

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 23, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	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
Mon	7:45 AM - Antoinette DiBello
	12:05 PM - Liv/dec'd of the Frank & Virginia Offenberger Family
Tue	7:45 AM - Robert Heiss
	12:05 PM - James M. Barrett
Wed	7:45 AM - Paula Brockmeier
	12:05 PM - Mary Agnes Augenstein
Thu	7:45 AM - Marshall Kremer
	12:05 PM - Ken & Julia Strahler, 49 th Wedding Anniversary
Fri	7:45 AM - Liv/dec'd of the Jim King Family
	12:05 PM - Francis "Junior" Arnold
Sat	9:00 AM - Joe Sailer
	5:30 PM - Virginia Zide, 50 th Anniversary
	7:00 PM - Spanish Mass
Sun	8:00 AM - People of the Parish
	10:00 AM - Martha Needham
	12:00 PM - Dr. Edward R. Hintz

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.

1 Kgs 3:5,7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52.

CCD PLANNING MEETING

There will be a CCD Planning Meeting Monday, July 31st at 7:00 PM in the Basilica Social Hall. Please plan to attend if you are a current CCD teacher/assistant teacher or if you may be interested in becoming a CCD teacher.

If you cannot attend but are interested in being a part of the weekly Sunday morning CCD program, please contact Melanie Fouss at 740-525-8733.

REST IN PEACE:

Claude M. Daniels, brother of Leo Daniels, passed away recently in New Hampshire. We offer our condolences to Leo and the Daniels family and will remember Claude in our prayers. May God grant him eternal peace and happiness.

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	-	RCIA Inquiry Session in the Basilica Social Hall.
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	6:00 PM	-	Basilica Book Club Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
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: \$ 16,783.50

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, 304-494-6170.

SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

St. Mary Catholic School is hiring a second 2nd grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. The candidate ideally would have an Ohio teaching certificate and a bachelor's degree from an accredited college with teaching experience. Please email Principal Elizabeth Tokodi to inquire or apply at elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org

A Middle School Social Studies position is also open for the 2023-2024 school year. This position will be a part time position and the applicant would ideally be certified in Social Studies for middle school grades 6-8. For information email Elizabeth Tokodi at elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org.

The State of Ohio has expanded the income guidelines for Ed Choice/tuition opportunities. The 2023-2024 income guidelines can be found at: [Ohio Ed Choice Scholarship](#). Questions can be directed to the school office at 740-374-8181 or email the Principal Elizabeth Tokodi at elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org

Educational Apparel, an approved uniform company for St. Mary Catholic School will be in the Parish Center with samples and the opportunity to purchase school uniforms on Wednesday, July 26th from 2:00 PM until 6:00 pm.

Back to School grounds clean-up is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. All are invited and encouraged to spruce up the grounds!

Back to school open house is scheduled for Monday, August 28th from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. More details will follow!

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

This weekend, the roses and flowers for the altar are in memory of Margaret Cooke. If you would like to request flowers for a particular weekend in memory or in honor of someone, please contact the parish office to reserve the date. You should contact the florist of your choice to arrange for delivery.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is America's oldest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization. The Msgr. Donal O'Carroll, Washington County, Ohio Division #1 AOH was formed on July 23, 1978. Congratulations to the Division on their 45th Anniversary.

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 Wednesday, July 26th at 6:00 PM in the Basilica Social Hall. This 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.

FREE HELP FOR PARISHIONERS

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF July 29 & 30, 2023

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
Sat: 5:30	Sandy George (CAPT) Jean Tornes (HOST) Not Filled (HOST) Gregg Black (CHALICE) Sherry Black (CHALICE)	Teri Ann Pfeffer	Drew Heiss Gavin Kunz Mary Tokodi Ruth
Sun: 8:00	Suzanne Baker (CAPT) Sharon Loken (HOST) (swap req.) Carol Antill (HOST) Nancy Funk (CHALICE) Dennis Nau (CHALICE)	Jaclyn Schwieterman	Charles Kremer David Baker Ron Wesel Greg Dickson
10:00	Gary Pitt (CAPT) Mary Tokodi Ruth (HOST) Carol O'Grady (HOST) Gerald Cooke (CHALICE) Cathy Rauch (CHALICE)	Khadine Ritter	Nico Marasco Valentina Marasco Grant Palmer Caroline Krason
12:00	Joe Schmidt (CAPT) Cheyenne Greenwood (HOST) Lisa Taylor (HOST) Irene Cain (CHALICE) Karen Schramm (CHALICE)	Mary LaBarre	Anthony Discini Karter Lankford Dominic Spencer

Daily Servers- Not Filled



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR JULY 23, 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

Monday, July 24, Saint Sharbel Makhlef (Priest)

Sherbel was born in 1828 in Lebanon. He became a monk in the Maronite Rite and was ordained a priest in 1859. He was deeply devoted to the Blessed Virgin, and spent the last 23 years of his life as a hermit. He possessed the gift of performing miracles even during his lifetime. His tomb is a place of pilgrimage at the monastery of St. Maron in Lebanon.

