

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 16, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM	- Bobbie Heiss & Ellen Heiss
Sun	8:00 AM	- People of the Parish
	10:00 AM	- Charles Ontko & Mary Ontko
	12:00 PM	- Virginia Huck
Mon	7:45 AM	- Alfred & Hilda Ternes
	12:05 PM	- Iris J. Treadway
Tue	7:45 AM	- Jim & Ethel Archer
	12:05 PM	- Sharon Heiss
Wed	7:45 AM	- Pam Kriechbaum
	12:05 PM	- Bobbie Heiss, 30 th Anniversary
Thu	7:45 AM	- Geno DeMaio, 4 th Anniversary
	12:05 PM	- Larry Steinel
Fri	7:45 AM	- Nathan Heiss, 1 st Anniversary
	-	
	12:05 PM	- Mary Ontko
Sat	9:00 AM	- Carol Sarver
	5:30 PM	- Harry Way
Sun	8:00 AM	- Tom Brockmeier, 7 th Anniversary
	10:00 AM	- Jim Archer
	12:00 PM	- People of the Parish

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@dioceseub.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

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower. All who come to him will have life forever.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY.

Wis 12:13,16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43.

REST IN PEACE:

Charles Huggins, son of Elizabeth Hopper of this parish passed away July 4th. Our prayers are with Elizabeth and her family, and we offer them our sincere condolences. May Charles rest in God's eternal peace.

Paula Dawn Brockmeier died July 5th. We celebrated her entrance into eternal life at her Funeral Mass this past Thursday morning. We offer our sympathy to the Brockmeier family and ask God to grant Paula eternal peace and happiness.

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 listed in the Master Book in the parish office.

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)
	7:00 PM	-	St. Vincent dePaul Society Meeting in the Conference Room.
TUE	7:00 PM	-	Substance Abuse Support Group Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
THU	8:30 AM	-	Cleaning the Basilica. See announcement.
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: \$ 12,762.00

Amount needed each weekend for
the Basilica budget: \$ 14,225.00

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.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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!

The school office remains open on Wednesday's from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM through August 16th.

ST. MARY SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWS

The next St. Mary's Catholic High School Alumni Reunion is scheduled for July 13, 2024. Mark your calendars!

Also, a reminder about our upcoming sports memorabilia display. If you have any items you would like to donate, jerseys, numbers, letters, articles, etc., please contact Dave Archer at (740) 896-2755 or Ken Strahler at (740) 373-4529. Let us know if you would like to join our committee.

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.

NEW ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

If you have recently moved please call the parish office and give us your new address.

Also, many of our parishioners have done away with their phone land-line and are just using a cell phone. Please notify the parish office with that information. We want to up-date our parish roster and keep our information current.

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 \$98,537.00 from our parish. This means that our parish has only met 85% 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.

CLEANING THE BASILICA

Volunteers will be cleaning the Basilica Thursday morning at 8:30 AM. If you are able to help, please join us.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF July 22 & 23, 2023

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
Sat: 5:30	Missy Deskins (CAPT) Evelyn Potter (HOST) Tony Huffman (HOST) Amy Brockett (CHALICE) Jennifer Schenkel (CHALICE)	Shelly Medley	Parker Crum Braxton Kroft Mary Tokodi Ruth
Sun: 8:00	Sandy George (CAPT) Carol Antill (HOST) Marcia McCabe (HOST) Babs Douglass (CHALICE) John Douglass (CHALICE)	Dave Cech	David Baker Suzanne Baker Greg Dickson (swap req.) Joe Flaherty
10:00	Gary Pitt (CAPT) Joel Erb (HOST) Pat Dickinson (HOST) John Towner (CHALICE) Cathy Harper (CHALICE)	Jamie Spencer	Carson Cunningham Kenzi Cunningham Matthew Cunningham Grant Palmer Emilia Weltner
12:00	Joe Schmidt (CAPT) Sandy Bickert (HOST) Irene Cain (HOST) Lisa Taylor (CHALICE) Cheyenne Greenwood (CHALICE)	Stan Vanlandingham	Jonathan Schmidt Annie Tokodi Ruth Anthony Discini

