

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 9, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

| | | |
|-----|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat | 5:30 PM | - Jim & Karen Amrine, 50 th Wedding Anniversary |
| Sun | 8:00 AM | - Francis & Mildred Noll |
| | 10:00 AM | - Liv/dec'd of the Paul & Jeanne Offenberger Family |
| | 12:00 PM | - William Grosel |
| Mon | 7:45 AM | - David Erb |
| | 12:05 PM | - Sherry Sampson |
| Tue | 7:45 AM | - Carolyn Armor |
| | 12:05 PM | - Vincent & Alice Lang |
| Wed | 7:45 AM | - James M. Barrett |
| | 12:05 PM | - No Mass |
| Thu | 7:45 AM | - Terry Arnold |
| | 12:05 PM | - Harry Way |
| Fri | 7:45 AM | - Dale Gerken |
| | 10:00 AM | - Memorial Mass for Marshall Kremer |
| | 12:05 PM | - Lee Bryant |
| Sat | 9:00 AM | - Carol Sarver |
| | 5:30 PM | - Ellen Heiss & Bobbie Heiss, 30 th Anniversary |
| Sun | 8:00 AM | - People of the Parish |
| | 10:00 AM | - Charles & Mary Ontko |
| | 12:00 PM | - Virginia Huck |

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)

Parochial Vicar - Rev. Edward Maxfield Jr. (emaxfield@diosteub.org)

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)

K of C Grand Knight - Mr. Pete Saliba (304) 494-6170

Parish Council President - Luke Strahler - (614) 309-8876

CWC President - Jenn Tinkler

Hibernians - Mr. William Rathbone (740) 374-5492

Prayer Line - & Eucharistic Adoration, Mrs. Shelly Medley (740) 525-6360

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

***Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the
kingdom.***

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY.

Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bulletin announcements must be in by Noon on Wednesday in order to be included in the following weekend's bulletin. All announcements must be in writing. We are unable to accept them by phone.

REST IN PEACE:

James N. Matheny, brother of Patty Perry, Gary, Joe and Tom Matheny of this parish, passed away July 1, 2023. We offer our condolences to the Matheny Family and will remember Jim in prayer. May He rest in peace.

MASS CHANGE THIS WEEK:

There will not be a 12:05 PM Mass on Wednesday, July 12th, because Father Mike will be attending a priests meeting.

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 | 9:30 AM | - | Daily Bread Kitchen Committee Meeting in the Basilica 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: \$ 17,128.00

Second collection last weekend for
the maintenance of our Basilica: \$ 3,567.00

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.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Please check with the parish office before scheduling a meeting in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room, library, or using the Basilica Kitchen. All meetings and events must be put in the master book in the parish office.

K OF C ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The K of C Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for August 13th, 2023, at Lakeside Golf Course in Beverly, OH. Registration starts at 7:30 AM. All members and guests T-off at 8:30 AM. Members and their guests are invited to play in the 18-hole scramble and enjoy a luncheon. One Marietta K of C Member playing in each foursome will be required so please get your teams together now. Please contact Kenny Offenberger, 740-350-4967 or Pete Saliba, 304-494-6107.

SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

St. Mary Catholic School summer office hours are in effect. The school office is open on Wednesday's from 10:00AM – 2:00PM.

The Irish Booster Scholarship application for two St. Mary Catholic School alumni is open for submission. The scholarship application can be found on the school website home page at stmarys.k12.oh.us Deadline to apply is July 14, 2023.

St. Mary Catholic School has the following job opportunities available for the 2023-2024 school year:

Talented and Gifted Teacher (part time)
Technology Teacher (part time)
Middle School Social Studies Teacher (part time)
Director of Religious Education (Full time between School and Basilica)

More information about each job can be found on the school website at stmarys.k12.oh.us and by emailing Principal Elizabeth Tokodi at elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org

SAVE THE DATES!

Back to School grounds cleanup is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd in conjunction with our partner in Education, Greenleaf Landscapes.

Back to School open house is scheduled for Monday, August 28th. Details to come.

FREE HELP FOR PARISHIONERS

If you need a ride to and from Mass, a doctor's appointment, or need help with errands, such as picking up groceries, etc. please call or text Anne-Marie at 609-471-5294. Twenty four hours' notice would be appreciated but is not necessary.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Join Father Tom Nelson on a Pilgrimage to Italy, January 1-12, 2024. Stops include Assisi, Norcia, Cascia, Loreto, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte San Angelo, Montecassino, and Rome.

The discount price of \$4,989.00 per person is enjoyed by those paying with Cash or Check (based on a minimum of 30 participants with double occupancy). For full itinerary visit:

<https://catholicfaithjourneys.com/>.

