

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



August 20, 2023

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM - Paul Mallamaci, 11 th Anniversary
Sun	8:00 AM - John & Babs Douglass, 50 th Wedding Anniversary
	10:00 AM - Vincent & Alice Lang
	12:00 PM - People of the Parish
Mon	7:45 AM - Liv/dec'd Members of the Jim & Joanne King Family
	12:05 PM - Harry Way
Tue	7:45 AM - Gertrude Baker, 19 th Anniversary
	12:05 PM - Clarence Roesch
Wed	7:45 AM - Marshall Kremer
	12:05 PM - Mary O'Connor
Thu	7:45 AM - Special Intention of the Stapleton Family
	12:05 PM - Richard Gillon
Fri	7:45 AM - Richard Schneider, II
Is 2:	12:05 PM - Souls in Purgatory
Sat	9:00 AM - Val Milsark
	5:30 PM - People of the Parish
Sun	8:00 AM - Bob Schoepner
	10:00 AM - John O'Grady, 15 th Anniversary
	12:00 PM - Tony Weber

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

***Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and
cured every disease among the people.***

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Sebastian Harry Cooper, Benedict Pio Foran and Kai Joseph Goddard.

REAT IN PEACE:

Linda Lee Ritter, mother of Kevin Ritter of this parish, passed away August 9th. We offer our sincere condolences to Kevin (Khadine) and the Ritter family. We will remember Mrs. Ritter in prayer and ask God to grant her eternal peace.

Sunny Casto, mother of Sammy Chichester of this parish, passed away this week. May God now welcome her into heaven, her eternal home and grant her eternal peace and happiness. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sammy and the Casto family.

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.
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: \$ 12,085.00

Amount needed each week for the
maintenance of our Basilica: \$ 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.

DAILY BREAD KITCHEN

Each month since January 2023 the Daily Bread Kitchen has provided 300 meals weekly to those in need in our community. Expenses have been commensurate with increased numbers and rising costs of food and supplies.

Once again, we are asking for your prayers and support. Please place your donation in an envelope marked “DBK” and put it in the collection basket. Thank you and God bless you.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

Back to school grounds clean-up is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Bring gloves and rakes to help clean and spread mulch in conjunction with our Partner in Education Greenleaf Landscapes. Rain date is scheduled for Thursday, August 24th.

Open House Monday, August 28th 5:00 - 7:00 PM.

Meet your teachers, see the classrooms, visit with school organizations, enjoy a cookout courtesy of the Irish Booster Organization and visit the Ice Cream Truck! Classes begin on Wednesday, August 30th.

Exciting News! The State of Ohio has increased the income qualifications for education in private schools. These amounts could cover 100% of tuition at St. Mary Catholic School. To learn more, email elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org. To schedule a tour of St. Mary Catholic School, please email Mrs. Bradley at tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org.

SAVE THE DATE! St. Mary School Fall Festival Auction, Moonlight Masquerade will be held on Friday, October 6th. Ticket info coming soon! If anyone is interested in sponsoring an auction item or the event, contact Rebecca Soffian at 740-350-0311 or email rsoffian@gmail.com.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

All parish organizations, prayer groups and individuals must check with the parish office before scheduling a meeting or event in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room, Library or using the Basilica Kitchen. If you want to change the time or date of a previously scheduled meeting or event, please be sure the new time/date is available. All meetings and events **MUST BE LISTED** in the Master Book in the Parish Office.

CCD CLASSES TO RESUME

CCD Classes will resume on **Sunday Mornings in the Basilica Social Hall from 8:45 to 9:45 AM, beginning Sunday, September 10th**. Children entering grades K- 8 are eligible to attend. **Registration for classes will take place after all Masses this weekend, August 19-20, in the Basilica Social Hall.**

Check the parish website for online forms. Registration forms and fees can be returned to the rectory or may be dropped off in the Basilica Social Hall after any Mass this weekend.

Cost is \$30.00 each (\$5.00 discount per each added child in the family.) Fees can be waived, contact the rectory. **CCD teachers are needed for grades 1 and 4.** If you are available, please call Melanie Fouss at 740-525-8733 as soon as possible. Substitutes are also needed.

FREE HELP FOR PARISHIONERS

If you need a ride to and from Mass, a doctor's appointment, or help running errands, etc., please call or text Anne-Marie at telephone number (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:
<http://catholicfaithjourneys.com>

For more information contact Maggie McDaniel:
Email: maggie@catholicfaithjourneys.com or phone (419)290-8782.

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.

The August meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd at 6:00 PM in the Social Hall.

