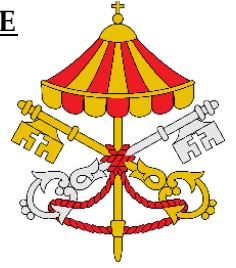




THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 26, 2020

Notes on the Gospel



Every person makes an ultimate choice about life.

This choice reveals and defines the character of the person. The choice clearly tells others what gives this person a sense of purpose. Some people choose possessions, popularity, or power. Others cling to security. Still, a few risk all for a greater prize. In today's passage, Jesus addressed those who gave up all for the Kingdom.

Jesus told his disciples: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure, having been hidden in a field, which a (hired) man, having found, hid (again); in his joy, he left, sold everything, as much as he possessed, and bought that field. Again the Kingdom of heaven is like a man, a merchant, seeking fine pearls. But, having found a pearl of great value, having left, he sold everything, as much as he possessed, and bought it.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus gave his followers these parables about God's Kingdom. In the first parable, a worker found a treasure buried in a field. In a time without a sophisticated banking system, people buried their treasure away from their dwelling to save it from thieves. Occasionally, people did hear of others finding treasure. But, no one ever sold what little they had, regardless of the reason. Simply owning the field did not guarantee ownership of the treasure. It merely insured access to the treasure. Ownership of the field and the treasure were two separate legal issues under ancient law.

The parable of the merchant and the pearl addressed the same issue. At the time of Jesus, pearls had the same status as gold and precious gems. The merchant in the parable made a livelihood from the buying and selling of pearls. Only profit motivated him. But, the sight of an exceptional pearl changed him. The merchant abandoned the ability to make a living when he sold all his assets. The merchant made himself truly poor, so he could possess that exceptional pearl. And, to return to his former life, the merchant would have to sell the pearl he gave all to possess.

Jesus painted the absurd images found in these two parables to reveal the risk factor of God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom demanded everything from the believer. Loyalty to family or neighbors, the desire for financial security, the drive for political power, all came second. The believer must put God first in all things, even if he or she looked like a fool.

Again the Kingdom of heaven is like a fishing net having been thrown into the sea and having gathered together every kind of fish. So it will be in the end of the age. God's messengers will go out and separate the evil from the righteous. In the Jewish context of Matthew, the use of "clean" and "unclean" is a judgment on the world on those in the Christian community. Jesus told the last parable as a counter weight to the fears people face when they consider the faith option. The early Christian communities saw their ministry as an extension of Christ's Messianic mission.



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
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 Monday, we remember the 20TH anniversary of the death of Fr. Paul Welton. On Wednesday 44th anniversary of the death of Fr. Francis Trettel. On Thursday, we remember the 18th anniversary of the death of Fr. Michael Ritilo. Next Sunday, we remember the 11th anniversary of the death of Fr. Francis Cronin. 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

Wednesday, July 29, Saint Martha

Martha was the sister of Mary and Lazarus. She is the model of hospitality and of faithful discipleship. She confessed her faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

Thursday, July 30, Saint Peter Chrysologus (Bishop)

Peter was called "Golden Mouth" for his exceptional preaching ability. 170 homilies are extant. He was the bishop of Ravenna. He died in 450.

Friday, July 31, Saint Ignatius of Loyola (Priest)

Ignatius was a soldier who founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He authored spiritual exercises, founded the Roman College. At his death in 1556, the Society numbered 1,000 members in 76 houses in twelve provinces. Today the Society included 18,200 members including Pope Francis.

Saturday, August 1, Saint Alphonsus Liguori Bishop & Doctor)

Alphonsus was a lawyer who founded the Redemptorist Order (C.SsR.) today numbering 5,400. The Order opposed Jansenism, stressed Christ's love, and bishop of Saint' Agata dei Goti. He died in 1778.



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!



WELCOME BISHOP MONFORTON THIS WEEKEND!



