

AUGUST 18, 2019
20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM THE PASTOR

ANNUNCIATION HOUSE COLLECTION

I am absolutely humbled and inspired by the generous response to our special collection for Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas. As you know, Marilyn Schleyer spoke to us about the humanitarian crisis that she had witnessed at the border a few weeks ago. She told us about Annunciation House and Father Robert Mosher who runs it and the work that they are doing to assist those who are hungry, homeless and hurting after coming to the United States in search of refuge and sanctuary.

Our hope was that the special collection might generate \$3,000 to \$4,000 based on other special collections that we have had here at Mother of God. To our complete surprise and great joy, as of Tuesday of this week, we have received over **\$42,000** for the poor and needy people being served by Annunciation House.

From the moment that I came to Mother of God, I have been thrilled to be your pastor. Today I am more joyful and proud than I have ever been. You are a remarkable community of people. I am incredibly blessed to be part of this faith family.

On behalf of Father Mosher, the staff of Annunciation House, and the people that they serve, **THANK YOU** for your incredible compassion and generosity.

SAINT PATRICK STATUE

Thank you to all who have donated towards the purchase of a statue of Saint Patrick for Mother of God Church. We have received enough to cover the cost of the statue.

Saint Patrick Church was a parish here in downtown Covington, located near the present location of the Ramada Inn. When I-75 was built, it took out a large number of the homes that made up the population of the parish, and it was closed merging into Saint Aloysius Church. Then, when Saint Aloysius was closed, it was merged into Mother of God. So Saint Patrick Church is one of the parent churches of the present Mother of God.

I am glad to be able to honor all of those who were part of Saint Patrick Church and, as a good Irishman myself, glad to honor all of those who currently attend Mother of God who trace themselves back to Ireland. Mother of God has been, is, and always will be primarily a German Church, but we Irish also are here.

RCIA BEGINS

This Tuesday, August 20, at 6:30 pm, we will begin our RCIA program. RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and is the process through which we bring adults into the Catholic Church. It includes these classes in which we present the essential teachings of the

Catholic faith, as well as certain rituals or ceremonies in which we pray for those who are progressing toward reception of the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

If you have not registered, that is okay. Just show up at 6:30 pm in the Saint Aloysius Center (the parish offices) behind the rectory, to the right of the church. All are welcome.

RCIA FOR CATHOLICS BEGINS

This Thursday, August 22, we will begin a new series of talks that I have entitled, Know Your Faith—An RCIA for Catholics. We will meet at 11 am and at 6:30 pm in church.

If you heard my rant at the end of Mass this past weekend, you know that I am very concerned about how uninformed Catholics are about the faith. We are in a time of great crisis in the Church, as we see Catholics leaving the faith in droves. Young people, in particular, are leaving—some to attend some of the non-denominational churches, such as Crossroads and Vineyard, and others to leave the practice of any religion whatsoever. And as I mentioned, the recent Pew Report has told us that only about 30 percent of Catholics believe that in the Eucharist, the bread and wine is really and truly and substantially changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. If that is true on this most central issue of our faith, how much more so on some other teachings.

As a Church we have failed miserably in handing on the Catholic faith to our own people. The Catholic faith is the best kept secret from the Catholic people that there is, and I believe that it is one of, though certainly not the only reason, we are seeing so many people leaving the faith.

The Catholic Church believes that it is the Church that Jesus founded ("Peter, you are rock, and on this rock I will build my Church") and that the Catholic faith is the fullness of truth handed on to the Apostles by Jesus and passed down through the ages by the popes and bishops, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Catholic Church does not view itself as one denomination among many, but that it is the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Church possesses the fullness of the Bible, including seven books excluded by non-Catholics; the fullness of the Sacraments (other churches which recognize Sacraments, except for the Orthodox, only recognize two—Baptism and Communion); possesses the teaching authority (Magisterium) of the Holy Spirit; the saints and our communion with them; a remarkable history of spiritual teaching on mysticism and prayer; and a commitment to serving the least of the brothers and sisters of Jesus—the poor. In addition there is a great tradition of musical, artistic and architectural beauty that praises and glorifies God.