Tuesday, July 25, Saint James the Apostle

James was the brother of John and is called "The Greater" because he followed Christ before the other apostle with the same name. He was the first of the Twelve to be martyred.

Wednesday, July 26, Saints Joachim & Anne, (parents of Mary)

The names of Mary's parents were found in the 2nd century "Protoevangelium of James". Veneration of Anne originated in the 6th century in the East. Devotion of Joachim dates from the 8th Century.

Saturday, July 29, Saints Martha, Mary, & Lazarus

These Saints were personal friends of Jesus. They lived in Bethany, and whenever Jesus was in Jerusalem, He stayed with them.



Deceased priests & deacons of the Diocese

On Thursday, we remember the 23rd anniversary of the death of Fr. Paul Welton. On Saturday, we remember the 47th anniversary of the death of Fr. Francis Trettel. May these priests who served our Diocese rest forever in peace.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, July 24,

7:45 am. - Mass (Bishop)
12:05 pm. - Mass
5:00pm. - Marriage Validation
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help devotions

Tuesday, July 25,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
5:30 pm. - Grief Support Mtg. & dinner

Wednesday, July 26,

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 27,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
4:30 pm. - Two Baptisms

Friday, July 28,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Mass
5:30 pm. - Wedding Rehearsal
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, July 29,

9:00 am. - Mass
1:30 pm. - Wedding
3:30 pm. - Confessions
5:30 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Spanish Mass

Sunday, July 30,

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

Lawmakers grill FBI chief on anti-Catholic memo



Republican lawmakers on the House Judiciary Committee last Wednesday pressed FBI director Chris Wray on a leaked memo from the bureau's Richmond division that described an investigation into Catholic communities.

The internal memo, dated Jan. 23 and leaked to the press on Feb. 8, outlines a Richmond FBI's investigation of "radical-traditionalist" Catholics. It claimed that violent extremists have "sought out and attended traditional Catholic houses of worship" and suggested "trip wire or source development" within churches that offer the Latin Mass and "radical-traditionalist" Catholic online communities. Wray said that he was "aghast" when the memo came to his attention. The memo sparked outrage from Catholics, including the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, who called it "troubling and offensive" and a form of "religious profiling."

Pope Francis names Dominican priest and former military chaplain as Alaska's next bishop



Pope Francis has named Dominican Father Steven Maekawa, a former active-duty military chaplain, as the next bishop of Fairbanks, Alaska.

The Vatican announced the appointment on July 11. Maekawa will take on the role of leading a diocese that spans more than 400,000 square miles, the largest diocese in the United States geographically.

The 55-year-old Dominican friar has been based in Alaska since 2016, serving as the pastor of Holy Family Old Cathedral in Anchorage.

Maekawa was awarded a special medal in active duty for his work as a military chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve, serving a tour of duty with ground troops in Afghanistan in 2004.

In Fairbanks, Maekawa will succeed Bishop Chad Zielinski, whom Pope Francis appointed as the bishop of New Ulm, Minnesota, last year. The Diocese of Fairbanks has 46 Catholic parishes, only nine of which can be reached by car. The new bishop will need to use a bush plane to reach some remote Catholic parishes. The northernmost diocese in the U.S. has a total population of 166,800 people, roughly 11,500 of whom are Catholics. It is also a poor diocese with only eight parishes that are self-supporting. In some remote churches, parishioners are only able to receive sacraments from a priest every two or three months with priests traveling long distances over difficult terrain and harsh weather conditions.

Pope Francis Creates His Confessor a Cardinal: The Priest Who Asked God's Pardon for Forgiving Too Much



Pope Francis appointed Brother Luis Pascual Dri, an elderly Capuchin Franciscan friar, as a new Cardinal in the forthcoming Consistory.

Brother Luis Pascual Dri has spent the last years of his life in the Confessional of Our Lady of Pompeii in Buenos Aires, following his retirement in 2007. The Holy Father has spoken about him on several occasions, highlighting his work as Confessor. The

Pontiff has spoken of the friar saying that he once said to the Pope that he felt scruples for forgiving too much, and trusting in divine mercy. That "confession" of Father Luis Pascal had a profound impact on Pope Francis.

