

The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption



PARISH OFFICE: 506 Fourth Street, Marietta OH 45750 PHONE: 740-373-3643
WEBSITE: www.stmarysmarietta.org  www.facebook.com/stmarysmarietta EMAIL: info@stmarysmarietta.org



July 10, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	5:30 PM - John & Debbie Karas, 50 th Wedding Anniversary
SUN	8:00 AM - Lee Bryant 10:00 AM - Mary Agnes Augenstein 12:00 PM - People of the Parish
MON	7:45 AM - David Erb 12:05 PM - Mary Lazorik
TUE	7:45 AM - James M. Barrett 12:05 PM - Tom & Barbara Binegar Family
WED	7:45 AM - Helen Miller 12:05 PM - Mary Louise Pitt
THU	7:45 AM - Relatives & Friends of Stephen William Gill 12:05 PM - Jared Hoff
FRI	7:45 AM - Special Intention 12:05 PM - Charles Ontko
SAT	9:00 AM - John Roddy 5:30 PM - Bobbie Heiss, 29 th Anniversary
SUN	8:00 AM - People of the Parish 10:00 AM - Karen Offenberger 12:00 PM - Charles Ontko

SUNDAY MASSES - Saturday 5:30 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM
CONFESSIONS - Saturday 3:30-5:00 PM (or anytime by appointment)
BAPTISMS - Contact Parish Office
WEDDINGS - Contact Parish Office six months in advance

Rector - Rev. Msgr. John Michael Campbell (fatherjmike@gmail.com)
Permanent Deacon - Rev. Mr. Lee Weisend
Music Director - Mr. John Ontko (740-350-4224, ontkotb@suddenlink.net)
St. Mary School - 320 Marion St, 740-374-8181 (www.stmaryscatholic.org)
School Principal - Elizabeth Tokodi (elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org)
DRE - Mrs. Deborah Coty - (debcoty@stmaryscatholic.org)
Parish Council Chairman - Larry Hawn (740) 373-9095
K of C Grand Knight - Mr. Pete Saliba (304-494-6170)
CWC President - Jenn Tinkler
Hibernians - Mr. Tom Binegar, President (740-374-4559)
Prayer Line - & Eucharistic Adoration, Mrs. Shelly Medley (740-525-6360)
Pregnancy Assistance - Women's Care Center (304-485-7113)
Health Ministry - Mrs. Janet Jaeger (740-374-6768)
Daily Bread Kitchen - Mrs. Carol Henshaw (740-885-1181)
St. Vincent De Paul - Help Line (740-376-1334)
Welcoming Committee - Jim Naylor (740) 350-5510
Divine Mercy Gift Shop - Barb Ritchie (740) 538-4733

Your words, Lord are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Gn 18:1-10a; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Bianca Jasmin Ozuna.

DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN:

We thank all of our parishioners who have contributed to the 2022 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign and helped surpass our goal. Money now received will be returned to our parish and may be used for the needs of our Basilica.

WELCOME SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI:

Saint Mary Catholic School Alumni had a reunion Saturday night and are attending our 10:00 AM Mass today. We welcome all of you.

THIS WEEKEND'S FLOWERS

This weekend the flowers for the altar are in memory of Dawn Lang. If you would like to request altar flowers for a particular weekend in memory or in honor of someone, please call the parish office to reserve the date.

VISITORS WELCOME! We welcome any visitors who are joining us for Mass this weekend. We hope your stay in Marietta is enjoyable. Any new parishioners at the Basilica are asked to please register with the parish office.

PARISH OFFICES are open from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM on Mondays and from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM Tuesday through Friday, with a lunch break from Noon until 1:00 PM each day.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. See announcement.
TUE	5:30 PM	-	Vacation Bible School Meeting in the Social Hall.
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
FRI	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.

**The Lord Will Never Be Outdone
In Generosity!**

Total collection last weekend: \$ 17,769.00

Second collection last weekend for
the maintenance of our Basilica: \$ 2,495.00

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available at the Basilica. For more information, please visit this website:

<http://www.stmarysmarietta.org> and go to the left side of the web page. Click on the GIVE ONLINE button to see more information or to sign up.

