

AUGUST 4, 2019
18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM THE PASTOR
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Recently the Federal Government announced plans to resume executions later this year after 16 years with no executions. This is a sad reality, for when the government executes criminals, it does so in our name.

The Catholic Church has been very clear in its opposition to capital punishment for many years. Pope John Paul II had a statement inserted into the catechism of the Catholic Church that explained that the only justifiable reason for taking the life of another is in situations of self defense or the defense of others. He noted that in the present age, technology makes it possible for society to protect itself from violent criminals by keeping them imprisoned so that there are no circumstances where capital punishment is justified. Pope Benedict XVI supported that stance, and Pope Francis has been very vocal in stating that capital punishment is therefore absolutely opposed to the will of God.

We Catholics are very vocal about supporting the life of the unborn and our opposition to abortion. If our pro-life witness is going to be credible, then we must stand in opposition to all unjust taking of human life.

Please let our US Senators and Representatives, our President and Attorney General William Barr know that you oppose our government taking human life unnecessarily.

HELPING THOSE ON THE BORDER

We are all aware of the terribly sad situation that is taking place on our border. Many people, including families, with small children have come to our border, fleeing persecution, gang warfare and hunger. Our government institutions have not been adequately funded and equipped to handle this wave of people. Children have been separated from their parents, and children and adults have been placed into unsanitary conditions and have not been given the food or the health requirements to live lives of simple human dignity.

I am not treating this as a political situation. It really does not matter to me what you think our immigration policies should be. What I am concerned with is people who are in need of help, of clean clothes, food, beds, etc. These are humanitarian needs that must be met.

Marilyn Schleyer, a member of our parish, just returned from a visit to the border by some of the Sisters of Notre Dame and others. She made contact with Father Bob Mosher, who is one of the Columbian Fathers working with the migrants at the border. He operates a shelter called Annunciation House, which can deliver these essential goods to the people who need it. Marilyn will speak at the Masses this weekend. You can check out Annunciation House at www.annunciationhouse.org.

Next Sunday we will have a special second collection for those at the border. We will send the money to Father Mosher and Annunciation House. We are not going to collect items to send because it becomes a big problem getting these wrapped, shipped and delivered to Father Mosher. He knows better than we do what the most immediate needs are.

Please write a check to Annunciation House and put it in a separate envelope from your collection envelope. You can continue to make these donations, and we will make sure that they get to Father Mosher, and he will get it to those in need. Thank you.

FATHER COMER OUT

I will be away from the parish this week from Sunday until Saturday. The parish staff will be around to take care of anything that comes up. I may not have phone service for some of the time, so I cannot promise that I will be able to respond to messages. Pray for me and know that I will be praying for you.

KNOW YOUR FAITH—AN RCIA FOR CATHOLIC

Saint Paul writes to Saint Timothy, "... from infancy you have known the scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All scripture is inspired and is useful for teaching, for correction, for refutation, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God can be competent, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 15-17.

Not only are we Christians to seek salvation, but we are also to be competent and equipped for every good work. If Scripture is inspired for that purpose, why would I need any training other than reading my Bible. Now, you know that I am a big promoter of reading the Bible, but we also have, as Catholics, catechisms which are summaries of what the Church teaches. Why do we need these?

The Bible is the Word of God and contains the stories and the words of Christ, as well as those teachings of Saint Paul and others. We should each read the Bible regularly. The problem is that the Bible is not set up in an organized way to explain the various truths of the faith. For instance, the New Testament tells us that there is one God in three Persons but does not do that in one place in a clear manner. The teaching of the Trinity as the nature of God uses various Scriptures that are brought together. The same is true for the Eucharist. We have the accounts of the Eucharist in Matthew, Luke and John, and in Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. But much of our Eucharistic theology is drawn from the Bread of Life Discourse in the Sixth Chapter of the Gospel of Saint John.

A catechism draws the teachings of the Bible into an organized form so that it can be more easily taught and learned. There is a four-fold division of the teaching of

the Church, which is based on the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church. The divisions are:

- 1) **The Creed**
What Catholics believe
- 2) **The Sacraments**
How Catholics worship
- 3) **The Ten Commandments**
How Catholics behave
- 4) **The Our Father**
How Catholics pray

Beginning on August 22, I will be offering a series of talks on the Catholic faith entitled: " Know Your Faith—An RCIA for Catholics." We will meet at 11 am and 6:30 pm on Thursdays in Mother of God Church. I hope to see many of you there.

SAINT PATRICK STATUE

Over the past two weeks, I have announced that we would like to purchase a Saint Patrick statue to honor all of those who were part of Saint Patrick Church. We already have a statue of Saint Aloysius to honor those who were part of that parish. I have found a beautiful statue of Saint Patrick which costs \$7,000. A little over \$3,000 of that has been donated, leaving \$4,000 that we need. I would greatly appreciate any donations that any of you can make to complete this cost. Thank you for your constant generosity and support of Mother of God Church.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Tuesday of this week is the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. The Transfiguration is a very mystical and strange event. The Apostles are not sure if they are dreaming, having a vision, or hallucinating. We cannot be entirely sure what is happening either. Many scholars believe that they are having a vision of the post-Resurrection Christ, but before the Crucifixion and Resurrection have taken place. Others believe that it is actually a post-Resurrection event that has been pushed back into the time before the Resurrection. It is that strange of an event that it not only confused and astounded the Apostles but it does the same even to scholars of our own time.