2003 DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE

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 \$106,841.00 from our parish. This means that our parish has made 92% of our goal.

Thanks once again to those who participated in this year's campaign, If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, 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 envelope provided with your pledge card. Additional pledge cards are available at the parish office. You can also contribute on line at www.GiveDiosteub.org

Our parish has always surpassed our goal. Money over and above our goal will be returned to our parish. Please make this happen again.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF Aug 26 & 27

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

Sat: Sandy George (CAPT)
5:30 Tammi Bradley (HOST)
 Mary-Tokodi Ruth (HOST)
 Tony Huffman (CHALICE) (swap req.)
 Karen Schramm CHALICE)

Irene Cain

Connor Bichard
 NOT FILLED
 NOT FILLED

Sun: Theresa Huck (CAPT)
8:00 Nancy Funk (HOST)
 John Douglass (HOST)
 Sharon Loken (CLICE)
 Jean Tornes

Carol Wharff

Joe Flaherty
 Charles Kremer
 Jerry Huck
 Kenny Offeenberger

10:00 Gary Pitt (CAPT)
 Carol O'Grady (HOST)
 Ken Schilling(HOST)
 Pat Dickinson (CHALICE)
 Kaelly Erb(CHALICE)

Khadine Ritter

Bryson Black
 Eliah Erb
 Griffin Erb
 Owen Krason
 Liam Long

12:00 Stan Vanlandingham (CAPT)
 Cheyenne Greenwood (HOST)
 Sandy Bickert (HOST)
 Jeanette Flowers (CHALICE)
 Dennis Nau (CHALICE)

Sherry Hill

Anthony Discini
 Karter Lankford
 Domimic Spencer

Daily Servers- Not Filled

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY: We pray for all of the men and women who are serving our country in the military. We especially remember those from our own parish and friends and relatives of our parishioners. May God watch over them and bring them safely home.

THIS WEEKEND'S FLOWERS:

This weekend, the flowers for the altar are in celebration of John & Babs Douglass's 50th Wedding Anniversary. If you would like to request flowers for a particular weekend, in memory or in honor of someone, please call the parish office to reserve the date. You should contact the florist of your choice to arrange for delivery.



THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 20, 2023

In Matthew's gospel, a foreign woman approached Jesus in faith. And because of her faith, Jesus ministered to someone outside his culture to the shock of his audience.

After He left Galilee, Jesus traveled to the area near the towns of Tyre and Sidon. A woman from this area cried out, "Lord! Son of David! Help me! She shouted: "a demon has infected my daughter!" But Jesus did not answer her. Then, His followers came up to Jesus and kept complaining, "Get rid of her. She shouts at us no matter where we go."

The woman turned to Jesus and He said, "I was only sent for the lost sheep, the people of Israel." The woman fell at His feet and begged him, "Lord, help me!" Jesus responded: "It's not good to take food from children so you can feed dogs." The woman answered, "Yes, Lord," "but even dogs eat the small crumbs that fall from their masters' tables! Then, JESUS said to her, "Woman, your trust (in ME) is great. Let it happen for you as you wish." Her daughter was cured at that hour.

Was Jesus making a derogatory remark to the woman, or was he referring to the feeding order of the family? Jewish contemporaries of Jesus did have dogs as family pets. The word "Dog" Jesus used was a lovable family pet dog. The "crumbs falling" were the crumbs intentionally made to fall (i.e., "thrown" by the master)?

The "Canaanite," woman from the area walking toward Jesus was a pagan Semite. When she saw the crowd that accompanied Jesus, she began her cry. This was a moment of faith for the woman.

The woman addressed Jesus with two titles, "Lord" and "Son of David." The title "Son of David" presupposed her faith in Jesus. She called Jesus "Lord" because she trusted him and his power.

Jesus ignored her and his followers complained about her persistence. Then Jesus turned to the woman and defined his ministry as exclusively Jewish. Jesus' statements did not deter the woman. Then He made the challenging comment comparing Jews to children and Gentiles to dogs. On the surface, the statement was demeaning, for the term "dog" stood atop a list of Semitic insults. "Dog" implied the cowardice of dogs who only hunt in packs. Alone, most dogs will run away when confronted.

The term "Dog" that He used implied extreme loyalty. A true pet would defend his or her master to the death if confronted. To bond with their pets, masters in Semitic households would feed their dogs from leftovers after the meal. In this way, dogs knew their place and knew their master. The after-meal time ritual helped insure the dog's loyalty (and the family's safety). The woman used Jesus' analogy to her advantage. Referring to the well-known bonding ritual, she affirmed her trust in Jesus. She was loyal, like a family pet. Through her trust, Jesus acknowledged her faith and cured her daughter.