BASILICA FOUNDATION:

A fund has been established by the Marietta Community Foundation for the maintenance and repairs of our Basilica. This fund is separate from the monthly maintenance collection. Our goal is to have at least One Million in the fund before using it. To donate, contact the Community Foundation.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin announcements must be in by Wednesday morning to be included in the following weekend's bulletin. Announcements must be in writing. We do not accept announcements by phone.

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Please pray for those men and women who continue to serve our country in the military. We especially remember those from our own parish and friends and relatives of our parishioners. May God watch over them and keep them safe.

WHOLE SOME FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

www.pureflix.com One week free trial.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

The school office will be closed until July 15th.

The Irish Booster Scholarship application can be found on the school website at stmarys.k12.oh.us This is an opportunity for two St. Mary Catholic School alumni to apply for \$500 scholarships. Deadline for application is July 15, 2022.

Educational Apparel, one of the uniform companies for school uniforms for St. Mary Catholic School will be in the Parish Center of the school for A try on/uniform ordering opportunity on Tuesday, July 26th at 6:00 PM.

Enrollment: For information on enrollment at St. Mary Catholic School for next school year, please Email Tammi Bradley at tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org.

Save the Date!! Our back-to-school grounds clean-up is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24th with Partner in Education Greenleaf Landscapes.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Before scheduling a meeting or event in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room or using the Basilica Kitchen, please check with the parish office to be sure the time and date is available. Also, before changing the time of an event, please check to be sure the new time is available.

NOTE: All meetings and events MUST be put In the master calendar book in the parish office.

K OF C SUMMER SCHEDULE

The K of C will meet August 2nd at 8:00 PM. They will return to the regular schedule in September, which is the first and third Tuesday of every month.

DIVINE MERCY GIFT SHOP

Christmas in July: During the month of July, all previous years of Basilica Commemorative Christmas Ornaments will be on sale for just \$5.00 each, until all are gone. Ornaments are available in the social hall/gift shop.

What Really Happens After We Die:

There are only 9 books still available for purchase of “What Really Happens After We Die” by James Papandrea, professor of catholic church history – a complete, authoritative, detailed portrait of the state of souls after death and the realms we enter.

If you are interested in purchasing this book, it is no longer available for pre-order, but you can still buy it in the gift shop after all weekend Masses. All pre-ordered books can be picked up also.

VBS UPDATE

Vacation Bible School registration is open. It will close on July 31st. Vacation Bible School forms may be picked up in the Basilica by the side entrances. Once completed they can be placed in the drop box on the rectory office porch.

GOLF SCRAMBLE

The Knights of Columbus Golf Scramble is scheduled for August 14th at Lakeside Golf Course. All proceeds will go toward the support of Saint Mary Catholic School and all of the charitable organizations supported by the Knights of Columbus. Contact Pete Saliba at 304-494-6107 or Kenny Offenberger at 740-350-4967 for more information.

LECTOR MEETING

There will be a Lector Meeting on Tuesday, July 26th at 7:00 PM in the Basilica Social Hall.

BAKED STEAK BENEFIT DINNER

Mary’s House is having a Baked Steak Benefit Dinner on Friday, July 15th, 2022. It will be held at Saint James Catholic Church, 257 East Bell Avenue in McConnelsville, Ohio. Dinner will be served from 4:30 PM until 7:00 PM. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Follow us at: maryshouseoh.org or <https://www.facebook.com/maryshousesoutheastern>

ALTAR SERVER COORDINATOR

We are seeking a volunteer who has altar server experience and knowledge. This person would work with the DRE in training and coordinating the youth altar servers. Online Safe Environment training is a requirement. For more information contact Deb Coty.

BASILICA BOOK CLUB NEWS FOR JULY

Our July book is: **Life is Messy**. Matthew Kelly. 220 pages. If you are not able to purchase the book, please contact Debbie Lazorik (see info below) and we will make sure you are able to get a copy of the book.

Remember: **ALL** are welcome, bring a friend. If you are not able to read the book, a summary is presented, and you can participate at whatever level is comfortable for you. **Next meeting: July 27, 6:00 PM in the Basilica Social Hall.**

July book: Life is Messy by Matthew Kelly
Life is messy.

It isn’t a color within the lines exercise.
It’s a wild and outrageous invitation
full of uncertain outcomes.

So, what will we do with broken people,
broken relationships, broken institutions, broken families,
and of course, our very own broken selves?
Matthew Kelly shares how the worst three years of his life affected him, by exploring this question:
Can someone who has been broken be healed and become more beautiful and more lovable
Then ever before?