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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



July 26, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As rioters across the United States target statues depicting historical figures, we denounce that destruction, along with calls to destroy some depictions of Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Should certain statues be placed in museums or storage? Perhaps. Should we let a group of vandals make those decisions for us? No. If we allow the commemorative and visual history of our nation to be destroyed by random groups in the current moment of anger, how will we ever learn from that history? Does toppling and vandalizing a statue of George Washington because he owned slaves, really serve our country and our collective memory?"

Every culture, country, ethnicity, and race has claimed Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary as their own, depicting them with their culture's skin color and dressed in their culture's garb. For example, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared as "mestiza," or "mixed" race; African art depicts Jesus as black, and Mary in African cultural garb; and there are numerous Asian representations of Mary as well. In this context, are white representations of Christ and His Mother inherently signs of white supremacy? I think not. Because the Son of God became incarnate in our human flesh, does not all of humanity – every race, tribe, and tongue – have the spiritual ability to depict Him through the particular lens of their own culture?

Depictions of Jesus are holy to Christians, they are physical manifestations of God's love, and remind us of the "nearness of the divine." The current violence will not bring reconciliation, peace, and healing. Such violence will only perpetuate the prejudice and hatred it ostensibly seeks to end...Only the love of Christ can heal a wounded heart, not a vandalized piece of metal.

The principles of Catholic social teaching— the dignity of the human person; the value of solidarity, "we're all in this together;" a preferential option for the poor— need to be present in any Catholic's response to injustice.

It is clear that the violence and ill-treatment of Native Americans and the oppression of African Americans through slavery are two of the country's greatest moral failings. The situation requires better knowledge of history and respectful discussions about statues, buildings, and memorials. We must study and know this history in order to transcend it, to learn from it and to commit ourselves to justice, equality, and solidarity because of it.

At the same time, even the worst aspects of history should be remembered and kept before our eyes. Auschwitz remains open as both a memorial and a museum, so that humanity never forgets the horror of the Holocaust.

In Christ,

EVENTS & MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, July 27,

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

Tuesday, July 28,

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

Wednesday, July 29,

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

Thursday, July 30,

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

Friday, July 31

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

Saturday, August 1,

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

Sunday August 2,

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



Honduras: Pope Donates Ventilators to Treat COVID-19

On Monday, July 13, 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 health emergency in Honduras, three ventilators donated by Pope Francis were officially delivered to “El Carmen” Hospital of Tegucigalpa. The donation included material for medical use, given to the Carmelite Missionary Sisters of Saint Teresa, who run the Hospital.

The ventilators are part of a total of 35 the Pontiff sent last June 26 to different countries, to palliate the effects of the coronavirus health emergency: 3 to Honduras, 4 to Haiti, 2 to the Dominican Republic, 2 to Bolivia, 4 to Brazil, 3 to Colombia, 2 to Ecuador, 3 to Mexico, 4 to Venezuela, 2 to Cameroon, 2 to Zimbabwe, 2 to Bangladesh and 2 to Ukraine.

The Pope’s gift was handed over by Monsignor Gabor Pinter, Apostolic Nuncio in Honduras, who said this noble gesture of the Holy Father is a sign of solidarity and of concern for one’s neighbor. Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez and Father Carlos Nunez received this donation and delivered it to the Hospital’s authorities. The Cardinal said that the Pontiff’s gift reflects his concern for Honduras not only in prayer but in solidarity.

For her part, Mother Cruz Idalia Perez, General Directress of “El Carmen” Hospital, expressed her great joy, as the Hospital did not have ventilators, and stressed that the arrival of these gifts is perceived as a gift of the Virgin of Carmel, whose feast was observed on July 16. Father Carlo Magno Nunez, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa, stressed the importance of this donation for Honduras and for the Hospital, describing it as “a sign of hope in the midst of this pandemic.”