Daily Servers- Not Filled



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR JULY 16, 2023

Jesus left the house to sit along the Sea of Galilee so he could teach the people. The contemporaries of Jesus gathered around Him to learn about the Kingdom. The crowd was so great, that Jesus had to sit in a boat off shore to teach. But instead of teaching clearly, He taught in parables so that the listener (and the reader) could put the pieces together and grow spiritually.

"Listen!" Jesus said. "There was a farmer who threw seeds around to plant grain in his fields. As he threw the seeds around, some of them fell on the path where the farmer walked. The birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocks only covered with a little soil. They quickly sprouted because the soil was so thin. When the sun came up, it dried the new plants out since they did not have long enough roots to get water. Other seeds fell on ground which also had thorn seedlings. The thorn plants grew so quickly and thickly, the grain seeds could not grow. But some seeds fell on good soil. And the seeds produced grain, one hundred times, sixty times, and thirty times more than what the farmer planted. Listen to what I say!"

The parable of the sower and the seed shocked Jesus' audience for wasteful planting and the abundant harvest. Ancient people saw waste as an abuse of the rich. Most ancient people agreed on two points. First, there was only a limited amount of wealth in the world. Second, God willed the distribution of that wealth within a rigid social class system. The rich (five percent of the population) held ninety percent of the wealth and the poor battled for survival.

Imagine the audience's attitude toward waste. They would recycle any useful object and pick up any useful seed so they could replant it in good soil. Yet the farmer in the parable threw seed around without thought. Did he flaunt his wealth? Or, did he totally lack common sense?

Jesus considered this parable important enough because He was emphasizing the blessings of God's Kingdom. God's blessings seemed as irrational to Jesus' audience. God blessed the wicked with riches while the good suffer. Yet the suffering of the good led to much greater blessings. Such was the Kingdom of God.

Jesus interpreted this parable for the missionary ministry of the apostles. He viewed the sower as the missionary preaching to the crowds. Some in the crowd reject the message outright. Others receive the message but are immature and quickly lose interest in the face of opposition. A third group become Christians but never enjoy spiritual growth, since worries of the world get in the way. The last group grows abundantly in Christ, since they willingly place themselves at risk (like seeds in a deep, rich soil that is turned over and over. Jesus meant his parables to shock His audience and make his audience think.

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 18, Saint Camillus de Lellis (Priest)

Camillus was a soldier addicted to gambling. His conversion led him to found a religious order, today numbering 1,120 members. They established hospitals and cared for the sick.

Thursday, July 20, Saint Apollaris (Bishop & Martyr)

Apollinaris was ordained a bishop by St. Peter himself. He was renowned for his power to heal in the name of Jesus, and was frequently exiled, tortured, and imprisoned for the faith. He was martyred in the first century.

Friday, July 21, Saint Lawrence of Brindisi (Priest)

Lawrence was a Capuchin liturgist, military chaplain, diplomat, and minister general. He was a learned exegete, forceful preacher. Fifteen volumes of his writings are extant.

Saturday, July 22, Saint Mary Magdalene

Mary was healed of possession, a disciple of Jesus, and present at the crucifixion. She was the first witness to the Risen Lord, and is called the "apostle to the apostles".



Deceased priests & deacons of the Diocese

On Tuesday, we remember the 18th anniversary of the death of Fr. Norbert Connelly. On Thursday, we remember the 30th anniversary of the death of Msgr. John Yonk. On Friday, we remember the 50th anniversary of the death of Fr. Leo Wiggins. May these priests who served our Diocese rest forever in peace.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, July 17,

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

Tuesday, July 18,

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

Wednesday, July 19,

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

Thursday, July 20,

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

Friday, July 21,

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

Saturday, July 22,

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

Sunday, July 23,

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

THE USE OF FACEBOOK

Remember that many people are not on Facebook for reasons of privacy, so do not put posts about them, their health, their birthdays, or their personal business, on Facebook 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 anonymous – that includes friends, teachers, and clergy. Respect for others means that the privacy of all people must be respected. DO NOT post text, photos, or personal information about another person who has not agreed to have that information posted, publicly for all to see!