The answer will fill you with hope.
There has never been a more urgent need
for us to attend to what is happening within us.
This is quite simply
the right book at the right time.

Any thoughts, questions or if you would like to be added to the BBC email list, contact: Debbie Lazorik – lazorikd@marietta.edu 740-434-3769

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF July 16 & 17

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

Sat:
5:30 Evelyn Potter (CAPT)
 Sandy George (HOST)
 Tammi Bradley (HOST)
 Karen Schram (CHALICE)
 Missy Deskins (CHALICE)

Don Murray

Luci Collins
 Gavin Kunz
 Lola Schlitz

Sun:
8:00 Babs Douglass (CAPT)
 John Douglass (HOST)
 Carol Antill (HOST)
 Gregg Black (CHALICE)
 Sheri Black (CHALICE)

Janet Welch

David Baker
 Suzanne Baker
 Greg Dickson
 Joe Flaherty

10:00 Cathy Rauch (CAPT)
 Kelly Erb (HOST)
 Sherry Payne (HOST)
 Pat Dickinson (CHALICE)
 Cheyenne Greenwood (CHALICE)

Tim Williams

Henry Corcoran
 Griffin Erb
 Grant Palmer
 Ben Pfeffer

12:00 Stan Vanlandingham (CAPT)
 Sandy Bickert (HOST)
 Mary Tokodi Ruth (HOST)
 Jeannette Flowers (CHALICE)
 Joe Schmidt (CHALICE)

Lisa Taylor

Becken Kroft
 Braxton Kroft
 Jonathan Schmidt

Week of July 11th 7:45 AM

Jonah Corcoran (sub request)
 Karter Lankford (sub request)

Saturday, July 16th, 9:00 AM

Stella Huffman
 Julianna Huffman



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 10, 2022

Notes on the Gospel

Suddenly, a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I have to do so I can receive eternal life?" the lawyer asked. "What's written in God's Law?" Jesus shot back. "How do you understand it?" "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all you soul, all your strength and all you mind. Love your neighbor as yourself," the lawyer answered. "Correct!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live forever." But, the lawyer wanted to win the argument. So, he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus took up the challenge with a parable. "Once, there was a man who went down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho," Jesus began. "Robbers jumped the man, stripped his clothes off, beat him severely, and left him for dead. By luck, a priest went down the same road. But when he saw the half-dead man, he passed by on the other side of the road. Next, a Levite came on the scene, saw what happened, and also passed by on the other side. Then, a Samaritan traveling along the road saw the man and felt sorry for him. The Samaritan cleaned and bound the man's wounds, set the man on his mule, and took him to an inn to take care of him. The next day, the Samaritan took some money out of his wallet and gave it to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' the Samaritan told the innkeeper. 'When I return, I will repay you whatever you spend beyond this.' Which of these three men treated the robbed man like a neighbor?" "The man who was merciful," replied the lawyer. "Go the same way. Do acts of mercy," Jesus told him.

A lawyer stood up in the midst of the followers to challenge Jesus. He wanted to know what was necessary for salvation. "Love God" was the easy part. "Love neighbor" was more controversial. After all, who was "neighbor," a fellow Jew or a stranger? Jesus answered with a parable of dangers on the road. And changed the identity of the neighbor. The question the lawyer asked meant to pin Jesus down on his interpretation of the Law. The scribe in Luke was really asking: "What's the most important duty I can fulfill that will please God?"

Touching a stranger who appeared to be dead would defile the priest or Levite. They could not perform liturgical or leadership functions without ritual cleansing. In the parable, the priest and Levite (representing the Pharisees' view of strict observance) chose duty over compassion. Ironically, choosing duty over all undercut the authority to which the characters in the story aspired. The Samaritan was the counter-image of the priest and Levite. As a hated heretic (from the Jewish point of view), the Samaritan was unclean by definition. But, he chose compassion because he had no status that required the duty of strict observance.

The road parable asked one question: what's more important, duty or hospitality? The Christian must place serving others over spreading the Good News. Welcoming strangers was the first step inviting them to join the followers of Jesus. Jesus' command summed up the moral of the parable: Do acts of mercy for whomever you meet.



