

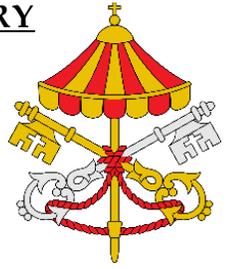


## THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Notes on the Gospel



Jesus challenged the Jewish leaders with these issues in one simple phrase. Who did the will of the Father? Jesus said to the Jewish leaders: "Tell me what you think about this story. There was a man who had two sons. Approaching the oldest son, the man told him, "Go work in my vineyard today." "I don't want to," the oldest son answered. But he changed his mind and went to work.

Then, approaching the younger son, the man told him the same thing. "Yes, sir, I will," the younger son answered. But he didn't go to work. So," Jesus concluded, "which son did what his father wanted?" "The older one," the leaders answered.

"Then, listen!" Jesus said. " Tax collectors and prostitutes will enter the Kingdom of God before you. For John the Baptist came to all the people and showed everyone the right way to live. You didn't believe what he taught, but the sinners did. When you saw (what happened), you did not later change your minds and believe what John said."

To us, the story of the two sons presents a simple choice. Results are more important than appearances. The older son was the better son because he was honest with his answer. Yet, he relented and obeyed his father. The younger son lied to save face. His motives were dubious. The older son was moral. The younger was not.

To the audience of Jesus, the choice was not that easy. Their focus was not on the moral character of the sons but the honor of the father. In the small community atmosphere in Palestine, everyone knew everyone else's business. The choices of the sons would soon become public knowledge through the gossip grapevine. The denial of the older son embarrassed the father while the lie of the younger son at least showed deference to the father's position. The older son dishonored his father's reputation. The younger son honored his father's standing in the community. In the mind of Jesus' contemporaries, the younger son was the better son. The social standing of the sons or the reputation of the father did not matter. The openness of the heart did matter.

In the story, the father obviously represented God. The father's question emphasized the work of the vineyard. Work in the vineyard meant harvest, preparing Israel for God's Kingdom. Repentance was key to such preparation. The older child embarrassed his father, but he did repent. He worked in the vineyard and prepared for the coming of the Kingdom. Only change of mind and heart toward God matters, not social standing or moral background. That is why Jesus could say that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the Kingdom with greater honor than Jewish leaders. This statement shocked Jesus' audience, for many Jewish rabbis held that these two groups were so morally corrupt they could never enter the Kingdom. The self-righteous leaders would be totally humiliated to stand below such rift-raft in God's presence. The tax collectors and the prostitutes would replace the Jewish leaders in the Kingdom!) Sinners who did the will of the Father would stand over those who paid lip-service to the Kingdom. Conversion begins with the heart, for only in the heart can one truly change.



## 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:

- Oct. - 9, - Eucharistic Congress for 40 hours
- 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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### 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.



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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 28, Saint Wenceslaus (Martyr)

Wenceslaus was the Duke of Bohemia. He died at the age of 22 in 929. He sought to bring Faith to his people. He was murdered by his brother

Tuesday, September 29, Saints Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael

These biblical messengers signify God's transcendence and loving care. The name Michael means "Who is like God", Gabriel "God's Strength", Raphael, "God's Remedy".

Wednesday, September 30, Saint Jerome (Priest & Doctor)

Jerome was a devoted monk and ascetic. He wrote commentaries on and authored the Latin Vulgate translation of the bible. He is one of four great doctors of the Church. He died in 420 at Bethlehem.

Thursday, October 1, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus

Therese was a Carmelite nun who was a contemplative. She died at the age of 24. She was proclaimed a doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II.

Friday, October 2, The Holy Guardian Angels

Observed since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Clement X in 1670 assigned this memorial to the Church calendar.

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## EVENTS & MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 28,

7:45 am. - Mass  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions  
7:00 pm. - RCIA

12:05 pm. - Mass

Friday, October 2,

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

Tuesday, September 29,

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

Saturday, October 3,

9:00 am. - Mass  
1:00 pm. - Wedding  
3:30 pm. - Confessions  
5:30 pm. - Mass

Wednesday, September 30,

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

Sunday October 3,

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 27, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

“God is with us.” This is the message of hope that we want to proclaim to the world. The trauma of the pandemic, as well as the economic upheaval that has followed, has been and continues to be an opportunity for the Church to seize the moment. The Holy Spirit has and will continue to enable the Church, even in a time of lockdown and isolation, to help us overcome our feelings of fear, loneliness, and vulnerability by reminding us that God is with us, always.”

The current pandemic, which has led to physical separation between people, in some ways mirrors the situation in which many of the first Christians found themselves. Christians were apart in the distant communities of the first century, in isolation as prisoners for the faith locked away in cells and awaiting execution, or in remote communities far from a priest or the sacraments for extended periods of time.

Despite this, the Christian community at the time remained spiritually close through communication and prayers for one another. In the same way, Catholics have found creative ways to communicate during the current pandemic— particularly through digital means such as live-streaming and social media— and to remain spiritually close.

