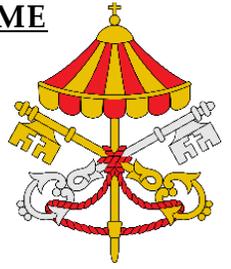


THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Notes on the Gospel



The scene in the Gospel opened when Peter asked Jesus how many times should the unrepentant or habitual sinner be forgiven. Up to seven times? In the Jewish mind at the time of Jesus, the number "seven" represented fullness and completion). Peter must have thought the number "seven" was a good number. It represented a reasonable number of times the victim could forgive the sinner. Beyond seven times, the situation was beyond hope. Jesus' point was clear. Forgiveness was not a matter of social grace or necessity. Forgiveness was integral to the Christian lifestyle. As God always forgave the sinner, the sinner should always forgive others.

Because of this, the Kingdom of heaven is like (the parable of) the king who wanted to examine the accounts of his servants. When he began to examine (the accounts), one debtor of ten thousand talents was presented (to the king). Since he did not have (the money) to repay the king, the master ordered him and his family to be sold into slavery to repay the debt. The servant begged mercy - "Have patience with me, and I will give everything back to you!" The master of that servant released him and forgave the repayment of the loan. That servant found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii, and said, "Repay what you owe me!" The servant said, "Have patience with me, and I will give (the money) back to you!" He refused to forgive the debt and threw him into jail until he repayed his debt. His fellow servants were greatly distressed and reported in detail to the master everything that happened. The master summoned the abusive servant) and demanded: "I set aside all that debt for you, because you begged me. Was it not necessary for you to have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I also had mercy on you?" Then the master turned him over to the torturers, until he could repay everything owed. So too will, My heavenly Father do to (all of) you, unless you forgive each of your brothers from your hearts."

18:24, 27 "ten thousand talents...one hundred denarii" Ten thousand talents represented an immeasurable amount of money (the gross national product of a nation), while one hundred denarii represented one hundred days wages. The comparison was intentionally absurd.

Any Christian can understand the symbolism in the parable. The king was God the Father. The ungrateful official was a petty Christian living in community. Such a believer demanded his "fair share" and easily forgot the gift God gave him. Without a sense of mercy, such a Christian disgraced the community and was no better than the unreformed sinner.

To Jesus' contemporaries, the amount of the debt of the official represented more than money. The debt reflected the great trust the king placed in the official. A high royal official acted as a go-between who connected the royal family with the other aristocratic families in the kingdom. He acted with political and financial clout, speaking and spending in the king's name. Such a high official had power second only to the king. And his power was based upon the king's trust.



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 - 17, - Marietta College Students tour of the Basilica – 1:00 pm.
- Oct. - 23, - Closing of the 75th 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)



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.



Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday

Perpetual Help Devotions will be offered this 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.



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 14, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today's Feast celebrates the double anniversary of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem and the discovery of the Lord's Cross by the empress St. Helena in 320.

Tuesday, September 8, Our lady of Sorrows

This Feast celebrates the seven sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary: the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, the flight into Egypt, Jesus lost in Jerusalem, the meeting of Mary and Jesus on the way to Calvary, the Crucifixion, the taking down of Jesus from the cross, and His burial

Wednesday, September 9, Saints Cornelius (Pope) & Cyprian (Bishop)

Pope Cornelius was opposed to the Novatian heresy and the rigorists. He was buried in the cemetery of Callistus. He died in 253. Cyprian was decapitated in 258 under Valerian. He was an ally of Callistus. He was the bishop of Carthage. He was the first African bishop to be martyred.

Saturday, September 12, Saint Robert Bellarmine

Robert was a brilliant Jesuit scholar. He was involved in the Galileo affair, and was the cardinal archbishop of Capua. He died in 1621.