DECEASED PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE

On Monday, we remember the 49th anniversary of the death of FR. Robert Clouston and the 42nd anniversary of the death of Fr. Howard Litts. On Friday, we remember the death of Msgr. Joseph Wadowicz. On Saturday, we remember the 58th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Stephen Laca. These priests served our Diocese to the best of his ability. May God grant

them eternal rest and peace.

Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament

On Wednesday and Friday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Basilica's Chapel of the English Martyrs (which is on the right side of the sanctuary). Adoration takes place on these two days from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. every week. We need more parishioners to become adorers and spend time in the chapel with the Lord. Jesus remains in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh us in mind, in heart and in spirit. Often we take God for granted, and forget about Him. As He said to the apostles when He was in agony in the garden, "can you not spend one hour with Me?" Think about it!

Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

- July - 20, - RCIA Inquiry Meeting (7:00 pm..)
- July - 26, - Lector Meeting (7:00 pm.)
- Aug. - 7, - St. Henry Parish Picnic
- Aug. - 8, - Parish Bible School through the 12th

PILGRIMAGES TO OUR 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. We are honored to host visitors and pilgrims to our Basilica.



Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday Evening

Perpetual Help Devotions will be celebrated this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. All parishioners are encouraged to participate in this beautiful devotion celebrated in our Basilica each week. We ask Our Lady to guide and protect our Basilica and each one of us. Since 1866 the Redemptorists have spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the icon and title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

CELL PHONES

We ask that all cell phones be turned off when inside the Basilica. If a cell phone rings during a Mass or a service, there is much distraction caused to the congregation and the celebrant. Thank you or your consideration in this matter.

Feast days this week

Monday, July 11, Saint Benedict (Abbot)

Benedict wrote the famous monastic Rule noted for its wisdom and moderation and need for obedience. He founded 12 monasteries including Monte Cassino. Benedictines today number 7,500 religious. He is considered the “Patriarch of Western Monasticism”.

Wednesday, July 13, Saint Henry

Henry II with his wife Cunegunda assisted the poor, and as emperor, he respected the Church’s freedom, fostering ecclesiastical and monastic reform. He died in 1024.

Thursday, July 14, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (Virgin)

Kateri died at the age of 24 at Caughnawaga, Québec. She led a life of great austerity and love in spite of ridicule and abuse. She is called “Lily of the Mohawks.” She is the first native American to be canonized in October 2012.

Friday, July 15, Saint Bonaventure (Bishop & Doctor)

Bonaventure was the minister general for 17 years. He became the Cardinal bishop of Albano. He authored biblical commentaries and many spiritual treatises.

Saturday, July 16, Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The scriptures speak of the beauty of Mount Carmel in Galilee where the prophet Elijah defended the faith of Israel against the prophets of Baal. There at the beginning of the 13th century, under the title of St. Mary of Mount Carmel, the Order of Carmelites (today numbering 1,915) had its formal beginning.



“We all must march to the same drum as Christ. The Church is reformed when the baptized march more resolutely toward holiness, allowing themselves to be recreated in the likeness of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. Only the contagion of

sanctity can transform the Church from within.”

—Robert Cardinal Sarah

THE SAINTS MENTIONED AT MASS

The saints mentioned at Mass, - the Apostles, John Paul II, Theresa of Calcutta, John Vianney, and Blessed Solanus Casey – are the relics buried in our altar. Thomas More, John Fischer, and Thomas Becket are the English Martyrs in whose honor our Adoration Chapel is named.

EVENTS AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, July 11,

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

Tuesday, July 12,

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

Wednesday, July 13,

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

Thursday, July 14,

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

Friday, July 15,

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

Saturday, July 16,

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

Sunday, July 17,

8:00 am. - Mass
9:30 am. - Mass - Saint Henry Church
10:00 am. - Mass

SUMMER VACATIONS

All of us need to relax and take time from our ordinary activities and obligations. We need to get away to a different scene. As we consider different destinations, remember to include time and a place to celebrate Sunday Mass.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

In September we will begin a support grief group which will meet on Wednesday evenings. There have been several deaths earlier in the year, and it is beneficial to share our thoughts and grief. The death of child or a spouse is a very difficult journey – sharing with others who are going through the same process gives us support. Transforming loss into living again with faith, hope and love and moving toward healing and growth.

INVITE THEM BACK!