At a time when many felt alone, the gifts of the Church were made available to them in new ways. The first followers of Christ communicated by deeds, setting an example with their joy, sincerity, and their treatment of one another. They also proclaimed the Gospel with words, inviting people to join them and challenging the authorities to change their behavior. St. Paul, who traveled relentlessly, preaching to Jewish and Gentile communities, debating Athens’ worldly philosophers, and addressing Roman authorities.

When authorities threatened the apostles, ordering them to cease preaching in public about the Good News of the Lord, Sts. Peter and John replied: “It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). The manner of fulfilling the Great Commission has evolved over the years, but the mandate itself, to proclaim the Kingdom, has never changed.

This is a critical time for the Church, beset as she is by many of the same stresses that are affecting secular institutions. It is important that the Church maintain and develop the capacity to tell her story. The Good News of the Gospel will set us free, but it is not to be marketed like a consumer product.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell



## DECEASED PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE

On Monday of this week, we remember the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Pope John Paul I. On Tuesday, we remember the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Msgr. Jerome Rojewski. On Wednesday, we remember the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Msgr. Angelo Cappelli. On Thursday, we remember the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Cornelius Gallagher. On Friday, we remember the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Msgr. George Adams. These priests served the Diocese to the best of their ability, may they rest in peace.

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## ANNUAL ROSARY CONGRESS



The annual Rosary Congress will take place on October 9<sup>th</sup>. These 40 hours are set aside as a time for prayer for an end to the virus, and to pray for peace, healing, and renewal in our families, our country, or parish and our school. The Congress will open on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>, after the 12:05 Mass, and close on Sunday morning at 6:30 am. The Congress will be held in the main basilica.

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## 2020 Respect Life Conference

The annual Respect Life Conference, co-sponsored by the Diocese of Steubenville and Franciscan University of Steubenville, will take place on the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville Oct. 10, 2020 (in the Finnegan Fieldhouse). The keynote speaker will be Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, who serves as the chairman for the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities. Doors open at 8:30 AM, and the keynote takes place at 9:00 AM. A panel discussion will follow the keynote. The conference will conclude with a Respect Life Mass at 11:00 AM celebrated by Archbishop Naumann and concelebrated by Bishop Monforton. The archbishop will be the homilist. Because of the restrictions in place due to the coronavirus, registration will be limited to 100 people and participants will be required to follow applicable safety standards, including social distancing and facial coverings. Pre-registration is required. Registrations will be taken online ([www.diosteub.org/respect-life-conference](http://www.diosteub.org/respect-life-conference))

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## POPE FRANCES ON FORGIVENESS

“We should never forget this word of Jesus: ‘Have compassion’. Jesus exhorts us to open ourselves with courage to the strength of forgiveness because in life not everything can be resolved with justice. There is a need for that merciful love. How much suffering, how many wounds, how many wars could be avoided if forgiveness and mercy were the style of our life! Even in families. How many families are disunited, who do not know how to forgive each other. It is necessary to apply merciful love to all human relationships.

## Catholic priest stabbed to death in Italy known for his care of 'the least'



A 51-year-old priest was found dead from knife wounds last Tuesday near his parish in the city of Como, Italy. Fr. Roberto Malgesini was known for his devotion to the homeless and migrants in the northern Italian diocese.

The pastor died in a street near his parish of the Church of St. Rocco after sustaining several stab wounds, including one to the neck, around 7 a.m. Sept. 15. A 53-year-old man from Tunisia admitted to the stabbing and turned himself in to police shortly afterward. The man was understood to suffer from some mental ailments.

Bishop Oscar Cantoni will lead a rosary for Malgesini in Como Cathedral Sept. 15 at 8:30 p.m. He said "we are proud as a bishop and as a Church of a priest who gave his life for Jesus in the 'least ones.'" A diocesan statement said "in the face of this tragedy, the Church of Como is clinging to prayer for its priest Fr. Roberto and for the person who struck him to death."

The local newspaper Prima la Valtellina quoted Luigi Nessi, a volunteer who worked with Malgesini, as saying that "he was a person who lived the Gospel daily, in every moment of the day. An exceptional expression of our community."



## St. Januarius' blood liquifies in Naples

The blood of early Church martyr St. Januarius liquified in Naples last Saturday, repeating a miracle dating at least to the 14th century. The blood was declared to have turned from solid to liquid at 10:02 am in the Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary Sept. 19, the feast of St. Januarius. Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe, archbishop of Naples, announced the news to a mostly empty cathedral, due to coronavirus restrictions.

"Dear friends, dear all the faithful, once again with joy and emotion I inform you that the blood of our holy martyr and patron St. Januarius has liquefied," Sepe said. His words were received by an applause from those present inside and outside the cathedral. Sepe added that the blood had "completely liquefied, without any clots, which has happened in past years." The miracle is "a sign of God's love, goodness, and mercy, and of the closeness, the friendship, the fraternity of our St. Januarius," the cardinal stated, adding "Glory be to God and veneration to our saint. Amen."

