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ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

“Sacraments Lead Us to Discipleship”

By *BISHOP THOMAS PAPROCKI*

From the moment of our Baptism we are called to be “Missionary Disciples” as our Holy Father, Pope Francis, speaks of so often. The grace of the Holy Spirit begins to be poured out upon us for this very purpose. As we live out our sacramental life as Catholics, we hear the Lord’s call, inviting us to the three steps of true discipleship, which come from Sacred Scripture. One must: “deny one self, take up the cross, and follow Him.”

I was told the theme of this newsletter is on the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each person, who through the sacraments of our church encounters the living God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His grace, becomes fully initiated into the life of a true disciple. Now equipped with the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Church, represented by the Bishop of the local church, continues to “fulfill her mission to guide every member of the faithful to discover and live his or her vocation in freedom and to bring it to fulfillment in charity,” as St. Pope John Paul II states in his encyclical *Pastores Dabo Vobis*. As 1 John 3:24 reminds us, the Spirit abides deep within each disciple.

This fire of the Holy Spirit is given to those confirmed to create and empower enthusiastic, faith filled “intentional disciples,” who first from their own conversion, enter into a personal relationship with the Risen Lord, go out to evangelize



continued on back cover

Bishop Thomas Paprocki

Stewardship

Giving During the Summer Season

“We’ve stopped delivery of the newspaper and mail. We’ve taken the dog to the kennel. The iron is unplugged, and the stove is turned off. Is there anything else we need to do before we leave on vacation?”

Aren’t you forgetting something? Did you remember to write a check to your parish for the Sundays you’ll be gone?

“But I won’t be at Mass at home those Sundays. Can’t I skip those envelopes when I’m away? After all, I’ll put a dollar or two, or maybe even five, in the collection at the church where we visit. Isn’t that enough?”

Many Americans, whether we have school-aged children at home or not, mentally operate on an academic calendar. We assume our organizations operate September through May and then take it easy during June, July and August. And to some extent, many parish activities do function on such a schedule. Our parish may not hold Religious Education classes during the summer. Our choirs frequently take a break. Even many of the parish staff members take summer vacations! Can’t our giving take a vacation during the summer, too?

Even as we form the question in our mind, we know the answer. The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer long is that God doesn’t go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us during the summer, we are called to

be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

God’s steadfastness in giving to us is the primary reason for us to respond by being faithful in our stewardship toward Him. But there is also a practical reason why we need to keep up our pledges of time, talent and treasure throughout the summer – the Church needs our involvement year-round.

Even though some parish activities are reduced during the summer months, the parish’s expenses are not. After all, there are still Sunday Masses and weekday Masses, too. The parish staff members still need their salaries. And of course, we need to run the air conditioning in our church during the hot summer months. Despite the fact that some parish functions are suspended, other activities may take place, such as Vacation Bible School. And although the regular parish Religious Education program may be suspended, the summer expenses are often the highest, as textbooks and other supplies are bought for the upcoming school year. Our parish has to pay its bills on a year-round basis, just like your family.

Our parish plans a budget for the year, taking into account the commitments that you, the members, have made. If parishioners do not live out their financial commitments to the parish, the budget will not balance.

Our giving needs to be maintained throughout the summer, just as God maintains His generosity to us. Our stewardship is a response to God’s gifts. And God pours out His gifts and His grace upon us all year long.



ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

Time Is Limitless... Or Is It?

Dear Parishioners,

Some years ago, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI encouraged Catholics to renew their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the month of June. In thinking about that, it made me realize that we all like to measure time – not necessarily in minutes and hours, but certainly in terms of what happens at particular times of the year. In the Church, we celebrate so many occasions that measure time – Easter, Christmas, Corpus Christi, Pentecost, Ordinary Time, the feast days of our saints, and much more, all of which give us that sense of moving forward.

In our own lives and the lives of our families, we mark birthdays, anniversaries, Baptism days, and more dates than we can possibly remember. These dates commemorate or remind us of a point in time. Time is also one of those gifts from God that we attach to the idea and life of stewardship.