For more information contact Maggie McDaniel: email:

maggie@catholicfaithjourneys.com or phone: (419)290-8782.

PARISH LIBRARY

Our parish library is accessible from the Basilica Social Hall. It is always open and ready for use. Our library is a wonderful resource to learn more about the Catholic faith, or to feed your souls with prayers, reflections and devotions.

TRAVEL TO ENGLAND WITH FATHER TIMOTHY HUFFMAN

May 17-26, 2024

Book Now: www.proximotravel.com.

2023 DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN

This year our parish goal is \$115,639.21. This is an increase of \$4,381.21 over last year. So far, the Diocese has received \$97,161.00 from our parish. This means that our parish has only met 84% of our goal.

Thanks once again to those who participated in this year's DPSC. If you've not yet turned in your pledge, please do so. You can place your pledge in the collection basket, or you can mail it directly to the diocese using the pre-addressed DPSC envelope. Additional pledge cards are available at the parish office. You can also contribute to the campaign online at www.Give.Diosteub.org.

BASILICA BOOK CLUB

The July meeting will be a presentation by our Basilica Book Club member, Leanne Cooper. Leanne is a member of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. Leanne lives in California and comes to Marietta through the summer and early fall to visit her children/grandchildren who are members of St. Mary's. We have been curious to learn about Leanne's experience as a Carmelite and she has agreed to share her experience with us.

AUGUST BOOK: Beneath A. Golden Veil:

Melanie Dobson.

As elegant as the Sacramento residence she operates, Isabelle Labrie keeps her past concealed, like the treasure she hides under the Golden Hotel. It's 1853, the heyday of the California Gold Rush. Isabelle is full of hope, staking her claim on the city's refined clientele and her future on a sweetheart's promise to marry her when he returns from the gold fields. Then, unexpected guests-fugitive slaves seeking passage to the North – force her to confront her past and reconsider her path.

While Isabelle leans to trust God's provision, a law student in Virginia must confront his father's cruelty and rescue a young slave from his father's tobacco plantation. As the two escape to freedom. And Isabelle risks everything to harbor runaway slaves, the past and the present are set on an inevitable collision course – one that reveals hidden treasures of the heart.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

We pray for all of the young people serving 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.

DIOCESAN DAY OF EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

A Diocesan Day of Eucharistic Revival will be held at St. Bernard's Church, Beverly, OH on July 22nd from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. You may register for the Eucharistic Revival at <https://www.diosteub.org/diocesan-day-of-eucharistic-revival>

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF July 15 & 16, 2023

| | Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | Lectors | Altar Servers |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat: | | | |
| 5:30 | Tammi Bradley (CAPT) Debbie Lazorik (HOST) Evelyn Potter (HOST) Irene Cain (CHALICE) Mary Tokodi Ruth (CHALICE) | Tina Thomas | Connor Bichard Braxton Kroft Brecken Kroft |
| Sun: | | | |
| 8:00 | Babs Douglass John Douglass Marcia McCabe Patti Finkel Theresa Huck | Carol Wharff | Jerry Huck Mike Iaderosa Joyce Iaderosa Joe Flaherty |
| 10:00 | Ken Schilling (CAPT) Carol O'Grady (HOST) Jennifer Schenkel (HOST) Gary Pitt (CHALICE) Ken Masselli (CHALICE) (sub req.) | Sophia Parlin | Bryson Black Elijah Erb Griffin Erb Owen Krason Liam Long Benedict Parlin |
| 12:00 | Stan Vanlandingham (CAPT) Dennis Nau (HOST) Jeannette Flowers (HOST) Elizabeth Tokodi(CHALICE) Gerald Cooke (CHALICE) | Sherry Hill | Evan Huffman Grant Huffman Christian Islay |

Daily Servers- Not Filled



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR JULY 9, 2023

At that time, Jesus said, "I praise you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You hid these things from the wise and learned, and you have revealed them to the little ones. Yes, Father, all things have been handed over to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him.

Come to Me all of you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest. For My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

In this passage from Matthew, Jesus addressed knowledge of God and the consequences of that knowledge, and was praising the Father for the revelation He received.

Jesus acknowledged the Father for revealing his Kingdom to the common people (those who knew little) instead of those who thought they understood all (i.e., the scribes and the Pharisees).

Knowledge of God requires some explanation. Jesus did not merely speak of dogma (knowledge about God). He addressed a deeper issue: intimate experience of God. Only the Father and the Son truly know each other. The follower of Christ also knows the Father through the revelation of the Son. This is what the Kingdom is all about.