New Grief Support Group to Begin in September

The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption will be offering a 13-week Grief Group beginning Tuesday September 5, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Parish Rectory. The sessions will run for an hour and a half each week. The death of a loved one is a very difficult journey and sharing with others who are going through the same process gives us support. Transforming loss into living again with faith, hope, and love and moving toward healing and growth. If you are interested in being part of this group, you will need to register before September 4, 2023 by calling either Mary LaBarre at 740-236-7102 or Debbie Brown at 740-525-9012. Group size is limited to ten (10) individuals. Workbooks are provided for each person. Attendance is by registration only.



Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday

Perpetual Help Devotions will be celebrated this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. All Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this devotion celebrated on 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?



Deceased Priests & Deacons of the Diocese

On Monday, we remember the 64th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Raymond Harris. On Wednesday, we remember the 21st anniversary of the death of Fr. George Voytko. Next Sunday, we remember the 30th anniversary of the death of Fr. John Ture. May these three priests who served our Diocese, rest forever in peace.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PILGRIMAGES TO THE BASILICA

Sept. - 24 - 9:30 am. Confirmation – Saint Henry Church
Sept. - 24 - 12:00 am. Respect Life Mass - Bishop
Oct. - 27, - 8:45 am. Diocesan Teacher in Service Day
Oct. - 29 - 9:00 am. Mass of Remembrance (Bishop)
Oct. - 29, - 12:00 pm. Women Religious celebration
Nov. - 19, - 12:00 pm. Diocesan Marriage Anniversary Mass (Bishop)
Dec. - 12, - 11:00 am. Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

LITURGICAL FEASTS THIS WEEK

Monday, August 21, Saint Pius X, (Pope)

Pius undertook liturgical and canonical reforms especially Communion for children and frequent Communion for adults. He condemned Modernism and wanted to “Renew all things in Christ”. He died August 20, 1914.

Tuesday, August 22, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Today’s Memorial, prescribed in 1954 by Pope Pius XII is fittingly celebrated on the octave of the Assumption of Mary.

Wednesday, August 23, Saint Rose of Lima (Virgin)

Rose was a Peruvian mystic. She was nick-named Rose because of her beauty. She lived a life of penance and solitude, caring for homeless, elderly, and the sick. She was the first saint declared in the New World.

Thursday, August 24, Saint Bartholmew (Apostle)

Bartholomew means “Sons of thunder”. In John’s Gospel, he is known as Nathaniel who was associated with Saint Philip. He preached the Gospel in India and Armenia, where was flayed alive.

Friday, August 25, Saint Louis

Louis of France was a model ruler and father of eleven children. He was a Franciscan tertiary, who cared for lepers. He built Sante Chapelle in Paris as a reliquary for the crown of thorns. He died of the plague in 1648.

LONELINESS

Loneliness is a problem in the world today. In itself, it is not an evil. It shows, in fact, the truth of the human being as a creature in need of support. First and foremost, there is the relationship with the Lord, because one has come to recognize that without Him life becomes unbearable and meaningless.

There is a dimension of loneliness in every state of life - a radical emptiness, which nothing and no one can fill. Loneliness makes a person uncomfortable when it finds a person lacking meaningful relationships, losing oneself in the to-do list, and the gossip of the moment, - nothing fills the emptiness that torments. Loneliness has multiple aspects, which can make it feared, but through a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ, the experience of loneliness no longer has a hold on us, and we become

The concentration camp at Dachau

The concentration camp at Dachau held the largest number of Catholic priests — more than 2,400 — in the Nazi camp system. They came from two dozen countries, from every background — parish priests and friars, teachers and missionaries. More than one-third were killed. By tireless sacrifice amid barbaric suffering, the Church was victorious in one of the darkest times in human history. Numerous priests, continued to preach the gospel and the truth about the dignity of human life and freedom.

Dictatorship in Nicaragua blocks two priests who attended WYD from returning to the country

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The dictatorship of Daniel Ortega prohibited two priests from returning to Nicaragua from Lisbon, Portugal, where they participated in World Youth Day, a lawyer who has conducted research into the human rights abuses of the regime reported.

The were returning to Nicaragua after participating in World Youth Day (WYD) in Lisbon, Aug.1-6, attended by Pope Francis and more than a million young people from around the world, including a delegation from Nicaragua. The dictatorship of Ortega and his wife, Rosario Murillo, has denied entry to Nicaragua "to more than half a dozen priests and lay people, most of them Nicaraguan citizens."