If someone knows the Catholic Church fully, including its fullness of truth, beauty and goodness, it

would be very hard for someone to leave it, even in the face of the many disappointments, scandals and crimes that we have seen come to the surface in the past decades. This is why I am so concerned to make sure that all of you know and understand your Catholic faith so that you are armed, equipped and prepared for whatever challenges to your faith are presented to you.

SPECIAL FEAST DAYS

This week there are four special saints' days that are very special to me. On Tuesday, August 20, we celebrate Saint Bernard, which was the first parish that I served as pastor. On Wednesday, August 21, we celebrate Saint Pius X, where I served as associate pastor for five years. On Thursday, August 22, we celebrate the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I was in residence at Mary Queen of Heaven for three years, when I was teaching at Saint Henry High School. Finally, on Friday, we celebrate Saint Rose of Lima, which is the name of my home parish in Mayslick, Kentucky. Each year at this time, I am always filled with happy memories of those times when I was part of those communities.

SAINT BERNARD

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux is one of the most important figures in the history of monasticism. He is also one of the great spiritual giants, writing many works on prayer, and is one of the Doctors of the Church. His feast day is Tuesday, August 20.

SAINT PIUS X

Saint Pius X was pope in the early years of the 20th century. His motto was, "To renew all things in Christ." His feast is Wednesday, August 21.

THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Fifth Glorious Mystery tells us that Mary was crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth. What does it mean to call Mary a queen? Does that mean that she rules in Heaven and Earth? The queen that we are most familiar with is Queen Elizabeth of England, who is the ruler there (although lacking much real power.) Do you remember her mother, who lived to over 100 years. She had been queen when her husband was king, but he was the one who ruled. After he died and Elizabeth became queen, her mother (also Elizabeth) became Queen Mother. Hers was a position of respect and honor, and of influence. She had the ear of her husband, the king, and her daughter, the queen.

This is the role of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth. It is an honorary title, as she is the mother of Christ the King, but it is also a position of influence. She, more than anyone else, has the ear of her Son. We go to her, our Queen and ask her to pray with us and for us to her Son, Jesus.

The feast of The Queenship of Mary is on Thursday, August 22.

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA

Saint Rose was a Third Order Dominican, who lived in Lima, Peru. She was noted for her deep prayerfulness and her dedication to doing penance.

Her feast day is Friday, August 23.

PARISH NEWS

NOTICE: If you have a child of the age (7 +) to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist, please call the office at 291-2288. Plans will be made for instruction and reception of these sacraments.

MOTHER OF GOD MEMORIAL TRUST FUND:

In your kindness, please consider making any bequests or financial donations to the Mother of God Memorial Trust Fund. These funds are used only for the preservation of the church.

HOMEBOUND? Do you have someone who needs to see a priest or needs Communion brought to them at home or in a nursing home? If so, please call the office at 291-2288 so Father can arrange a visit to them.

THE MESSENGER: If you are a registered parishioner at Mother of God Church and are NOT receiving the free Catholic newspaper, *The Messenger*, please call the office at 859-291-2288.

ARE YOU A PARISHIONER? Interested in becoming a parishioner of Mother of God? We're interested in you! We will have registration available after all Masses in the back of church. Please stop by our table to fill out a registration form and have any questions answered. We're glad you're here!

COFFEE AND DONUTS As you may have noticed, we now have donuts of a higher quality, and they cost more! As you enjoy coffee and donuts, it is suggested that you help us with the cost by donating at least \$1 per donut and \$1 per cup of coffee. Thank you.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL QUARTERLY

COLLECTION: Today, members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society will be at the doors of the church after Mass taking up their quarterly collection. Just last week, the members assisted a homeless woman who was seeking transportation to return to her hometown. Her abusive spouse had finally left the area. Her local minister spoke with us. He is committed to supporting her as she puts her life back together. As Jesus has instructed us, what you do for the least of my children you do for me. Your past generosity and continued

prayers allow us to take up this challenge by providing needed support to those who reach out to us in need.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BUNDLE SUNDAY:

Sunday, Sept. 8, the SVDP truck will be in the west parking lot before and after Masses for your convenience to drop off items. It is a good time with back to school and in anticipation of fall and winter to inventory clothing and donate those items not worn or outgrown. Household items and small furniture pieces are welcomed also.