St. Januarius, or San Gennaro in Italian, is the patron saint of Naples. He was bishop of the city in the third century, and his bones and blood are preserved in the cathedral as relics. He was martyred during the Christian persecution of Emperor Diocletian. The liquefaction of St. Januarius'

blood happens at least three times per year: the saint's feast day of Sept. 19, the Saturday before the first Sunday of May, and Dec. 16, which is the anniversary of the 1631 eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

## **Diseases of Despair: Pandemic Prompts Spike in Social Pathologies**

Surveys show a significant rise amid COVID-19 in mental-health issues, including suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, anxiety disorder and depression — with younger adults particularly at risk. When stay-at-home orders imposed in March to slow the spread of the coronavirus extended into April, trouble was ahead for the nation's mental health.

Surveys assessing the mental-health impact of the coronavirus restrictions are showing an increase in such "diseases of despair" as anxiety disorder and depression. From June 24-30, 40.9% of adults over the age of 18 reported symptoms of at least one mental or behavioral health condition — 30.9% had symptoms of anxiety or depression related to the pandemic, 26.3% had trauma and stress symptoms, 13.3% had started or increased substance use to cope, and 10.7% had seriously considered suicide in the previous 30 days. Even higher numbers of at least one adverse mental or behavioral health symptom were reported by those 18 to 24 years old (74.9%) and those between the ages of 25 and 44 (51.9%).

Similarly, a Boston University study found that the incidence of depression symptoms has more than tripled since the beginning of the pandemic. In another survey by the Cleveland Clinic, 77% of men said they were stressed about the health of their family and the state of the economy because of the coronavirus, and three in five said the virus has affected their mental health more than the 2008 recession did. Still another report by the Well Being Trust and the Robert Graham Center has projected as many as 154,037 "deaths of despair" from drugs, alcohol and suicide related to COVID-19, calling it the "epidemic within the pandemic."

The chief psychiatry resident at the University of California at Irvine added, "The reality of the situation is that we are not meant to be isolated creatures. We are meant to exist in community with one another." Besides the economic insecurity and family difficulties brought on by the coronavirus restrictions, Broghammer said people are living in a state of uncertainty, not knowing when and if things are going to get better.

The sense that someone doesn't have control over his or her life can be debilitating. Likewise, people have become accustomed to seeing others as a threat.

The fabric of our society is not strong. It's vulnerable for many reasons, including the fact that God is no longer central to our nation, and the family unit has been disturbed and is wounded. For previous generations, she said, having God at the center of their lives gave meaning to suffering and ways to work with grief. Other generations had various levels of stress, but they had a different view of life. When God is pushed out of the equation, this life is the only life and anything that remotely threatens this life must be stopped at all costs.

The coronavirus poses unique difficulties. This virus is so unpredictable that there's a changing understanding of it and of transmission. ... Even though we know some are vulnerable, that doesn't help us protect those who might be vulnerable.

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# Blessed Miguel Pro

Born on January 13, 1891 in Guadalupe, Mexico. He was, from an early age, intensely spiritual and equally intense in his mischievous-ness, frequently exasperating his family with his humor and practical jokes. As a child, he had a daring precociousness that sometimes went too far, tossing him into near-death accidents and illnesses.

Miguel renounced everything for Christ his King and entered the Jesuit novitiate in El Llano, Michoacan in 1911. He studied in Mexico until 1914, when a tidal wave of anti-Catholicism crashed down upon Mexico, forcing the novitiate to disband and flee to the United States, where Miguel and his brother seminarians arrived at the Jesuit house in Los Gatos, California.

In 1926, his superiors allowed him to return to Mexico in spite of the grave religious persecution in that country. The churches were closed and priests went into hiding. Miguel spent the rest of his life in a secret ministry to the sturdy Mexican Catholics. In addition to fulfilling their spiritual needs, he also carried out the works of mercy by assisting the poor in Mexico City with their temporal needs. He adopted many interesting disguises in carrying out his secret ministry. He would come in the middle of the night dressed as a beggar to baptize infants, bless marriages and celebrate Mass. He would appear in jail dressed as a police officer to bring Holy Viaticum to condemned Catholics. When going to fashionable neighborhoods to procure for the poor, he would show up at the doorstep dressed as a fashionable businessman with a fresh flower on his lapel. In all that he did, however, Fr. Pro remained obedient to his superiors and was filled with the joy of serving Christ, his King.

Falsely accused in the bombing attempt on a former Mexican president, Miguel became a wanted man. Betrayed to the police, he was sentenced to death without the benefit of any legal process. On the day of his execution, Fr. Pro forgave his executioners, prayed, bravely refused the blindfold and died proclaiming, "Viva Cristo Rey", "Long live Christ the King!"

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**"From my prison, the 19th of November, 1927. I shall probably never see you again in this life. It is God who disposes it thus. I accept His designs and I bless Him for all of them. I have never judged myself necessary! I am nothing but a poor instrument in the hands of God. If He no longer wishes to use me, it is because He wishes to take up another!"**

**— Blessed Miguel Pro**