EVENTS & MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 14,

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

Tuesday, September 15,

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

Wednesday, September 16,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration
12:05 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist

Thursday, September 17,

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

Friday, September 18,

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

Saturday, September 19,

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

Sunday September 20,

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



PLEASE PRAY
THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH
FAMILY WHO ARE ILL.
THE BASILICA OF



SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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

September 13, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian message. As God forgives us, we, sinners, are to forgive others. To realize God in our lives requires us to become aware of our own shortcomings and to forgive others' shortcomings. As the Our Father states: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Since God always forgives us, we should always turn toward him. Our conversion, then, should be an ongoing and life long process. While God forgave our sins in Baptism, "the frailty and weakness of human nature" remain. God forgave us in water, yet he continually calls us closer. While we may stumble and fall, we always hear His call. He always holds out his hand to raise us up so we can continue on the journey.

Our conversion at Baptism marked the first time we declared our conversion to Christ. Yet, there is a second conversion God calls us to. A continuing conversion both of the individual and the community of believers. We all are to turn to him and turn to each other in love.

When have we forgiven enough times? Imagine God asking us that question from His perspective! No, we cannot conceive of such a question on his part, lest our faith die. But, God is God. He is ever faithful, ever forgiving. He showed us so when his Son died on the cross.

When God calls us to himself, he calls us to continual conversion. As we forever receive pardon for our shortcomings, we should always forgive others for theirs.

The next time someone hurts us and challenges our patience, let us remember the source of forgiveness. Let us remember the source.

How easily does God forgive us and renew His life in us! Like the official before the king in today's Gospel, God renews His trust in us with the greatest gift of all – His love and forgiveness. Yet, we squander this gift so easily when our selfish hearts shut him out. But does our pettiness stop us from forgiving our neighbor, like the official in the story? If we refuse to forgive others, even their smallest transgressions, will we be any better than the unrepentant? On the last day, would we be surprised if the Lord treated us, like we treated others? The moral of the story is clear. As the Lord always forgives us from the inner depths of his heart, we, too, must forgive others.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

[Pope Francis: a new encyclical to outline his post-COVID 19 vision?](#)

Pope Francis will issue a new encyclical on the human fraternity. The document will outline Pope Francis' vision for the world after the COVID 19 pandemic. However, the encyclical will not be the only Papal text on which to focus. The Pope will also send a message to the general assembly of the United Nations—on September 15—and deliver two important speeches: one to the Global Compact for Education and one to the upcoming “Economy of Francis” event.

These four pieces will lay out how Pope Francis wants the world to respond to the pandemic's challenges. Pope Francis already gave some indication of his vision for the world post-COVID 19. On Easter Sunday, he sent a letter to popular movements. In the letter, he advocated for a new economic model that would not marginalize the poor. He called for a universal basic income for the lowest-wage workers excluded from globalization's benefits.

Other clues come from the catecheses Pope Francis is delivering every Wednesday at his weekly General Audience. The catecheses are about the social teaching of the Church as viewed through the lens of the pandemic.

Pope Francis is developing some recurrent themes: he keeps saying that we cannot emerge from the pandemic unchanged, but must be either better or worse; he says that the effects of the pandemic are worsened from the economic model that makes things harder for the poor, both in facing the financial crisis and the illness; he advocates the building of more equal societies; he underscores that the pandemic led us to rethink the pace of our lives, which must now be turned into an ecological conversion that could let humanity finally respond to the environmental crisis.

We can assume that these will be the guidelines of the vision Pope Francis will outline. The UN assembly will be held via video conference, but it is an important one since it marks the organization's 75th anniversary. Expect the main focus to be on how to get out of the crisis caused by the pandemic. Francis will likely underscore that it is crucial to get out of the crisis with new economic models, and not simply using the old ones or tweaking them. That, he will likely argue, would mean getting out of the crisis “worse”.

TODAY'S READINGS

“None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master.” This assertion, and what follows it in today's Second Reading, speak of the dominion of God over human life. This is the basis for the Church's opposition to abortion and euthanasia, and any other kind of violence against human life. The “pro-choice” side chants, “My body, my life, my choice!” and the pro-euthanasia side chants also, “My death!” But this reading declares that Christ is Lord both of the living and the dead. When the Church defends life, she is not only defending the rights of the human person, but is also defending the rights of God himself, and his absolute dominion over human life.