Brother Luis Pascual Dri spends many hours a day in the Confessional, listening to people and offering words of mercy and closeness. Although he acknowledges that he lacks academic studies, he thinks that life has taught him a lot and that his life experience, marked by poverty, has given him the necessary sensitivity to understand and to help others.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



July 16, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells us that the weeds and wheat grow together; good and evil co-exist. This generous patience of the Lord allows the sinner room to find repentance and conversion.

The parables of the wheat and weeds, the mustard seed, and the yeast, found in today's Gospel, offer insights into the power of God's Kingdom in our lives. These parables challenge us to reflect on our hearts, choices, and aspects of our lives. They invite us to acknowledge our imperfections, nurture the good within us, and strive for spiritual growth. By embracing self-reflection, trust in God's work, and the influence we have on others, we create space for God's grace to transform us and bring forth abundant fruits of love, mercy, and compassion.

The parable of the wheat and weeds, found in the Gospel today challenges us to reflect on our hearts and choices. We all have moments of goodness and weakness, love and selfishness. Recognizing our imperfections humbles us and invites self-reflection.

The parable urges us to protect the wheat within us and uproot the weeds. We nurture the good while striving for spiritual growth, repentance, and conversion. By embracing this process, we create space for God's grace to transform us, bearing abundant fruits of love, mercy, and compassion.

The parable of the mustard seed, also found in the Gospel today reveals the extraordinary potential in all aspects of our lives. Simple acts of kindness, compassion, and faithfulness can ripple through lives, contributing to the growth of God's kingdom. When we embrace small opportunities for love and service, we trust that God brings greatness through our efforts.

The parable of the yeast, teaches us about the transformative power of God's Kingdom. Just as yeast leavens dough, our smallest actions infused with faith and love can have far-reaching effects. We can influence others through our words, actions, and attitudes, becoming agents of positive change. By embracing our personal witness and allowing faith to permeate our lives, we become vessels for God's mercy and love.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

Boy who got past security barrier to embrace Pope Francis at WYD 2013 is now a seminarian

The little boy who managed to get past the crowd control barrier at World Youth Day (WYD) in Rio de Janeiro in 2013 to give an emotional embrace to Pope Francis is now a seminarian preparing for the priesthood. On July 26, 2013, de Brito, then 9 years old, managed to get to the popemobile carrying Pope Francis through the streets of Rio de Janeiro. He then hugged the Holy Father. Ten years later, de Brito is in the preparatory seminary of the Archdiocese of Campo Grande in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso do Sul. For de Brito, "remembering that encounter is to always rekindle the flame of vocation."



Pope Francis visited Rio de Janeiro for WYD in 2013. It was his first international trip after being elected pope in March of that year. The young man said that he is moved when he talks about that encounter. "It will be 10 years since that great moment in my life. Of course, it was not the awakening of my vocation, because I had wanted to be a priest for a long time. But it was, without a doubt, one more motivation within my vocation," de Brito said. The seminarian said that since he was little he wanted to be a priest. "I liked to play at celebrating Mass, going to Mass." At the age of 5 he began serving as an altar boy in Cabo Frio, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, where he lived with his family.

"I was an altar boy for many years and really enjoyed serving. I also really liked catechism and was in a hurry for the sacraments. I remember my first Eucharist a lot, which was the happiest day of my life," he shared. De Brito recalled that it was at the age of 7 that he first said that he wanted to be just a priest: "Before I said that I wanted to be a teacher and a priest, a doctor and a priest, always something and a priest. But at the age of 7, one day when my father picked me up from school and asked me what it would be like when I grew up, I told him that I would only be a priest."

Melkite Church to mark 300 years of union with Rome with Jubilee

Melkite Patriarch Youssef Absi announced a special Jubilee year in 2024 to celebrate the restoration of the full Communion with Rome to mark the 300th anniversary of the restoration of the full Communion with the Church of Rome, in 1724.

The Melkite Greek Catholic Church is one of the largest Eastern Churches in union with Rome, tracing its roots back to the ancient See of Antioch, where the followers of Christ were first called Christians. The Melkite Church traces its roots back to the 1st century. Before my arrival in Marietta, I helped in Saint Joseph Melkite Church in Akron, Ohio



In the Middle East, starting from the 17th century, Western Catholic missionaries "sought to heal the breach and achieve the desired unity between the Patriarchate of Antioch and the Church of Rome," Patriarch Youssef said. The Melkite Church is active in Syria, Lebanon, and other countries of the Middle East, but due to emigration over the years there are eparchies in Europe, the Americas, and Oceania. The U.S. Eparchy of Newton, Massachusetts, has more than 50 parishes and missions throughout the US.

