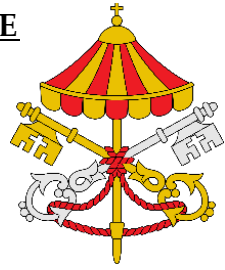




**THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 2020**



**Notes on the Gospel**

**RECONCILIATION**

Disputes are probably the most uncomfortable of social situations. Whether private or public, disputes can define a person's style: confrontation or avoidance, blunt honesty or face-saving lies, "fight for the right" or "peace at all cost." Grace under this kind of fire can be impossible at times.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother should sin [against you], go (and) discuss (the matter with) him, in private between you and him. If he should hear you, you have gained (back) a brother. But if not, then take one or two (others) along with you, that 'on the (discussion) of two or three witnesses, every word will stand.' But if he should refuse to hear them, speak (the accusation) to the assembly. But if he should also refuse to hear the assembly, let (him) be to you as the Gentile or the tax collector.

Amen, amen, I say to you. Whatever you should bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loosen on earth will have been loosen in heaven. 19 Again [amen] I say to you that if two of you agree on earth about any (dispute), whatever they should ask, it will happen for them from my Father, the (One) in heaven. For, wherever two or three are brought together in my name, I will be there in the middle of them."

What did it meant to sin against another person? The Semitic culture in the time of Jesus held honor in the highest esteem. Sin (hurting another) meant a loss of honor. For, sin had more social than psychological dimensions. In other words, one took offense if reputation was hurt, not just feelings.

Jesus' world was socially combative. Adult men would publicly debate not only to score position points but to build up one's own reputation (i.e., one's honor) at the cost of another's. People used gossip, rumor, and slander in the same way. This conflicting spirit spilled over into family honor. One slight could escalate into a generations-long feud where both sides forgot the original incident. Only honor mattered.

When they proclaimed the reconciliation of people with God, Christian community fought against this social practice. Through Christ, God raised the status of sinners to that of his children. The saved had a new honor in the sight of God, for they enjoyed the benefits of eternal life: peace, joy, love, etc. In fact, love glued the community together. "Love one another, as I have loved you." Love meant protecting the reputation of the community and the members within.

Insult and injury demand justice. But how do we obtain justice in a way that respects the sinner? As Jesus challenged his followers in Matthew's gospel, so He challenges us.



## 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.

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### Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

Sept. - 8 - RCIA Team Meeting (Rectory) 7

;00pm.

Sept. - 9, - CWC Mass (Bishop & Keynote speaker – 10:00 am Mass (Basilica)

Sept - 17, - Marietta College Students tour of the Basilica – 1:00 pm.

Oct. - 23, - Closing of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese (Bishop – live-stream)

Nov. - 8, - Diocesan Women Religious Celebration – (live-stream)

Nov. - 22, - Marriage Anniversary Mass (Noon - Bishop (live-stream)

Mar. - 20, - DCCW Lenten Day of Spirituality for Women

May - 19, - PCHS Baccalaureate Mass (Basilica)



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## 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.



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## NO Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday

Because of the holiday, we not celebrate Help Devotions this Monday evening. The devotions will resume next Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Perpetual Help devotions are the official devotion celebrated in this Basilica. We thank all parishioners who regularly attend the devotion.



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## 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

Monday, September 7, Labor Day

Special Day of prayer for recognizing the Dignity of Labor and Human Rights and Equality.

Tuesday, September 8, Nativity of Mary

This 5<sup>th</sup> century feast marks the anniversary of the dedication of a basilica in Jerusalem built, according to tradition, on the location of the home of Saint Anne.

Wednesday, September 9, Saint Peter Claver (priest)

Peter was a Catalonian Jesuit who served in the Colombian mission in Cart. For 38 years, he was devoted to care of the African slaves, baptizing over 300,000 of them. He called himself "the slave of slaves".

Saturday, September 12, The Holy Name of Mary

The name of Mary is a holy name of honor because Mary played an exalted role in salvation.