During the covid virus, the bishops excused Catholics from attending Sunday Mass in person. The threat of the virus is over! If you know of someone who has not yet returned to Mass, invite them back and tell them that we miss them



THE BASILICA OF
SAINT MARY
OF THE ASSUMPTION

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



July 10, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

The Church in the United States is hurting. We have lost many people, Mass attendance is at an all time low, even though the pandemic restrictions have been eased. What do we do? The answer is not easy, but we can become healthy again if we are willing to take the steps to get healthy again.

God alone can heal our church if we want Him to heal us; but He will not get involved unless we sincerely ask Him for the healing. We ask through prayer. In Adoration, we must pray that all spiritual obstacles be removed so that hearts can be transformed. We need to be bold in our prayer demanding that the strongholds that the devil has made in our parishes are broken, and we must seriously invite the Holy Spirit to lead our parish. If our parish is to be transformed, every parishioner must be involved in begging God to change the minds and hearts of all of us. Alone we can do nothing, with God, anything is possible.

The purpose of a parish is not to be a place where we are entertained, but rather a school where disciples are formed and sent into the community to make other disciples. Our proclamation of the Gospel must be made for the culture we live in today. We don't need more programs - but rather parishioners who are believing and living our faith. This call for a transformation of all members of the parish is made so that we can be a magnet transforming all those around us. We must decrease so that Jesus and His church can increase. As we look at the present need to answer the question of how to get to those who are missing from the church, we need to think of how we can live in Christ so that others will see what they are missing. If our parish is to become stronger, we need to let Jesus Christ be the leader and follow Him. We need to be committed to Jesus Christ, we reset our parish goals and priorities, and begin to build a more genuine Catholic community. Community is not just about me and my friends: it is about all of us, so that we can challenge one another and live together in faith under the direction of Jesus Christ.

These times are challenging for the church, but we can use these times as an opportunity to change how we think and how we do things. God wants to move us to new and better things. He wants to reset our parishes, but we must be willing to let Him do what is necessary to accomplish that growth and change. Twelve Apostles changed the world. We can do the same.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY

“Let us pray for the elderly, that they may become teachers of tenderness so that their experience and wisdom may help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.”

Pope Francis said: “We elderly people often have a special sensitivity for care, for reflection, and affection. We are, or we can become, teachers of tenderness. And indeed, we can! In this world accustomed to war, we need a true revolution of tenderness. We have a great responsibility towards new generations about this. Let us remember that grandparents and the elderly are the bread that nourishes our lives, the hidden wisdom of a people. That is why we must celebrate them. Let us pray for the elderly, that they may become teachers of tenderness so that their experience and wisdom may help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.”



Knock & The Door Shall Be Opened For You

A pastor went out one Saturday to visit his church members. At one house it was obvious that someone was home, but nobody came to the door even though the pastor had knocked several times. Finally, the pastor took out his card and wrote “Revelations 3:20” on the back of it and stuck it in the door. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and him with me.”

The next day, the card turned up in the collection basket. Below the pastor’s message was the notation “Genesis 3:10”. “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

Pelosi receives Communion at Mass in Rome

Despite a public row with the San Francisco archbishop who barred her from Communion over her support for abortion, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi received Holy Communion from a priest in Rome. She attended the Vatican’s Mass for the Feast of St Peter and Paul. **WHAT GALL!**

In May, San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone publicly announced he was barring Pelosi from Communion unless she publicly repudiates “support for abortion ‘rights’ and goes to confession”.

Sister Simone Campbell to be among Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients

Sister Simone Campbell, former executive director of the Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, and leader of “Nuns on the Bus” is one of 17 who will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom July 7 at the White House. These seventeen Americans demonstrate the power of possibilities and embody the soul of the nation – hard work, perseverance, and faith,” read a statement from the White House. The White House described her as “a prominent advocate for economic justice, immigration reform, and healthcare policy.” She promotes abortion. Thanks Joe!

Catholics need better understanding of the Mass: Pope

In a new letter, Pope Francis says the “sense of mystery” and awe Catholics should experience at Mass is not prompted by Latin or additional elements, but an awareness of the sacrifice of Christ and his presence in the Eucharist. “Beauty, just like truth, always engenders wonder, and when these are referred to the mystery of God, they lead to adoration,” he wrote in an apostolic letter “on the liturgical formation of the people of God.”