Cardinal Pell Speaks of prison

“There is a lot of goodness in prisons . At times, I am sure, prisons may be hell on earth. I was fortunate to be kept safe and treated well. I was impressed by the professionalism of the warders, the faith of the prisoners, and the existence of a moral sense even in the darkest places.”

“For many, time in prison is an opportunity to ponder and confront basic truths,” Cardinal Pell wrote. “Prison life removed any excuse that I was too busy to pray, and my regular schedule of prayer sustained me. From the first night, I always had a breviary (even if it was out of season), and I received Holy Communion each week. On five occasions I attended Mass, though I was unable to celebrate it, a fact I particularly lamented at Christmas and Easter.”

On the practical side, the Cardinal noted that his jail cell had a better reading lamp than many expensive hotels. And he recounted that in his 13 months in confinement in two prisons, he was kept in solitary confinement, having no interaction with other prisoners. However, he could hear others being held and on one occasion heard them debating his guilt or innocence. It seems the Cardinal had both defenders and critics among the detainees.

During his time in Melbourne prison, he was attired in a green tracksuit; in Barwon, he was issued the “bright red colors of a cardinal.” He reports that in prison the beds are firm and the mattresses thin.

“My Catholic faith sustained me, especially the understanding that my suffering need not be pointless but could be united with Christ Our Lord’s,” Cardinal Pell wrote. “I never felt abandoned, knowing that the Lord was with me—even as I didn’t understand what he was doing for most of the thirteen months. For many years, I had told the suffering and disturbed that the Son of God, too, had trials on this earth, and now I myself was consoled by this fact. So, I prayed for friends and foes, for my supporters and my family, for the victims of sexual abuse, and for my fellow prisoners and the warders.”

WHAT IS DEATH?

Death is nothing at all. It does not count. I have only slipped away into the next room. Nothing bad has happened. Everything remains exactly as it was. I am I, and you are you, and the old life we lived so fondly together is unchanged. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by the old familiar name. Speak of me in the easy way you always used. Put no difference in your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household that it always was. Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. There is absolute and unbroken continuity. What is death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well.

Diocese of Hong Kong Suspends Public Mass



With the coming of the “third wave” of the Covid-19 pandemic and the rapid resurgence of confirmed infections, the Government of Hong Kong has again taken drastic precautionary measures for the coming two weeks (July 15-28), so as to reduce the risk of community transmission as far as possible. In response, the Diocese of Hong Kong on July 14 announced that all public Masses will be suspended for two weeks and instituted precautions.

To cope with these measures of the Government, Cardinal John TONG has announced the following new pastoral measures for the coming two weeks:

1. Parish churches and affiliated chapels, as well as all other places (centers, etc.) where regular Sunday and weekday “public” Masses are celebrated, are to suspend all “public” Masses. Other communal religious activities, with the exception of weddings and funerals, are to be suspended as well.
2. Parish churches and affiliated chapels are to remain open to the faithful for personal prayers and visits to the Blessed Sacrament. Parish churches may also arrange for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament daily or on specific days. The faithful who individually come to a church or a chapel to pray or visit the Blessed Sacrament are not considered as a group gathering, and so there is no restriction on their number.
3. Parish churches and affiliated chapels should take the following precautionary measures for the faithful or other people who come to pray, to visit the Blessed Sacrament or to attend weddings or funerals.

Bishop Edward Malesic of Greensburg named to lead Cleveland diocese



Pope Francis Thursday named Bishop Edward C. Malesic of Greensburg, Pa, to lead the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio. In Cleveland, he fills the vacant See left by Archbishop Nelson Perez’s appointment to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in January. The Diocese of Cleveland serves nearly 700,000 Catholics in 185 parishes in northeast Ohio.

Malesic, who will turn 60 in August, has led the Diocese of Greensburg since July 2015. He holds a licentiate in canon law from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Malesic was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 14, 1960. He is one of four children born to parents of German and Slovenian descent.

Christ statue beheaded in new Catholic statue attacks

The recent series of attacks on church buildings and property continued Tuesday night, as a statue of Christ was toppled and beheaded at a Miami parish and a statue of Mary was daubed with red paint in Colorado Springs.