Catholic Church is Most Credible Institution in Nicaragua, Gallup Poll Finds



A new survey commissioned by the Nicaraguan media outlet Confidential and conducted by market researcher CID Gallup of Costa Rica revealed that the Catholic Church is the most credible institution in Nicaragua despite the harsh persecution to which it has been subjected for some years by the dictatorship of President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo.

The survey indicated that 48% consider the Catholic Church to be the most credible institution, while the Ortega presidency has only 26% credibility.

Along the same lines, the personalities enjoying the most favorable opinions are former presidential candidate Félix Maradiaga with 48% followed by journalist and activist Cristiana Chamorro Barrios with 43%.

Maradiaga was imprisoned by the Ortega regime, deported Feb. 9 along with 221 other political prisoners, and lives in exile in the United States.

Regarding the level of corruption in the last six months, 56% responded that it has increased, while 23% believe it is unchanged and only 13% indicate that it has decreased.

The latest Corruption Perception Index (CPI) evaluated by Transparency International placed Nicaragua as the most corrupt country in Central America and the third most corrupt in Latin America, surpassed only by Venezuela and Haiti.

Regarding the Ortega regime, 61% disapproved of its work, 29% approved, and 10% didn't know or did not respond.

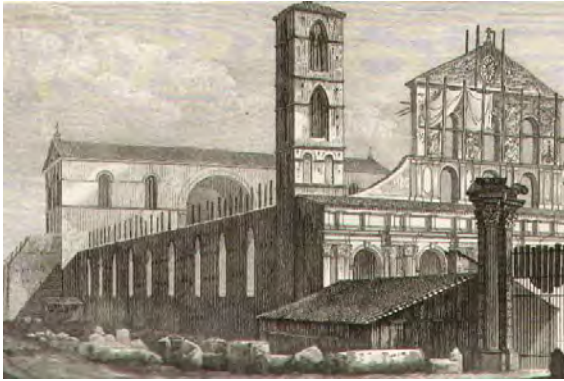
The survey was carried out between June 14 and 20 with 823 people interviewed. The margin of error was plus or minus 2.93% and the confidence level was 95%.

Alaska prisons bar Catholic Mass

The Alaska Department of Corrections has effectively banned the celebration of the Mass in the state's prisons, with a new policy that "no altar wine or other alcoholic beverages will be used by anyone who is involved with any activity."

The consecration of wine is required for the valid celebration of the Mass. In the past, Alaska's prisons have allowed the use of a small amount of altar wine, to be consecrated and consumed only by the priest-celebrant, on a case-by-case basis.

Remembering the devastating fire at St. Paul Outside the Walls 200 years later



As the bicentennial anniversary of the devastating fire at St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome draws near, the profound significance of the July 15, 1823, event is recalled among those who love the basilica. The tragic incident left an indelible mark on the architectural landscape and the hearts of believers.

St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome in 1823, is

a Roman Basilica. Cardinal James Michael Harvey, the appointed archpriest of St. Paul Outside the Walls, expressed the importance of commemorating the tragic event, stating: "We want the future to know that the memory of this event was taken seriously during its 200-year anniversary."



To gain deeper insights into the fire and its aftermath, Nicola Camerlenghi, assistant professor of Art History at Dartmouth College, shared his expertise saying: "The fire at St. Paul's Basilica was a great tragedy. What was lost was the last imperial basilica built in Rome and one of the few monumental buildings from early Christian times that had survived relatively untouched by subsequent alterations."

Reflecting on the decisions made during the meticulous reconstruction process, the architects and artisans recreated its original state while adapting to the loss of certain materials and using materials that are more fireproof. The new Basilica provides a glimpse into Rome after the fire. The fire was ruled an accident, caused by a distracted welder named Giacomo who unknowingly left a pan of coals burning on the roof. Despite initial suspicions of arson, conspiracy theories involving revolutionary movements and even the prominent Rothschild family failed to gain traction.

The reconstruction of St. Paul Outside the Walls proved to be a formidable undertaking amid the political and cultural turmoil of Rome at the time. To honor the basilica's historical significance, Pope Leo XII decided to restore it to its former glory, without the architectural modifications and additions that had accumulated over the centuries.

At the bicentennial anniversary of this devastating fire, one is reminded of the enduring faith and unwavering spirit that define St. Paul Outside the Walls and even St. Paul himself. As Camerlenghi noted: "In turn, the reconstruction that ensued was a testament to the importance of the figure of St. Paul to the Catholic Church and indeed to the Christian community at large. No figure has been quite as ecumenical as Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles."

PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR TWO PARISHES WHO ARE ILL!