Multiple FBI offices involved in targeting Catholics, House committee finds

The Judiciary Committee of the US House of Representatives has charged that multiple offices of the FBI were involved in producing a memo suggesting that traditionalist Catholics should be targeted as potential terrorists.

Rep. Jim Jordan, the committee chairman, challenged FBI Director Christopher Wray to explain why he had withheld evidence about the memo; Wray had claimed that the document was produced by a single branch office in Richmond, Virginia.

In fact, Jordan said, documents that the Judiciary Committee obtained by warrant showed that FBI offices in Portland and Los Angeles were also involved in effort. Moreover, an FBI agent in California had begun surveillance of traditionalist Catholic churches.

Pope again assails 'rigid' young priests in new interview

Pope Francis once again complained that many young priests display "rigid" attitudes, "because they are afraid in a time of insecurity that we are experiencing."

"Behind that traditionalism, we have discovered serious moral problems and vices, double lives," the Pope says. "We all know of bishops who, as they needed priests, have laid hands on people who had been kicked out of other seminaries as immoral." He attributed the problem to "clericalism," and glided over the fact that liberal bishops have welcomed priests despite complaints of immoral conduct.

In response to other questions Francis said:

- that when he traveled to Rome for the conclave in 2013, he expected to return promptly, and "I even left my sermon for Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday ready in Buenos Aires.

He said that he realizes that "I am a stone in the shoe for more than one" person who defends the empire.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF BOTH OF OUR PARISHES WHO ARE ILL.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, August 21,

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

Tuesday, August 22,

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

Wednesday, August 23,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:00 am. - Mass for teachers at School
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30 am. - Pilgrimage from Ravenna Ohio
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm. - RCIA Inquiry Class

Thursday, August 24,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
5:00 pm. - Teacher Dinner

Friday, August 25,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:25 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, August 26,

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

Sunday, August 27

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



New Jersey court rules Catholic school can require teachers to follow Catholic teaching

The New Jersey Supreme Court on Monday unanimously upheld a Catholic school's ability to enforce an employee code of conduct in line with Catholic moral teaching and to fire teachers for violating that code. The ruling further solidifies the ability of New Jersey religious schools of all types to enforce moral codes of conduct in line with their religious practice. This ruling provides Catholic schools in New Jersey with a significant new protection against lawsuits brought by employees who do not follow a school's code of conduct. Although the ruling centers on New Jersey law, it will have knock-on effects around the country as a persuasively written decision."

The seven-person state Supreme Court ultimately ruled in favor of St. Theresa's and New Jersey religious schools in its unanimous decision Monday. In its ruling, the New Jersey Supreme Court wrote that "the religious tenets exception allowed St. Theresa's to require its employees, as a condition of employment, to abide by Catholic law, including that they abstain from premarital sex."

The school said: "We are pleased that the Supreme Court upheld the rights of religious employers to act consistent with their religious tenets, and that the court found that St. Theresa did so here,". "Equally important, the court found no evidence of discrimination in this case."



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



August 20, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The word “Catholic” means “universal.” Everyone is called to salvation in Christ; everyone is called to his house of prayer, his Church, his family. The Church, at her core, is missionary, and all her efforts are geared toward an ever-wider expansion and growth, that she may embrace every human being.

This universality, reflected in all of today’s readings, is rooted ultimately in the meaning of the Incarnation itself. “By his incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every human being” (Vatican II, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes*, 22). This reality raises the dignity of human life beyond what it already had as God’s creation in his own image, and is also the basis for the urgency of the task to announce the Gospel to all people, that they may know the meaning and promise of the dignity they have.

“The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable,” as today’s second reading tells us. That is why the Church is pro-life, and why, as Paul VI declared in *Humanae Vitae* and John Paul II repeated in *Evangelium Vitae*, “this tradition is unchanged and unchangeable”. Our stance in favor of life, and in defense of life, does not spring from us, or from some inclination we have toward a particular philosophy, ideology, or political platform. It is based, rather, in “the gifts and the call of God,” which “are irrevocable” and universal. He has chosen to create and redeem us, and reserve a place for us on his throne. His choice is what makes human life sacred, and is the basis for our choices.

Today’s readings, therefore, provide a foundation for a strong affirmation of the essential and integral pro-life stance of the Church, of its meaning and origin, and of the need for that pro-life witness to be given to the whole world and to every culture and subculture. We must support life at all of its stages from birth, through various illness, and at the end of our lives as well.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

Amidst Risk of Schism, Pope Francis Sends Delegate to Resolve Liturgical Dispute in Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly



In a bid to put an end to the escalating crisis within the archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, Pope Francis has designated Archbishop Cyril Vasil as a papal delegate. Archbishop Vasil, hailing from the Eparchy of Košice in the Slovak Greek Catholic Church and a former secretary of the dicastery for the Eastern Churches, has been chosen to address the ongoing conflict within the archeparchy.