Knowledge of God has consequences - it demands a response. For those under the Jewish Law, knowledge of YHWH required a duty to his Law. As the teachers of God's Law, the Pharisees firmly believed that God punished the nation of Judea throughout history because the people ignored his Law. If people strove to keep his Law, they would arrive one day closer to his Kingdom. So, the Pharisees added guidelines, rulings, and regulations that kept the faithful from breaking the Law even by accident.

Jesus countered this notion with the breath of fresh air. God would provide the means to people so they could please him. His Son was that means. Those who came to the Son would please the Father. Rules and regulations were not important. Relationship with Jesus was important.

Come to Me everyone laboring and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn (as a disciple) from Me, because I am gentle and humble at heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For the yoke I give you is easy and My burden is light." The yoke of Jesus stood for his Lordship.

Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

July - 24 - 7:00 pm. RCIA Inquiry Session
Aug. - 6 - 4:00 pm. St. Henry Parish Picnic
Sept. - 24 - 9:30 am. Confirmation – Saint Henry Church
Oct. - 1, - 10:00 am. Respect Life Mass - Bishop
Oct. - 27, - 8:45 am. Diocesan Teacher in Service Day
Oct. - 29, - 12:00 pm. Women Religious celebration
Dec. - 12, - 11:00 am. Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration



Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday

Perpetual Help Devotions will be celebrated this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this devotion celebrated every Monday evening in our Basilica. We ask Our Lady to guide and protect our Basilica, all visitors, and each one of us.

Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place this week in our Basilica's Chapel of the English Martyrs - on Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. Jesus remains in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh and love us. Why not come for a visit and sit in His presence?

LITURGICAL FEASTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, July 11, Saint Benedict (Abbot)

Benedict wrote the famous monastic Rule. He founded 12 monasteries including Monte Cassino. Today, Benedictines number 6,800 religious. He died in 547.

Thursday, July 13, Saint Henry

Henry II was King of Germany. He assisted the poor and respected the freedom of the Church. He fostered ecclesiastical and monastic reform. He died in 1024.

Friday, July 14, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (Virgin)

Kateri was a Mohawk Indian. She died at the age of 24 in 1680 in Quebec. She led a life of austerity and love in spite of ridicule and abuse. She is called "Lily of the Mohawks."

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

Bonaventure, O.F.M. was the minister general of his Order for 17 years. He was the Cardinal Bishop of Albano. He authored many ascetical and spiritual treatises. He is known as the "Seraphic Doctor". He died in 1274.



Deceased priests & deacons of the Diocese

On Tuesday, we remember the 71st anniversary of the death of Fr. Robert Clouston, and the 50th anniversary of the death of Fr. Howard Litts. On Saturday, we remember the 17th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Joseph Wadowicz.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, July 10,

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

Tuesday, July 11,

9:00 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass

Wednesday, July 12,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
1:00 pm. - Priest Mtg. St. Clairsville
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, July 13,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
10:00 am. - Mass at Glenwood
7:00 pm. - Mass (St. Henry)

Friday, July 14,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00 am. - Funeral Mass – Marshall Kremer
12:00 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, July 15,

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

Sunday, July 16,

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

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Remain faithful to what counts, no matter the cost, Pope says

Pope Francis reflected on Matthew 10:26-33. The Pope concluded, "So let us ask ourselves: I, what do I fear? Not having what I like? Not reaching the goals society imposes? The judgement of others? Or rather of not pleasing the Lord, and not putting his Gospel in first place? Mary, ever Virgin, Mother most wise, help us to be wise and courageous in the choices we make."

Over half million Germans left Catholic Church in 2022

522,821 German Catholics left the Church in 2022, the German bishops' conference announced on June 28—up from 359,338 in 2021, 221,390 in 2020, and 272,771 in 2019. There are 20,937,590 Catholics in Germany, nearly one-quarter of the nation's population.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



July 9, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

At the height of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI wrote an encyclical letter about The Eucharist. He said that the Eucharist is reserved in our Church as the "*spiritual center*" of the parish. "*Christ is truly the Emmanuel, that is, God is with us. Day and night He is in our midst.*" Then he emphasized why Christ dwells with us in the Blessed Sacrament and the spiritual benefits which are given to those who come into His Eucharistic Presence.

Pope Paul said that he wrote this encyclical "*so that a new era of Eucharistic piety pervade the whole Church*". The pope openly expressed his *concern and anxiety* over false opinions which weaken devotion and faith in the Holy Eucharist. He pleaded with pastors and bishops to "tirelessly" promote devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

In his letter *On The Mystery and Worship of The Eucharist* Pope Saint John Paul II wrote on Feb. 24th 1980:

"The Church and the world have great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus waits for us in the Sacrament of His love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease."

Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament is making Jesus the very center of our lives and the very center of our Parish. Through the mystery of the Eucharist the Lord says to each of us: "whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in Me and I in him." In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus' life flows to us as the life-giving sap of the vine flows to its branches to make them live and bear fruit.

Jesus stays with us in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh us in mind, in heart and in spirit by filling us with the graces that encourage us, console us, strengthen us, guide us and inspire us to place all of our trust in His sacred Presence, so that the power of His love can transform us and cast out every fear, doubt, worry and anxiety that we have. Through Adoration, lives have been changed by experiencing new peace and a new level of faith and trust in God. Take advantage of Eucharistic Adoration which takes place at our Basilica. You will never regret the time you spent.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

The Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help



The image of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has a fascinating history. No one knows who made it. Icons are never signed. It is believed to have been written in the thirteenth century in Crete. Two angels, Michael and Gabriel, are seen with the Mother of God, whose title is abbreviated in Greek letters, and Jesus. The icon was venerated on the Greek island where it hung above the main altar of a cathedral.

For many years a note hung a large piece of parchment affixed to a wooden tablet, by the icon in St. Matthew's Church in Rome, the first shrine to have the picture. Later this parchment was attached to the picture itself. The document, written in both Latin and Italian, gives a history of the icon, citing its arrival in Rome as 1499 and its solemn enthronement in the Augustinian Church of St. Matthew.

A merchant of Crete, stole this picture of the Virgin, which had worked many miracles on that island. He boarded a ship and set out to sea. When a great storm arose, the sailors began to despair for their safety. Though they knew nothing about the picture, they prayed fervently to God and to the Virgin. Their prayers were heard and they were saved from the storm. A year later the merchant came to Rome, bringing the icon with him. There he was stricken with a malignant disease. Later, the merchant told the entire story of how he had stolen the picture from the church where it had been famous for working so many miracles. He told the Roman where it could now be found and asked that the picture be put in some church, where it would be more appropriately worshiped by the people. After the merchant's death the picture was found among his belongings, as he said it would be. The wife of the Roman prevailed upon him not to take the merchant's picture out of the house.

Finally the icon was enshrined in the church of St. Matthew the Apostle in Rome on March 27, 1499. The church is situated between the Basilicas of St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran, in Rome. Through the centuries the picture has been the source of many miracles and favors to those who have venerated it. When St. Matthew's was destroyed in 1789, the icon was rescued and hung in an obscure monastery chapel until the Redemptorists learned that the site of their new headquarters in Rome had once been the site of St. Matthew's, the one-time home of a miraculous icon of Our Lady. The pope told the Redemptorists to "make her known throughout the world."

The icon portrays sorrow. Mary's expression is one of sorrow, while showing maternal affection. The angels in the upper corners of the picture carry the instruments of Christ's Sorrowful Passion. Christ Himself manifests fright and sorrow as He turns away in fear from the instruments of torture. In His haste to find refuge in the arms of His Mother, His sandal has come loose and it seems to be falling from his foot. With her left arm she supports her Child. So closely does she hold him that it is impossible to separate Mother and Child in the picture. This points to the closeness between Jesus and Mary.

Catholicism in France could become a minority, but a more traditional one, experts claim

France, a nation of 68.3 million, is 63% Christian (59% Catholic) and 10% Muslim, according to The World Almanac (2023). The National Catholic Register reports: "In a few decades' time, Catholicism could be in the minority, overtaken by Islam, evangelical Protestantism and, above all, by people with no religion at all. At the same time, this trend is likely to be accompanied by a more traditional and observant approach among minority Catholics."

CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST

Celebrating the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Faith and the model for our holiness. In the Eucharist, we can encounter the Lord in a way that can change our life. The Eucharist is meant to affect our entire lives. It is meant to mirror the way Jesus dedicated His life to us when He came to earth. We are invited to become Eucharist with Jesus, offering ourselves to Him in all aspects of our lives – putting the needs of others before our own.

THE USE OF FACEBOOK

Facebook is an online social media and social networking service created in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg. As of December 2022, Facebook claimed 2.96 billion monthly active users, and ranked third worldwide among the most visited websites. It was the most downloaded mobile app of the 2010s.

Facebook can be accessed from devices with Internet connectivity, such as personal computers, tablets and smartphones. After registering, users can create a profile revealing information about themselves. They can post text, photos and multimedia which are shared with any other users who have agreed to be their "friend" or, with different privacy settings, publicly.