THE FOXFIRE FOUNDATION is located at 3414 Decoursey Avenue, Latonia, second floor, and will be holding fifth Friday presentations, at their office. These presentations are meant to give information and support to families and loved ones of struggling addicts. Friday, August 30, from 7 to 8:30 pm, is the next presentation. For further information, email Carol Wagner at contact@foxfirefoundation.org or call (859) 638-2827.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Thomas Klare and George Zerhusen who passed away recently. You are held in our prayers and may they rest in peace.

SUNDAY COLLECTION	8-11-19
Envelopes	\$5,950.50
Loose	\$ 567.00
Online Giving	\$ 207.48
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$6,724.98

ANNUNCIATION HOUSE \$42,236.00

DIOCESAN NEWS

DOMESTIC NEEDS COLLECTION: Next weekend, the Domestic Needs Collection, one of our Diocesan Special Combined Collections, will be conducted in every parish and mission throughout our 14 counties. Catholic Campaign for Human Development funds programs in communities across the United States by giving a hand up, rather than a hand out. The Catholic Home Mission Appeal gives grant money to dioceses in the United States who struggle to meet basic pastoral needs. Catholic Communication Campaign provides grants to Catholic organizations that help spread the *Good News* through social networking sites, podcasts, television, radio and print media. The Black and Indian Mission Appeal helps to maintain a Catholic presence within our black faith communities. The Catholic University of America and our own local institution, Thomas More University help to bring success and experience while educating students in the spirit of faith.

Please give to support these very important collections and help to *Strengthen Your Church at Home*.

COUPLE TO COUPLE LEAGUE: Please join the Couple to Couple League of Northern Kentucky on Sunday, August 25, from 4 pm to 6 pm, at the Madison Shelter at President’s Park, 283 Dudley Pike, Edgewood, KY, for a Summer Family Potluck to celebrate Catholic family life and natural living. Supper will be served at approximately 5 pm. Pulled pork and drinks will be provided by the local CCL chapter. **Bring an appetizer, side dish, fruit, or dessert to share. Also, Madison Shelter has limited seating, so please bring lawn chairs.** All who are interested in learning about or promoting Natural Family Planning are welcome. NFP has added joy, beauty, depth, and health to family life, and we want to share that Good News with others. Plus, we like to have fun and build community! No kids? No problem! Come and learn about the health and marriage benefits of NFP, and just enjoy a great dinner. There is no formal agenda.

Please RSVP to: Sharon Drees at sharon_schuchter@hotmail.com or 859-663-7066.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: Summer is getting hot. Is your marriage heating up too? Fire things up with a Marriage Encounter Weekend Experience! It would make a wonderful mini summer vacation with your spouse. The next Marriage Encounter weekend experience is not on a weekend. It is a Tuesday and Wednesday where you are only away from home one night. It will be at Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, OH on Sept. 10 and 11. The weekend experience is for those who find it difficult to take a whole weekend away or off work or have difficulty finding childcare, pet care and or for parents. Reserve your place today at <https://esharing.org/applyWeekend.php> For more details contact: Andy and Jeanne Folfas at (937) 886-5196 jeannemarie42@hotmail.com or go to esharing.org

WOMEN’S RETREAT: MARY IN THE SACRED SCRIPTURES & CATHOLIC TRADITION: Friday, Sept. 13 to Sunday, Sept. 15, at St. Anne Retreat Center, 5275 St. Anne Drive, Melbourne, KY. Retreat presenters: Msgr. William Cleves, Dr. Ceil Dorger, artist, Holly Schopker. The weekend will include time for prayer and reflection as well as group discussion. Friday: Doors open at 4 pm. Retreat begins with 5:30 pm dinner. Sunday, Mass and noon departure. Cost is \$170. Please remit check to St. Anne Retreat Center, Attn: Karen Little. Registration deadline is August 31.