It is that dominion which also is the basis for the mercy and forgiveness of which today's First Reading, Psalm, and Gospel speak. God is over all, and therefore can have mercy on all. The first act of mercy is creation itself, and therefore, just as we are called to imitate God's mercy by forgiving our neighbor, so are we called to imitate his mercy by protecting our neighbor's life.

Shrine in memory of aborted children dedicated in Mexico



The Mexican pro-life association Los Inocentes de María (Mary's Innocent Ones) dedicated a shrine in Guadalajara last month in memory of aborted children. The shrine, called Rachel's Grotto, also serves as a place for reconciliation between parents and their deceased babies.

In an August 15 dedication ceremony, the archbishop emeritus of Guadalajara, Cardinal Juan Sandoval Íñiguez, blessed the shrine and emphasized the importance of promoting "awareness that abortion is a terrible crime that frustrates the destiny of many human beings."

The founder and director of Los Inocentes de María, explained that the idea was inspired by a similar project by a choral group that created a grotto next to the adoration chapel of a monastery in Frauenberg, southern Germany. The name "Rachel's Grotto comes from the passage in the Gospel of Matthew where King Herod, seeking to kill the Christ Child, massacres all children two years and younger in Bethlehem: "A cry was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."

The main goal of Los Inocentes de María, Del Río said, "is to combat violence against children, both in the womb and in early childhood, newborns and up to two, five, six years old, when lamentably many are murdered," some are even "thrown into sewers, onto vacant lots."

Two religious sisters in Mozambique still missing after Islamist attack



Two religious sisters in Mozambique are still unaccounted for three weeks after militants linked to the Islamic State seized control of the port city of Mocimboa da Praia. The sisters have not been heard from since the rebels attacked their city in early August.

The Islamic State declared that it had seized two military bases near the port town of Mocimboa da Praia, after a series of coordinated attacks Aug. 5-11.

Mozambique's defense minister said at a press conference, that the Islamist militants had "attacked the town from the inside out, causing destruction, looting, and murder of defenseless citizens." Since the occupation, the port town has been cut off from the rest of Mozambique. "Nobody can travel there," Fonseca said.

There were about 60 people in the convent in the care of the sisters at the time of the attack. Authorities have not been able to give an answer as to what has happened to them.

New York bishops urge Cuomo to remember the poor



The bishops of New York have spoken out against proposed cuts in the New York State budget, urging Gov. Andrew Cuomo not to add further burdens to the state's poor and vulnerable in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"As the governor considers the steps needed to restore our state to fiscal stability, the New York State bishops offer prayers for wisdom, as well as a reminder that the state must never balance its budget on the

backs of the poor and vulnerable," said a statement from the New York Catholic Conference released on Thursday, September 3.

Reports suggest the state is considering cutting 20% of budgets across every department in the state to make up for its budget shortfall. While these cuts are "understandable," and appears on their face to be giving equal treatment to all departments, the bishops stated, "we must keep in mind that for the hundreds of thousands of vulnerable New Yorkers who depend on state-funded not-for-profit human services providers, social equity already eludes them, and always has."

"We must not turn our back on women fleeing domestic violence, immigrants seeking legal resources, people with physical or developmental disabilities, the frail elderly, struggling single mothers and their young children, families who are homeless, those who have lost their jobs and don't have enough food to put on the table, people suffering from addiction or mental illness, survivors of sexual abuse, offenders reintegrating into society, or the many other New Yorkers who most need our support," said the statement.

While Catholic Charities has been able to care for some of the needy in the state, the bishops said that the challenges are "greater than ever" with increased demand and fewer donations due to an ailing economy and limited parish collections due to coronavirus restrictions.

The state's bishops also noted that the New York State Constitution specifies that "the aid, care and support of the needy are public concerns and shall be provided by the state." Cuomo, they said, faces an "unenviable reality" when it comes to keeping New York residents safe and dealing with the budget shortfall, but should "remember this sentiment of unity that includes our most vulnerable brothers and sisters" when deciding where to address budget shortfalls.