We are fond of saying that time is the one thing given to all of us in equal amounts. However, we all know that is not necessarily true. Does a mother with several children have the same amount of time as a person with no family? Does a company manager who is expected to be available seven days a week have the same amount of time as someone who works a 9-to-5 job?

My point is that time is a valuable commodity, whether we feel like we have a lot or very little. God, on the other hand, is timeless. The Lord sees things in an eternal view, while we tend to look at it in shorter measures. The question is really “What do we do with our time to serve others and to increase our relationship with God?” We have said many times that each of us needs to set aside time for both of those purposes – to serve and to pray. There is a reason it is called “prayer time.” Prayer should be a part of our lives, as much as eating, sleeping and working.

Another thing that June brings to mind is how life slows down for most of us. Young people are on summer vacation from school. Families and individuals take vacations. Unfortunately, some see it as a time to take a bit of vacation from worship. We can see it in declining Mass attendance and in the reduced number of activities within ministries and organizations.

We all mark time. We all know that it is limited, and can be fleeting. That is why even countries celebrate special

days that mark time – throughout the summer season, Americans celebrate Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. How do we mark time as individuals, as families, and as a parish? That may say more about our understanding of stewardship than anything else. Maybe now, as summer is upon us, is the perfect time to concentrate *more* on our spiritual habits, rather than less.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Donovan
Pastoral Administrator



Receiving Sacraments, Taking Important Steps in Our Faith

This spring, members of our parish family – from our school students to adults – took important sacramental steps on their faith journeys. Congratulations to our First Communion students, Confirmation students, the 2017 eighth-grade class at St. Dominic, and those who fully entered the Catholic Church through the RCIA process!



Our students who received their First Communion this spring



The 2017 eighth-grade class at St. Dominic



Our St. Anthony Confirmation students



*Austin Huber and sponsor,
Macy Willer*



*Cody Cook and sponsor,
Laura Cook*



*Debbie Bockhold and sponsor,
Joe Bockhold*

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



FUN for EVERYONE!!!

ST. DOMINIC JUNE FEST

**SATURDAY
JUNE 17th**

**5PM to
MIDNIGHT**

**CASH
RAFFLE PRIZES**

SILENT AUCTION

**PETTING ZOO BOUNCE
KIDDLAND HOUSE
GAMES FACE PAINTING**

**BBQ BEEF HOMEMADE
& REG. BEEF HAND-DIPPED
SANDWICHES ONION RINGS
BASKET RAFFLE
BEER & MARGARITAS**

ENTERTAINMENT

OBERT SISTERS

**BLACKTOP
SOUTH**

8:00-MIDNIGHT

GREAT FOOD 5-11PM



ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL
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Celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is probably the most widely recognized representation of Christ's divine love and unwavering compassion for all of humanity. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been practiced for centuries, and this devotion continues to play an important role in today's Catholic faith. As we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 23, we have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this essential Catholic devotion and its role in Church history.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart extends as far back as the 11th or 12th centuries. While there are no definitive texts or histories that verify initial devotees, it is understood that the devotion grew out of the Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries of the time. By the 16th century, documented devotional prayers and exercises had been formulated, and the ascetic writers began making more extensive reference to the Sacred Heart. But it was not until the 17th century that devotion to the Sacred Heart moved beyond being practiced on a private, individual basis. St. Jean Eudes established the first feast of the Sacred Heart, and this was shared with devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was then that the devotional feast of the Sacred Heart began to spread to other dioceses and religious communities.

However, the devotion as we know and understand it today largely stems from the visions of Jesus Christ to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. While these visions were numerous, the most remarkable revelation, known as "the great apparition," occurred during the octave of Corpus Christi in 1675. As Jesus said to Margaret Mary,

"Behold the Heart that has so loved men... instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part (of mankind) only ingratitude."

Reporting her vision to Fr. Claude de la Colombière, Margaret Mary was then directed to write an account of the apparition. Despite her initial reluctance to do so, as well as her misgivings upon its completion, this written account would soon be published and widely read among both clergy and laymen, thus playing an instrumental role in spreading the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Another book, *The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, was written by Jesuit Father Croiset after Jesus told Margaret Mary to have Fr. Croiset write it. Following Margaret Mary's death in 1690, Fr. Croiset would compose a short biography of her life that was amended to his book, which served to further increase interest and practice of the devotion.