Pope Francis hosts Bill Clinton, foundation head Alex Soros

Pope Francis received former US President Bill Clinton on July 5 in Domus Sanctae Marthae, the Vatican hotel that serves as the Pope's residence.

Clinton was accompanied by Alex Soros, who was recently given control of the Soros family's \$25-billion philanthropic enterprise.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



July 16, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The whole world was created by the Word of God. Genesis shows God creating by speaking, and John's Gospel points out in the first chapter that this Word that God spoke in the beginning was in fact Christ. Paul expounds the same truth in the first chapter of Colossians, which in fact contains a commentary on the first verse of the Bible. Christ is that "beginning" of which Genesis speaks, and "all things were created by him and for him."

When, therefore, today's readings speak about the fruitfulness of the Word of God – Isaiah declaring that the word accomplishes the end for which it is sent, and Jesus explaining how the seed will bear fruit – they are not to be understood only in a spiritual sense. The fruitfulness of the Word is also physical, starting with human life itself. Mary said, "Be it done unto me according to your word," and by that word the physical conception of Christ took place.

When did God decide that you or the people around you should start to exist? The answer is, "From all eternity." There was never a time when God did not intend each living person to exist, nor when He did not have definitive plans for each person's life.

"My word will not return to me void." The plan, the eternal word, that God has for each person, is not to return void because of a veto on our part. Contraception, abortion, and euthanasia all constitute an offensive "No" to this Word, an attempt to veto an eternal decision of God regarding the fruitfulness of each life. Part of the reason for these "vetoes" is the "worldly anxiety" referred to in the Gospel. This anxiety leads to the temptation to cut off the fruitfulness of life.

Yet Paul, in the second reading, puts those anxieties in an eschatological perspective, inviting us to hold firm through life's difficulties and continue saying yes to God's plan.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

Pope to visit Fátima to implore peace for Ukraine, entire world

On August 5, during his apostolic journey to Portugal on the occasion of World Youth Day, Pope Francis will lead the recitation of the Rosary at the Chapel of Apparitions of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima.

“The fact that he has decided to return to the feet of Our Lady of Fátima holds significance and reflects the Pope’s intention to address the tragic war afflicting ‘martyred Ukraine,’ attacked by the Russian army, as well as the numerous forgotten conflicts around the world,” said Andrea Tornielli, editorial director of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Communication.

“This gesture by the Bishop of Rome can be directly linked to another significant act he made just over a month after the outbreak of war: the Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, celebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica on 25 March 2022,” Tornielli added.

Cross+Fire Youth & Families!

It’s time for our summer cookout at the home of Matt and Leslie Lupardus (300 Fairview Lane) on Sunday, July 23rd. The event will start at 3:00 pm. and last until later in the day. All youth and their families are welcome! Swimming, corn hole and fellowship! Ladies and gentlemen are asked to please wear a swim shirt. We have lots of towels if you don’t want to take home extra wet things, so just bring a side dish of your choice (hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided)! Please RSVP so we can plan for food. Hope to see you there!

The apparition of the Holy Family

A Jesuit, a Dominican, and a Franciscan were walking along an old road, debating the greatness of their religious orders. Suddenly, an apparition of the Holy Family appeared in front of them, with Jesus in a manger and Mary and Joseph praying over him. The Franciscan fell on his face, overcome with awe at the sight of God born in such poverty. The Dominican fell to his knees, adoring the beautiful reflection of the Trinity and the Holy Family. The Jesuit walked up to Joseph, put his arm around his shoulder, and said, “So, have you thought about where to send him to school?”