DECEASED PRIESTS OF THE DIOCSE

On Friday of this week, we recall 63rd anniversary of Msgr. Steven Yantko. On Saturday, we remember the 18th anniversary of the death of Msgr. James Marshall, and the 12th anniversary of the death of Fr. Robert Mascolino. Next Sunday, we remember the 44th anniversary of the death of Fr. William Campbell. These priests served the Diocese to the best of their ability, may they rest in peace.

10 TIPS FOR STRESSLESS PARENTING

- 1.) Take time out each day to do something FOR YOURSELF. Exercise, stretching, listening to soothing music, reading are some proven ways to reduce stress.
- 2.) If you are feeling overwhelmed, arrange for some outside help so you can manage all aspects of your life more effectively.
- 3.) Keep your sense of humor when things don't go as planned. No one is perfect – parent or child.
- 4.) Accept that children sometimes make mistakes, are inconsistent, and act thoughtlessly – this is part of being a child.
- 5.) Count to 10 before you react when you get angry.
- 6.) Ease tension with a human touch – share a hug, hold hands, or give a pat on the back.
- 7.) Listen to your child and show you value your conversations. Good communication can prevent conflict and stress.
- 8.) Schedule in family fun and fitness. Laughter and physical activity are great stress reducers.
- 9.) Spend time with friends talking about your parenting concerns. Also share your reflections on the joys of parenting.
- 10.) Learn how children mature so that your expectations for your child's behavior are realistic.

Pope Francis to sign a new encyclical on human fraternity on Oct. 3



The Vatican announced Saturday that Pope Francis will sign the third encyclical of his pontificate in Assisi on Oct. 3.

The encyclical is entitled *Fratelli tutti*, which means “All Brothers” in Italian, and will focus on the theme of human fraternity and social friendship, according to the Holy See Press Office.

Pope Francis will offer a Mass at the tomb of St. Francis in Assisi privately at 3 p.m. before signing the encyclical on the day before St. Francis' feast day. Human fraternity has been an important theme for Pope Francis in recent years. In Abu Dhabi the pope signed “A Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” in Feb. 2019. Pope Francis' message for his first World Day of Peace as pope in 2014 was “Fraternity, foundation and pathway for peace.”

Archbishop Viganò's Rejection of the Second Vatican Council



- Promoting Schism?

In his latest 'testimony,' the former nuncio holds a position contrary to the Catholic faith on the authority of ecumenical councils.

Archbishop Viganò began the year by entering a controversy, of which he had no part, to denounce Archbishop Georg Ganswein, the personal secretary to Pope Benedict XVI, for "abusive and systematic control" of the pope emeritus, extending back to the time when Benedict was serving as pope. It was a sign of the things to come, interventions ever more extravagant and more frequent.

In his retirement, Archbishop Viganò has issued, with growing rapidity, statements about the broad sweep of recent Church history, the coronavirus and one world government. This culminated in an attack on the Second Vatican Council, which, not to put too fine a point on it, he called a "devil council."

Archbishop Viganò placed himself and his own personal interpretation above the authority of an ecumenical council, Archbishop Viganò risks the very schism he denounces. The consequences could not be more serious. The Archbishop's position smacks of being the unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit. One has essentially placed one's own judgment over that of the Council."

"Archbishop Viganò sees the Second Vatican Council as schismatic, and even more than this, as heretical." In his radical reading of the Council, the archbishop is spawning his own schism. He , and those who voice opinions similar to his own, are leading God's people, particularly the young, not into the Church but out of the Church."

The archbishop is a talented man from a wealthy Italian family, he followed the well-trodden path that priests from rich Italian families often do. He entered the Holy See's diplomatic service and distinguished himself by years of exemplary service.

In 1992, St. John Paul II personally ordained him, and sent him to serve as nuncio to Nigeria, the most important Catholic country in Africa. Upon return to Rome in 1998, he was appointed delegate for pontifical representatives, a sort of personnel chief for Vatican diplomats. In 2011, Archbishop Viganò was sent to Washington as nuncio to the United States. He retired in 2016 at the age of 75.

Archbishop Viganò rejects the reform and continuity" of Benedict XVI in regard to Vatican II. The archbishop now holds what Benedict himself condemned, namely a break from the Church. Some people think he may have become a bit unstable, but his is moving toward heresy.