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## EVENTS & MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 7,

9:00 am. - Mass

Tuesday, September 8,

7:45 am. - Mass

12:05 pm. - Mass

Wednesday, September 9,

7:45 am. - Mass

8:20 am. - Adoration

10:00 am. - CWC Mass (Bishop)

6:00 pm. - LEAC Meeting

7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist

Thursday, September 10,

7:45 am. - Mass

12:05 pm. - Mass

Friday, September 11,

7:45 am. - Mass

8:20 am. - Adoration

12:05 pm. - Mass

Saturday, September 12,

9:00 am. - Mass

3:30 pm. - Confessions

5:30 pm. - Mass

Sunday September 13,

8:00 am - Mass

9:30 am. - Mass - (St. Henry's)

10:00 am. - Mass

12:00 pm. - Mass





THE BASILICA OF  
SAINT MARY  
OF THE ASSUMPTION

506 4TH STREET • MARIETTA OH 45750 • 740-373-3643



September 6, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We who are living in the midst of the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic are living in uncertain and difficult times, not unlike the experience of the early Christians. We have never been in the situation we now find ourselves. Our world is turned upside down. Fear, insecurity, and anxiety concerning how COVID-19 will affect us, those we love, and our communities -including the church - consume us. Overwhelmed by all the information coming at us on social media, television, radio and newspapers, we can become be consumed and paralyzed by not knowing what to do. Yet our faith commends us to do otherwise, to not be consumed by fear, insecurity, and anxiety. As followers of Jesus, we put our trust in God Who sends us to be about His mission of restoration, reconciliation and wholeness in the face of brokenness, alienation, and illness. Now is the time for us to be what God wants us and needs us to be. e

While “social distancing” might be the order of the day to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, spiritual and non-physical closeness in these times of isolation and quarantine is called for more than ever before. Prayer is a potent force in this. In prayer we are profoundly connected to God and one another. In prayer we are never alone. In addition to continuing our deep, personal prayer practices, I invite you to develop specific ways to reach out and connect with one another, and neighbors near and far, using available technology. Intercessory prayer, telephone calls, visiting the sick and shut-in and those in self-isolation because of the coronavirus, texting and emailing one another, are all important ways that we can stay connected to God and our neighbors. In prayer, we connect to one another and to God. I invite you to be creative and “try on” new ways to be united to God and each other in Christ. This is a time to learn to be Church, the Body of Christ, in new ways.

Dear companions in Christ, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded to put our faith, hope and trust in God who raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him glory. We are indeed called to be the followers of Jesus sent in God’s mission that God wants us and needs us to be at this time. In the prayer attributed to St. Francis, let us pray: Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith, where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

# ANNUAL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONVENTION



Because of the pandemic, the annual CWC Convention has been canceled. The alternative program will be celebrated this year on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Bishop Monforton will celebrate a live streamed Mass from the Basilica of St. Mary in Marietta at 10:00 AM. Following the Mass, there will a presentation celebrating the work of the CWC these past 75 years.

Anyone can attend the Mass and presentation. Because of the restrictions resulting from the virus, there will not be a luncheon following the Mass and presentation.

The time set aside for the mass and the Keynote Address is from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon.

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## LABOR DAY IS MONDAY

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States. It is the Monday of the long weekend known as Labor Day Weekend. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am. On Monday.



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## Border guards stop Catholic archbishop from returning to Belarus



Border guards blocked a Catholic archbishop from returning to Belarus Monday. Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz of Minsk-Mohilev was attempting to enter Belarus from Poland when he was stopped by border guards. He was returning from a business trip when he sought to enter Belarus at the crossing between the Polish village of Kuźnica and the Belarusian village of Bruzgi.

Border guards of the Republic of Belarus denied the head of the Belarusian Catholic episcopate entry to the country without explanation.

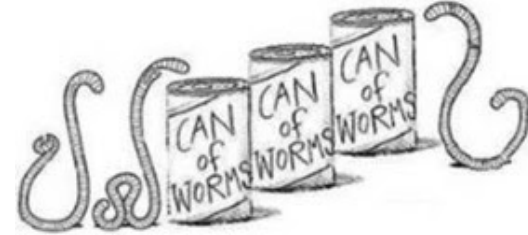
The archbishop has spoken out in defense of protesters following a disputed presidential election Aug. 9. Last week he demanded an investigation into reports that riot police blocked the doors of a Catholic church in Minsk while clearing away protesters from a nearby square.



Belarus, a country of 9.5 million people bordering Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia, has seen widespread protests since the incumbent Alexander Lukashenko was declared the winner of the presidential election with 80% of the vote.

## A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.  
The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.  
The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.  
The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.  
The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.  
At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:



The first worm in alcohol . . . . . Dead .



The second worm in cigarette smoke . . . Dead .