Over the course of the next century, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus would continue to spread. By the latter half of the 18th century, a Mass of the Sacred Heart was given papal approval for Poland and Portugal, followed two decades later by Venice, Austria and Spain. Then, in 1856, the Feast of the Sacred Heart was officially established by Pope Pius IX.

While the specific readings and exercises for the feast day have been changed and replaced over the years, the basic tenets that extend back to the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque remain the same – the acknowledgement of and devotion to Christ's unending compassion and love for all of us.

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



The Sacrament of Confirmation *A New Faithful Commitment for Our Young Adults*



*Catherine Steinkamp with her Confirmation sponsor,
Greta Scheiter*

A group of our young people recently took an important step from childhood to adulthood. With this step, Catherine Steinkamp and her companions publicly committed to their Catholic faith with a renewed sense of spirit-filled agency.

“Confirmation is a very big step for Catholics,” Catherine says. “At this time, they chose to be Catholic or not. It is your choice. It is an important sacrament.”

On May 23, 13 young adults from our faith community made this choice and received the third Sacrament of Initiation.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Confirmation is the “completion of baptismal grace,” for by Confirmation the baptized “are more perfectly bound to the Church...as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed” (1285).

This year, Catherine, daughter of Adam and Heidi Steinkamp, will complete her eighth-grade year at St. Dominic School. Throughout the year, she has been preparing for Confirmation with the support of her family, her school, her sponsor, and – in a spiritual sense – her Confirmation saint.

“At school, we prepared for Confirmation in our classes, especially in religion class,” Catherine says. “We’ve been

talking about our faith and growing in our faith and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.”

Another source of support for Catherine was her Confirmation sponsor. Each individual on the journey to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation journeys alongside a sponsor who both provides an example for the individual and prays for him or her.

One activity that Catherine and her sponsor did together was to contemplate the rich liturgy and history of the Church by attending a Latin Mass at St. Rose on Palm Sunday.

“It was really cool to see how they used to do things, and it is so different from church today,” Catherine says.

Another way to prepare for this sacrament is through fostering a devotion to your chosen Confirmation saint. Traditionally, the Confirmation saint is a saint that someone preparing for Confirmation desires to emulate and regularly prays to throughout the preparation process.

“I chose St. Cecilia of Rome for my Confirmation saint,” Catherine says. “I chose her because she is the patron saint of musicians, and I play the guitar.”

For Catherine, the process of preparing for Confirmation led to the moment when she declared in front of our community the desire to be Catholic and to live as a disciple of Christ. Let us remember to pray for our newly confirmed as they begin their adult lives as committed discipleship.

“This time, I got to choose to be Catholic,” Catherine says. “I am choosing to be Catholic because I most certainly believe in God, and I have complete faith in Him.”

“This time, I got to choose to be Catholic. I am choosing to be Catholic because I most certainly believe in God, and I have complete faith in Him.”
– Catherine Steinkamp

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

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DAILY MASS: MON, TUE, & THU - 7:30 A.M.

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY: 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 5:15 - 6:15 P.M.

“Sacraments Lead Us to Discipleship” *continued from front cover*

with great passion, seeking to bring others to a kerygmatic experience.

In “Forming Intentional Disciples,” Sherry Weddell writes, “Disciples pray with passion. Disciples worship. Disciples love the Church and serve her with energy and joy. Disciples manifest charisms, and discern vocations. They clamor to discern God’s call because they long to live it.”

In this time of our “Synod of 2017,” with the theme “A Call to Discipleship: Come and See,” we seek to call forth this “Discipleship as a Way of Life,” for all Catholics in our diocese.



This fire of the Holy Spirit is given to those confirmed to create and empower enthusiastic, faith filled “intentional disciples,” who first from their own conversion, enter into a personal relationship with the Risen Lord, go out to evangelize with great passion, seeking to bring others to a kerygmatic experience.

To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact the Stewardship Committee at stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com.