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, “Thou shalt not kill.”

A journalist asked Blessed John XXIII (pope from 1958 to 1963), “How many people work in the Vatican? The pope paused, thought for a bit, and replied, “About half of them.”

Congressman renews request to visit bishop imprisoned in Nicaragua



U.S. Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) renewed his request to visit a Catholic bishop imprisoned by the Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega dictatorship, and demanded "the end of the persecution of the Catholic Church" in that country.

In a July 6 statement, Smith said he remains "very concerned about the safety and well-being of Bishop Rolando José Álvarez amid inconsistent reports of his status in Nicaragua" and renewed his request to visit him there.

The congressman, who chairs the House Global Human Rights subcommittee, sent a letter to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega last month requesting a meeting with Álvarez. Álvarez, who has been persecuted by the dictatorship of Ortega and his wife Vice President Rosario Murillo for years because of his defense of human rights, was finally prosecuted and sentenced February 10 for "treason against the homeland." In addition to being sentenced to more than 26 years in prison, Álvarez was permanently stripped of his citizenship and citizen rights.

On July 4, various human rights advocates stated that the dictatorship and representatives of the Catholic Church in Nicaragua held negotiations to allow the release and deportation of the prelate. The Nicaraguan news media reported the next day that the talks had failed and that Álvarez once again had been returned to his maximum security cell in the prison, known as "La Modelo," one of the oldest and most overcrowded prisons in the country where the regime's political prisoners are sent.

The auxiliary bishop of Managua, Silvio Báez, who has been living in exile in Miami since 2019 due to persecution from the Ortega dictatorship, tweeted July 5 that his brother in the episcopate would only agree to leave Nicaragua if "the Pope ordered him to" because "a pastor bishop doesn't go far away from his people because a dictatorship imposes it on him."

In his July 6 statement, Smith stressed that Álvarez "is a compassionate and honorable servant of God's people who continues to so bravely and selflessly advocate for other innocent victims who are also being persecuted by the brutal Ortega regime, including his brother priests who remain imprisoned." Previously, in a letter dated June 5, Smith asked Ortega to be allowed to visit Álvarez.

The congressman informed the Nicaraguan dictator that on March 22 he co-chaired "a congressional hearing that focused on the human rights situation in Nicaragua," noting that "compelling testimony by more than one expert witness highlighted Bishop Álvarez' unjust, ongoing imprisonment and prosecution."

Smith concluded his letter noting that he remains "gravely concerned about Bishop Álvarez' health and well being. Given the gravity of the reported abuses and credibility of recent testimony, as well as my responsibility for legislation and oversight of the US State Department on matters relating to internationally recognized human rights, it is important that I visit with him."

Cardinal Sarah: No synod can invent a 'female priesthood'



Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect emeritus of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, stressed that "the priesthood is unique" and warned that "no council, no synod" can "invent a female priesthood."

In his conference on the priesthood, entitled "Joyful Servants of the Gospel" given July 3 at the Conciliar Seminary in Mexico City, the cardinal assured that no one "has the power to transform this divine gift to adapt it and reduce its transcendent value to the cultural and environmental field."

"No council, no synod, no ecclesiastical authority has the power to invent a female priesthood ... without seriously damaging the perennial physiognomy of the priest, his sacramental identity, within the renewed ecclesiological vision of the Church, mystery, communion, and mission," he emphasized.

Sarah stressed that "the Catholic faith professes that the sacrament of Holy Orders, instituted by Christ the Lord, is one, it is identical for the universal Church. For Jesus, there is no African, German, Amazonia, or European priesthood. The priesthood is unique, it is identical for the universal Church."

In his conference, the prefect emeritus also reflected on "being a priest" and stressed that "the priesthood is a great, great mystery, so great a gift that it would be a sin to waste it. It's a divine gift that must be received, understood, and lived, and the Church has always sought to understand and enter deeper into the real and proper being of the priest, as a baptized man, called to be an alter Christus, another Christ, even more so an *ipse Christus*, Christ himself, to represent Him, to conform to Him, to be configured and mediated in Christ with priestly ordination," he explained.