The decision by the Holy Father follows the request made by the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, Cardinal George Alencherry, in June 2023. Cardinal Alencherry had articulated the need for papal intervention to resolve the dispute that emerged concerning the manner of celebrating the Holy Qurbana, the traditional Mass of the region.

The dispute revolves around the adoption of a “uniform” liturgy aimed at harmonizing the diverse liturgical practices employed previously. This compromise solution, implemented by the Syro-Malabar Synod in the summer of 2021, mandates that during the Liturgy of the Word, the priest faces the congregation, then turns towards the altar at the central juncture (the consecration), and ultimately looks back at the assembly after communion.

Nevertheless, the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly, along with its clergy, has resisted the implementation of this new “uniform” liturgy. The appointment of Archbishop Cyril Vasil as a special delegate intends to assess the current situation and propose resolutions to quell the crisis.



The papal delegate, accompanied by Father Sunny Kokkaravalayil, presently a professor of canon law at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, arrived in the region on August 4, 2023. In the meantime, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath will continue to administer the archeparchy as an apostolic administrator.

Archbishop Cyril Vasil, born in 1965 in Košice, Slovakia, boasts extensive experience in ecclesiastical matters. After his ordination as a priest in 1987, he obtained a doctorate in canon law and served as a professor and rector at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. In 2009, he assumed the role of secretary of the dicastery for the Eastern Churches and later was ordained as an archbishop. Following 11 years of service in this capacity, he was appointed apostolic administrator of the Eparchy of Košice in 2020 and subsequently became its second bishop in 2021.

It's worth noting that Archbishop Cyril Vasil has also represented the Pope at significant events, such as the funeral of the late Major Archbishop, Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil, in 2011. Additionally, in January 2018, he addressed the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church and participated in the episcopal installation in Shamshabad.

Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki killed two-thirds of the city's Catholics 78 years ago This

This August marks the 78th anniversary of the second atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Japan, this time on Nagasaki, a city with a rich history of Christian martyrs from the 16th and 17th centuries.

On the day "Fat Man," the name of the bomb, was dropped, the small Japanese Catholic community lost two-thirds of its members in the conflagration.

After the destruction of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, the U.S. military under commander-in-chief President Harry Truman set its sights on the city of Kokura to force the surrender of Japan. However, bad weather caused the target to be changed to Nagasaki.

Nagasaki had about 240,000 inhabitants. A miscalculation by the Americans meant that the bomb did not fall on the center of the city, but the effect was still devastating and immediately killed some 75,000 people. In the days that followed, a similar number died from radiation injuries and illnesses.

Since the 16th century, Nagasaki has been an important center of Catholicism in Japan, initially evangelized by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The persecution against Catholics, which came almost immediately, was recalled in 2007 in the memoirs of Cardinal Giacomo Biffi, who died in 2017, in which he expressed the strong impact that the news of the atomic bombs dropped on Japan in 1945 had on him. "I had already heard of Nagasaki," he wrote.

"In Nagasaki," he pointed out, "on Feb. 5, 1597, 36 martyrs had given their lives for Christ (six Franciscan missionaries, three Japanese Jesuits, and 26 laymen), canonized by Pius IX in 1862." However, "when the persecution resumed in 1637, up to 35,000 Christians were killed."

Honolulu bishop details 'shocking' devastation on Maui after visit to Lahaina

Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva visited the town of Lahaina Tuesday to celebrate Mass and meet survivors of the wildfires that he said "shockingly devastated" the town. While the scope of the crisis has been "overwhelming," the response from the local community has been "remarkable," the prelate said. The bishop celebrated Mass at Kapalua, Maui, on Sunday for about 200 Catholics gathered there.

"In order to arrive in Kapalua, we had to drive on the upper road above Lahaina town," he said. "At several places along the road we saw spots that were destroyed by the fire, whether homes or businesses, it was hard to tell. We could also overlook Lahaina town, which was shockingly devastated."

Silva said he heard numerous stories from parishioners "who lost one or more of their loved ones or neighbors, whose houses burned down, or who lost their livelihood." Due to the local loss of cellphone towers and internet coverage, Silva said the assembly had not learned of Pope Francis' message to the island expressing consolation and prayers. "I read the letter to them, and they were very grateful," he said.

"The outpouring of love and care has also been remarkable!" he said.