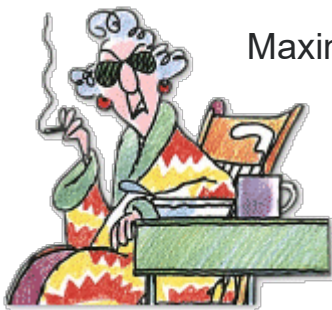


Third worm in chocolate syrup . . . . Dead



Fourth worm in good clean soil . . . Alive ???

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"



Maxine was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said . . .  
"As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate,  
you won't have

worms!"

That pretty much ended the service!



"Hang in there sunshine, you're special!"

### **Boston cardinal: Catholics have 'right' to clarity, after priest supports 'right to choose'**



The Church's teachings on the sanctity of life are of preeminent priority, the Archbishop of Boston said on Thursday, August 26.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM, Cap., said that Catholics have "the right to expect the priests of the Archdiocese and those entrusted with handing on the faith to be clear and unequivocal on the Church's teaching concerning respect and protection for life

from the first moment of conception to natural death. This teaching is of the highest priority for the Church," he added.

O'Malley said that archdiocesan clergy, as well as "religious and laity who minister or serve in the Archdiocese of Boston," as representatives of the archdiocese, are not to endorse or condemn political candidates or political parties.

"Our advocacy addresses protection of human life at all stages and in all circumstances, including issues of social and economic equality, the pervasive influence of systemic racism and welcoming immigrants and refugees." Catholics, said O'Malley, should play an "active role" in public life, and "fulfill the basic obligation of a democracy, to vote." He said that Catholics are "called to bring the light of faith and reason to our civic responsibilities," as they "strive to build a civilization of love." O'Malley's statement comes a day after a priest of the archdiocese praising presidential candidate Joe Biden and supporting the "right to choose" abortion being enshrined in U.S. law.

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## **ADAM & EVE**



The story of Adam & Eve was being carefully explained to the kindergarten class. Following the story, the kids were asked to draw a picture to illustrate some part of the story.

Little Joshy was most interested and drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat behind the wheel a rather large man and in the back seat a man and a woman.

The teacher was at a loss to understand how the picture illustrated the lesson, so Joshy was prompt to give the explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden."

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# Priest punched during Sunday Mass in Berlin



An unknown assailant punched a priest during Sunday Mass in Berlin, Germany. The assault took place Aug. 30 in St. Joseph's Church in the district of Wedding.

According to witnesses, at around 10:30 a.m. a man who had been "quietly seated" at Mass stood up and spat on the ground. He is said to have "walked purposefully" towards the sanctuary of the church, while uttering anti-religious statements. He punched the 61-year-old priest, knocking him to the ground.

Berlin police said: "Immediately afterwards, the stranger took the Bible and tore out several pages from it. The priest's 56-year-old brother rushed to the aid of the stricken man. The attacker knocked him down with the Bible and fled the church unrecognized. The knocked-down and slightly injured priest and his brother, who was also only slightly injured, were treated by the alerted emergency services on site."

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## BISHOPS VOTE TO HOLD NOVEMBER MEETING VIRTUALLY

Each November, the bishops of the United States gather for their General Assembly in Baltimore. Earlier this month after consultation with the Holy See, the bishop-members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voted to approve the convocation of this annual November meeting in a virtual format in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a vote of 219 to 5 (1 abstaining), the bishops decided to meet in a virtual format rather than the usual in person meeting. The agenda will be finalized by the Administrative Committee of the USCCB, set to meet in mid-September.

Earlier this year, the Administrative Committee voted to cancel their Spring Assembly out of concern for the health, well-being, and safety of the bishops, staff, observers, guests, affiliates, volunteers, contractors, and media involved with the general meetings in the wake of the novel coronavirus. It marked the first cancellation of a plenary assembly in the Conference's history. The bylaws of the Conference state that a plenary assembly is to be convened at least once a year, and conducting the November meeting in virtual format fulfills this requirement. More information will be made available as the details of the virtual meeting are finalized and will be posted to <https://www.usccb.org/meetings>.

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## NEW PAINTING IN THE CHAPEL

There is a beautiful new painting in the chapel matching the paintings in the dome. The title of the painting is the "Domitian of the Holy Theotokos". It is fitting to have the painting here since this is the Basilica of the Assumption. In the Eastern Church, the Feast is called "the Domitian of the Holy Theotokos".