For the Guinean prelate, "the priest is a man of God who is day and night in the presence of God to glorify him, to adore him. The priest is a man immolated in sacrifice to prolong the sacrifice of Christ for the salvation of the world." The cardinal said that the "first task" of priests "is to pray, because the priest is a man of prayer: He begins his day with the Office of Readings and ends his day with the Office."

"A priest who does not pray is about to die. A Church that does not pray is a dead Church," he warned. Regarding the lack of priestly vocations, he encouraged the faithful to pray because "it's not that we are few. Christ ordained 12 for the whole world. How many of us are priests today? There are close to 400,000 of us priests in the world. There are too many of us," he said, citing the same observation made by Pope Gregory the Great in the 7th century.

"Many have accepted the priesthood, but they're not doing the work of the priest," Sarah explained. "So in response, we must pray. Ask him to send workers to his harvest, pray. And show that we priests are happy, because if young men see that we are sad, we won't attract anyone," he urged. "We have to be happy, even if we're suffering."

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH This weekend, we will be visited by a priest from Cross Catholic Outreach speaking about their work.

Vatican releases schedule for Pope Francis's Mongolia visit in September

The Vatican released Pope Francis's four-day schedule for the first papal visit to Mongolia in September, where the pontiff will meet with government leaders, engage in interreligious dialogue and celebrate Mass for the country's small Catholic population.

Mongolia, a landlocked country situated between China and Russia, is home to about 1,300 Catholics, which is far less than 1% of the country's 3.3 million people. Despite the small population, Christianity in Mongolia dates back to the 7th or 8th century when Nestorians first visited the area. Catholic missionaries preached to Mongolians as early as the 13th century.

The logo used for the papal visit is an outline of Mongolia painted with the colors red and blue to mimic the flag of the country. It portrays a ger, a traditional Mongolian dwelling, with yellow smoke, which is the color of the Vatican. There is a cross to the right of the ger and the motto is written in Mongolian on both sides.

Pope Francis will depart from Rome on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 31, and arrive in Ulaanbaatar, the nation's capital, on the morning of Friday, Sept. 1. He will leave on Monday, Sept. 4.

Sept. 1

After departing from the Rome/Fiumicino International Airport at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31, Pope Francis will arrive at the "Chinggis Khaan" International Airport in Ulaanbaatar at about 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 1. The pontiff will receive an official welcome when he arrives at the airport.

Sept. 2

On Saturday, Pope Francis will be greeted with a welcoming ceremony at Ulaanbaatar's Sukhbaatar Square at 9 a.m. At 9:30, the pope will make a courtesy visit to President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh in the state palace and at 10:20 meet with the authorities, civil society, and the diplomatic corps.

At 11 a.m., Pope Francis will briefly meet the chairman of the State Great Khural, which is the Mongolian parliament. He will then visit Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai at 11:10. Later in the afternoon, the pontiff will meet with bishops, priests, missionaries, consecrated persons, and pastoral workers at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, the Apostolic See of the Prefecture of Ulaanbaatar.

Sept. 3

On Sunday morning, around 10 a.m., Pope Francis will take part in an ecumenical and interreligious meeting at Hun Theatre in Ulaanbaatar. The schedule did not disclose the other participants, but the majority religion of Mongolia is Buddhist. There are small Muslim and shaman minorities. At 4 p.m., the pontiff will celebrate the Holy Mass at the Steppe Arena in Ulaanbaatar.

Sept. 4

Pope Francis will meet with charity workers on Monday morning at about 9:30 a.m. and he will inaugurate a charity center called the House of Mercy.

At 11:30 a.m., the pontiff will have a farewell ceremony at "Chinggis Khaan" International Airport and will leave by flight back to Rome around noon.