednesday, August 19,

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

Thursday, August 20,

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

Friday, August 21,

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

Saturday, August 22,

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

Sunday August 23,

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 than 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.

Chinese pastors ordered to praise Xi Jinping, slander US from pulpit or risk closure

China's state-approved churches

China's state-approved churches that were forced to close due to COVID-19 are only permitted to reopen if they praise the Chinese Communist Party in sermons and extol President Xi Jinping, according to a new report. Religious Affairs Bureau of Zhengzhou, the capital of the province of Henan, released in mid-June a list of 42 prerequisites for churches that sought to reopen. Among the requirements, churches were ordered to “intensify patriotic education” and “study China’s religious policies.”

Additionally, churches were ordered to promote the “four requirements,” a nationwide campaign launched in 2018 to promote the “sensitization” of religion. The campaign involves requiring religious communities to ritually raise the national flag; promoting the Chinese Constitution and laws, core socialist values, and “China’s excellent traditional culture.”

Churches that refused to comply with the CCP’s demands were not permitted to reopen. In Henan, one church was not allowed to reopen because officials didn’t approve the pastor’s sermons.

Also in June, the government of Yucheng, a county in the prefecture-level city of Shangqiu in Henan, demanded the preachers of state-run churches praise President Xi for “the right way to lead people in defeating the epidemic” and praise China for its single-party rule. They were also ordered to slander the United States and other countries. The government said that churches must preach about national affairs if they want to reopen,” a church member in Henan told Bitter Winter. “With Xi Jinping’s speeches as the main content, it’s better for churches not to reopen.”

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, poor Christian villagers in several provinces were ordered to renounce their faith and replace displays of Jesus with portraits of Chairman Mao and Xi or risk losing their welfare benefits. In recent years, hundreds of Christians have also faced arrests, detentions, imprisonments, and church attacks. Countless number of churches” were also ordered to remove their crosses in Jiujiang, Fuzhou, Fengcheng, Shangrao, and a few other cities in the province in April.

Scholars estimate that of China's 60 million or so Christians, about half attend unregistered “house” churches rather than their state-sanctioned counterparts. Persecution watchdog Open Doors ranks China 23rd on its list of 50 countries where it's most difficult to be a Christian. The organization notes that all churches are perceived as a threat if they become too large, too political, or invite foreign guests.



St. Benedict of Nursia

“The first degree of humility is obedience without delay... This obedience, however, will be acceptable to God and agreeable to men only, if what is commanded is done without hesitation, delay, Luke warmth, grumbling or complaint, because the obedience which is rendered to Superiors is rendered to God.”

1300-Year-Old Byzantine Church Discovered Near Mount Tabor

Archeologists in the Holy Land discovered the foundations of an approximately 1300-year-old Byzantine-era church near Mount Tabor, the site where many Christians believe Jesus transfigured before the disciples. While excavating an area to build a playground in the Lower Galilee village of Kfar Kama near Mount Tabor, the walls of the old mosaic Byzantine church were discovered. The church's aisles are "partially preserved" as mosaics. "The church, measuring 12×36 [meters], includes a large courtyard, a narthex foyer and a central hall. Particular to this church is the existence of three apses (prayer niches), while most churches were characterized by a single apse. Their colorful decoration stands out, incorporating geometric patterns, and blue, black and red floral patterns. They also discovered a small reliquary, or "a stone box used to preserve sacred relics." Archeologists also found separate rooms adjacent to the church, indicating the possibility of a sixth-century monastery.



A LESSON IN FORGIVENESS

"Forgive your enemies" was the topic of a sermon on a particular Sunday morning. At the close of the long sermon, the priest asked how many were willing to forgive their enemies. About half of the congregation raised their hands.

Not satisfied, he preached for another twenty minutes and repeated the question. This time, a few more people raised their hands.

Still unsatisfied, he lectured another fifteen minutes and repeated the question. Now, all raised their hands except one elderly lady in the back pew. "Ms. Jones, aren't you willing to forgive your enemies?"

"I don't have any" was her answer. "That's very unusual. How old are you?" She answered "96." The minister said; "Please come down front and tell the congregation how a person can live 96 years and not have an enemy in the world"

The lady hobbled down the aisle and announced, "It's easy. I outlived them all!"