Recent weeks have seen a rolling series of acts of vandalism and destruction at Catholic churches across the United States, including arsons, decapitations, and graffiti. But while some of the incidents have been caught on camera, in most cases the perpetrators, and their motivations have yet to be identified. In response to the most recent attack, the Archbishop of Miami told police that the desecration of the statue of Christ should be treated as an act of hatred for the Church and faith.

The statue was located outside its namesake church. The police were notified and Archbishop Thomas Wenski is asking this investigation be treated as a hate crime," she added.

Also overnight on Tuesday, a statue of the Blessed Virgin at St. Mary's Cathedral in Colorado Springs was tagged with red paint in an act of vandalism. The vandal or vandals colored the statue's cross, and also appeared to paint the statue's toenails.

In Tennessee, a statue of the Blessed Mother was decapitated In the early hours of Saturday morning, while, in Boston, a statue of Mary was set on fire, and in Brooklyn, a statue of her was tagged with the word "IDOL" in black spray paint.

Pope Francis today announced that he has named Bishop Ronald A. Hicks, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago, - as the sixth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, IL.



Pope Francis had previously accepted the resignation of Bishop Emeritus R. Daniel Conlon and had named Bishop Richard E. Pates as Apostolic Administrator of the diocese until a new bishop could be appointed. Bishop Hicks, 52, will be installed at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet, Ill. on September 29, 2020.

"The Diocese of Joliet is most grateful to Pope Francis for the appointment of Bishop Ronald Hicks as its sixth bishop," said Bishop Pates. "The bishop owns a reputation for pastoral leadership and is totally committed to the ongoing renewal of the Catholic Church. He is a worthy successor to Bishop Conlon and his predecessors."

From 2010 to 2014, Bishop Hicks served as the Dean of Formation at Mundelein Seminary. Bishop Hicks was appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese by Cardinal Cupich on January 1, 2015. On September 17, 2018, he was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

DOME PAINTINGS TO BE INSTALLED

Conception Abbey is a monastery of the Swiss-American Congregation of the Benedictine Confederation. The monastery, founded by the Swiss Engelberg Abbey in 1873 in northwest Missouri's Nodaway County, was raised to a conventual priory in 1876 and elevated to an abbey in 1881. In 2017 the community numbered sixty-five monks who celebrate the Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours daily and who staff and administer Conception Seminary College, the Printery House, and the Abbey Guest Center.

One of the most complete collections of Beuronese art is located at Conception, Abbey. "Beuronese" art 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 for the Benedictine Abbey of Emmaus in Prague. Subsequently destroyed by fire in 1945 during World War II, two copies of this set are still in existence. A set was created for St Mary's German Church in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, between 1908 and 1910. The church was demolished in 1996. However, the "Life of the Virgin" series was restored and relocated to 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.

Several copies of this special art have been prepared for the dome of our Basilica and will be installed within few days. It is fitting that these special paintings of the life of the Virgin Mary will enhance our dome.



FRENCH CATHEDRAL BURNED

A 39-year-old cathedral volunteer has been detained as part of the arson investigation after a major fire at the Cathedral at Nantes on Saturday. The fire was arson. There were three fires started at the site. The volunteer was responsible for locking the cathedral on Friday night.

Firefighters were called to the cathedral, which dates from the 15th century, at 7:44 a.m. On Saturday, over 100 firefighters were at the scene and saved the main structure. The Diocese of Nantes said there was significant damage to the cathedral's 16th century rose window and to the choir organ. Several priceless artifacts were also destroyed in the blaze.

The Fire Chief told French television that damage to the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul of Nantes "is concentrated on the organ, which seems to be completely destroyed. Its platform is very unstable and could collapse." He said the fire was not as severe as that which struck the Cathedral of Notre Dame 15 months ago and the damage is less extensive.