Titled *Desiderio Desideravi* (“I have earnestly desired”), the letter was released on the feast of Sts Peter and Paul. The title comes from Luke 22:15 when, before the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

In the letter, Pope Francis insisted that Catholics need to better understand the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council and its goal of promoting the “full, conscious, active and fruitful celebration” of the Mass. “With this letter I simply want to invite the whole Church to rediscover, to safeguard and to live the truth and power of the Christian celebration,” the Pope wrote. “I want the beauty of the Christian celebration and its necessary consequences for the life of the Church not to be spoiled by a superficial and foreshortened understanding of its value or, worse yet, by its being exploited in service of some ideological vision, no matter what the hue.”

While his letter offered what he called a “meditation” on the power and beauty of the Mass, Pope Francis also reiterated his conviction of the need to limit celebrations of the liturgy according to the rite in use before the Second Vatican Council. “We cannot go back to that ritual form which the Council fathers, ‘cum Petro et sub Petro,’ (with and under Peter) felt the need to reform, approving, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and following their conscience as pastors, the principles from which was born the reform.”

Ortega government orders dissolution of Missionaries of Charity in Nicaragua



The Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior has ordered the closure of 101 nongovernmental organizations, including the Missionaries of Charity, the congregation founded by St. Teresa of Calcutta that is dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor.

The order to shut down the organizations was requested by Sandinista legislator Filiberto Rodríguez. The document states that the Missionaries of Charity “has failed to comply with its obligations” according to the law that regulates nonprofit organizations. According to the government of Daniel Ortega, the missionaries are not accredited “by the Ministry for the Family to function as a nursery-center for childhood development, home for girls, and home for the elderly,” nor “do they have an operating permit from the Ministry of Education to provide remedial education for students” and their “financial statements reported to the Ministry of the Interior don’t agree” with other documents presented for review.

In fewer than four years, the Catholic Church in Nicaragua has been the target of 190 attacks and desecrations, including a fire in the Managua Cathedral.

Pope Francis calls on Catholics to embrace Vatican II liturgical reforms



Pope Francis said he believes the ongoing clashes over the Church's liturgy call for Catholics to "abandon our polemics" and "safeguard our communion." He warned that it would be "trivial" to read the tensions present around the Mass as a divergence in taste between one ritual form or another.

In a letter inviting the whole church to "rediscover, to safeguard, and to live the truth and power of the Christian celebration," Francis wrote that the beauty and centrality of the Mass should not be spoiled by "a superficial and foreshortened understanding of its value or, worse yet, by its being exploited in service of some ideological vision, no matter the hue." Much is at stake with the "liturgical question," since, he said, the liturgy is the summit towards which all the activity of the Church is directed, and at the same time, the source of all of its power.

He also wrote that he struggles to understand how a Catholic may "presume" to reject the Second Vatican Council and the liturgical reform it approved, insisting that it is a duty to affirm that only the books promulgated by Popes Paul VI and John Paul II are valid for the Mass.

In the letter *Desiderio Desideravi*, published by the Vatican on Wednesday, June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, Francis wrote that not embracing the liturgical reform, as well as a superficial understanding of it, distract from what truly matters: "How do we continue to let ourselves be amazed at what happens in the celebration under our very eyes? We need a serious and dynamic liturgical formation." The letter accentuates his crackdown last year on the Traditional Latin Mass, which reversed one of Pope Benedict XVI's signature decisions of liberalizing the celebration of the old form of the Rite.

This week's letter is not addressed only to the clergy, but to all the faithful, and he quoted Pope Pius XII to explain that the liturgy is not a decorative ceremony nor the sum total of "laws and precepts that govern the cult." Every aspect of the Mass, Francis said, must be revered, and rediscovering its beauty is not about ritual aesthetic, content with a "careful exterior observance of a rite." It is also necessary to understand that the liturgy is not merely a retelling of the recollection of others of what happened during Christ's last supper, and it is not a theatrical "staging" of what happened, the pope continued.

In the Eucharist and the sacraments, he said, the possibility of encountering Christ is guaranteed, and with the signs of his Passion, relived in the sacrifice of the Mass, "continues to pardon us, to heal us, to save us with the power of the sacraments. The Eucharist is not magic, it comes from God. Francis also wrote that too many people today don't know what the Mass is, and for this reason, "we must not allow ourselves even a moment of rest, knowing that still not everyone has received an invitation to this Supper or knowing that others have forgotten it or have got lost along the way."