CINCINNATI CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB invites single men and women to join them for dinner, Sunday, August 25, at 5:30 pm, at the west side restaurant, the CABANA Club, Sedamsville 7445

Forbes Rd. off River Rd, (US 50). Call Don 513-574-8573 for more info.

THE NOTRE DAME URBAM EDUCATION

CENTER is in need of volunteers to help with our Homework Plus Program. Volunteers help students with their homework and practice skills such as sight word recognition or math facts. There are also opportunities to help with our enrichment programs and/or our activities. Our center is open M-Th. and the hours are 3-5:40 pm. The program start date is September 3. If you could help one day a week during those hours, please email ahaegle@nduec.org. We are having volunteer orientation on August 26 and 27, at 4 pm. If you are interested in learning more, you may come to one of those sessions. Ann Haegele. 859-261-4487

SACRED HEART RADIO: For uplifting and informative Catholic discussions and news, listen to Sacred Heart Radio on 740 AM; or 89.5 FM. "Son Rise Morning show is a better way to start your day"; weekdays from 6-9 am. Listen to "Driving Home the Faith" with Fr. Rob Jack in the afternoons starting at 4 p.m.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 18 – PARISH PICNIC

4-7 pm Villa Madonna Picnic Shelter

Monday, August 19

6:30 pm Parish Pastoral Council Mtg. (SAC)

Tuesday, August 20

6:30 pm RCIA Mtg. (SAC)

Thursday, August 22

11 am and 6:30 pm RCIA for Catholics (Church)

Sunday, August 25

Domestic Needs Collection

9:30 am Mass Ladies Altar Society

Blood pressures taken in hall after both Masses

HYMNS FOR 9:30 AM MASS

Prelude: Organ

473 Love Divine, all Loves Excelling

Response: "Lord, come to my aid!"

386 The Servant Song

323 Gift of Finest Wheat

537 All Creatures of Our God and King

Postlude: Organ

SCRIPTURE FOR AUGUST 18, 2019: Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10; Psalm 40; Hebrews 12: 1-4; Luke 12: 49-53

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug. 18	9:30 am	Tom Heidrich
	11:30 am	Cindy Kelly
Aug. 19	12:05 pm	John and Sarah Hebbeler
Aug. 20	12:05 pm	Chuck Legner
Aug. 21	No Mass	
Aug. 22	12:05 pm	The Children of Delores Gibson
Aug. 23	12:05 pm	Bettie, Don & Peggy Kohorst
Aug. 24	12:05 pm	Mark and Anne Casavant
Aug. 25	9:30 am	Ed Rolfes
	11:30 am	Bill Meyer

LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Shirley Hensley	Margie Huesman
Fr. Ray Hartman	Tom Donoghue
Fr. Ralph Hartman	Jill Felix
Robert Shircliff	Greg Scanlon
Rachel Hub	Connie Gillum
Pat Wiedemann	Jack and Rilla Kerns
Trudy Koehling	Jim White
Carolyn James	Bessie Blymesser
Marcia Arnett	Michael Carter
Rusty Erpenbeck	Archie Williams
Wilma Brown	Ebry Erdman
Terry Renzelman	Jamie Igo
Abby Weeden	Uriah Searp
Lois Knochelmann	Angela Casanova
Mary Estelle Roesel	Joe Legner
Courtney Thurman	Bill Lonneman
Spencer Carr	Special Intention
Bob Schroeder	Christopher Mackay
Ralph & Gloria Kunkemoeller	Special Intention G.C.
Shirley O'Reilly	Lily Kolb
Maxine Trouten	Bill Moreland
Jean Bitter	The Salzer Family
Mary Horton	

Annual Summer Picnic

It's today!

Come enjoy the fun, food and friendship...

WHERE: Villa Madonna Picnic Shelter

TIME: 4 pm to 7 pm