Many people are not on Facebook and do not appreciate having posts about them, their health, their birthdays, or their personal business, placed there for the viewing of anyone wanting to learn about their business or thoughts. If you are a member of Facebook, never put a post or a picture of another person without asking their permission. Some people wish to be private and animus – that includes friends, teachers, and clergy.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS"

His dominion" (First reading) is brought about through "the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead" (Second reading). It is the dominion of life over death, not only in our bodies (Second reading) but in our culture, institutions, laws and policies.

That Spirit dwells in us (Second reading). We, therefore, are life-givers! In fact, we will either spread life or death. There is no neutrality. It is an easier yoke (Gospel) to both embrace and spread life than death, because we were made that way. We were made to be life-givers.

The Son wishes to reveal the Father to us (Gospel) precisely through that Spirit. What do we learn when he does reveal the Father? We find the revelation of ourselves – people of life, people of self-giving, people who can love like the Father loves!

U.S. bishops rebuke group of Catholic Democrats vowing to support abortion



The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) has issued a strong response to a group of Catholic lawmakers who signed a letter citing Catholic teaching in support of abortion. The group of 30 Democrats, led by Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro, cited their Catholic faith and St. John Paul II's apostolic exhortation *Christifideles Laici* as reasons to support abortion.

"The fundamental tenets of our Catholic faith — social justice, conscience, and religious freedom — compel us to defend a woman's right to access abortion," the letter stated. "Our faith unfailingly promotes the common good, prioritizes the dignity of every human being, and highlights the need to provide a collective safety net to our

most vulnerable."

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the USCCB; Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, chairman of the USCCB's Committee of Pro-Life Activities; and Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Doctrine, issued a joint corrective statement in response: "Members of Congress who recently invoked teachings of the Catholic faith itself as justifying abortion or supporting a supposed right to abortion grievously distort the faith. It is wrong and incoherent to claim that the taking of innocent human life at its most vulnerable stage can ever be consistent with the values of supporting the dignity and well-being of those in need," the U.S. bishops wrote.

Citing the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the bishops added: "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. Abortion violates this with respect to preborn children and brings untold suffering to countless women," they said. "Conscience rightly enjoys a special regard both in Church teaching and in the public sphere. And policymakers should support the freedom of Catholics and of others to serve the common good in accord with their beliefs in a wide range of areas — from services and assistance to recently arrived migrants, to offering health care and social services." The bishops stated that "conscience is not a license to commit evil and take innocent lives. Conscience cannot and does not justify the act or support of abortion." They concluded by imploring Congress to "join us in working toward the true common good by prioritizing authentic, uplifting support for the vulnerable and marginalized, including mothers and families in need."

French diocesan bishops become auxiliaries in rare move

On June 26, Pope Francis accepted the resignations of Bishop Thierry Brac de la Perrière, 64, the bishop of Nevers since 2011, and Bishop Jean-Pierre Batut, 68, the bishop of Blois since 2014. The Pontiff named the former an auxiliary bishop of Lyon, and the latter the auxiliary bishop of Toulouse.

Bishop Brac de la Perrière's resignation comes at the conclusion of a six-month sabbatical for fatigue. Upon his resignation, Bishop Batut said, "I think it's important to have the simplicity, the realism, and perhaps also the humility to say to oneself: Here, when the burden becomes too great, one can hand over one's responsibility, and not necessarily to take on another responsibility as heavy."

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTINOS FOR JULY

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

Pope's peace envoy meets pro-Putin Russian Orthodox leader



Continuing his peace mission on behalf of Pope Francis amid the war in Ukraine, Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi met Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and other leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church Thursday, just days after the Orthodox prelates stood uniformly behind Russian President Vladimir Putin during a short-lived insurrection by Wagner Group mercenaries.

“Even in the current conditions, which are also marked by many risks and many dangers, the churches can, by joint efforts, prevent the negative development of political circumstances and serve the cause of peace and justice,” Kirill told Zuppi.

As a young priest of Saint Egidio thirty years ago, Zuppi, archbishop of Bologna and president of the Italian Bishops’ Conference, helped the Vatican negotiate the Mozambique peace accords in 1992.

Zuppi’s meeting with Kirill is the first time the Russian Orthodox patriarch has encountered a high-profile Catholic leader since his historic meeting with Pope Francis in 2016, which marked the first-ever meeting between a pope and a Russian patriarch.

Zuppi’s mission is primarily “to identify and encourage humanitarian initiatives that permit the beginning of a path which, we hope, can lead to a much-desired peace.”

Zuppi closed his mission with a Mass Thursday evening in the Catholic Cathedral of the Mother of God, where he met the Catholic community, “to transmit the greetings, closeness and prayers of the Holy Father.”