The two Old Testament figures who are seen talking with Jesus, Moses and Elijah, represent the entire history of Israel. The Jewish people called what we call the Old Testament, the Law and the Prophets. Moses is the great lawgiver, and Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets. The vision lets the Apostles know that they can trust that Jesus' words and actions are in line with the Law and the Prophets.

The cloud that envelops them is the cloud which contains or conceals the presence of God which led the Hebrews through the desert and which filled the Temple when it was consecrated. From that cloud the Heavenly Father says, "This is my beloved Son on whom my favor rests. Listen to him."

"Listen to him." This is not just a message for the Apostles, but for each of us as well.

DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY MAJOR

Saint Mary Major is the oldest and the greatest of all of the Catholic churches dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is one of the four major basilicas of Rome. Saint Mary Major is the favorite of the Roman churches for Pope Francis. Every time he travels away from the Vatican, he stops in there to pray before he leaves and goes directly there when he returns to Rome.

The Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major is this Monday, August 5.

SAINT DOMINIC

Saint Dominic was a contemporary of Saint Francis of Assisi, but they seem to have only met once. He became a priest in a time of great heresy and was dedicated to preaching the Catholic faith in opposition to the heresies of that age. He founded an order of priests dedicated to proclaiming the truth of the Catholic faith. They are known as the Order of Preachers (OP), or Dominicans. Eventually, women were admitted to the order as well.

SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS

Saint Terese Benedicta began life as Edith Stein, a German Jewish philosopher. Born in 1891, Edith became Catholic and was baptized in 1922. She had been very influenced by the writings of Saint Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite. Edith became a Carmelite nun, taking the name of her spiritual hero, Teresa. Although she was now a Catholic, in the eyes of the Nazis she was still a Jew by heritage. The order moved her from Germany at the beginning of the war to the Netherlands. Of course, the Germans eventually invaded the Netherlands and Teresa Benedicta, and her sister who had also joined the Carmelites, were arrested and sent to Auschwitz. On August 9, 1942, Teresa and her sister and many other Jews were murdered in a mass gas chamber.

On October 8, 1998, Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross a saint of the Catholic Church.

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.

INTERNET SCAM

A few people have received an email from someone claiming to be me, asking them for eBay gift cards for some women going through cancer at the hospital.

That request is not coming from me. I would never ask anyone for money by email or FaceBook or any other social media. Another message is: I need a favor from you. Text me back as soon as possible.

This scam uses a made up [email-fathermichaelcomer.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:fathermichaelcomer.pastor@gmail.com). My real email is mcomer@mother-of-god.org. Anything coming from any other email claiming to be me is fake.

I hate that we live in a world where we have to be so suspicious and so cautious, but unfortunately, that is the way it is.

I hope that none of you have been scammed by this.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA AND COCOA SALE:

Today in the hall between the Masses.

GREETERS NEEDED! Are you willing to share your Sunday morning smile? Please consider becoming a greeter at either Sunday Mass. If interested in joining this important and fun ministry, please email Lisa Wetterich (the ministry schedule coordinator) with your information at lisawetterich@gmail.com to be added to the schedule.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION SUNDAY:

On Sunday, August 11, members of the Mother of God Conference of St. Vincent de Paul will be at doors of the Church for their quarterly collection. Your generous donations are used to meet the needs of local residents who are in need of food, clothing, and/or help with their rent or utilities. As we meet these residents in their homes, we are the face of Jesus offering a compassionate ear, prayers and what resources may be available to meet an immediate need. Thank you in advance for your on-going generous support of this ministry

THE MOTHER OF GOD EDUCATION

COMMITTEE will meet Tuesday, August 6, at 7 pm, in the undercroft. We encourage parishioners who might be interested in this endeavor to join us. For more information, call Dave at 513-315-9527.

THE FOXFIRE FOUNDATION is located at 3414 Decoursey Avenue, Latonia, Kentucky, 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.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

August 11 after all Masses parish members and volunteers from Catholic Charities will be in the back of

church promoting their upcoming fundraiser by selling their raffle tickets. The raffle tickets are \$20 each. Grand prize is 30 percent of total ticket sales. Last year the winners received over \$11,000! All proceeds for this event benefit the clients being served through Catholic Charities. You can also purchase tickets online at www.covingtoncharities.org Thanks for your support of Catholic Charities.

SERVICE SATURDAY: Are you a young adult (18-35) looking for ways to serve your community and help people in need? Meet others like you. Saturday, August 10; 8 am, coffee and donuts; 9 am to noon, service opportunities; 12:30 pm, lunch at Braxton Brewing. Meet at Mother of God Church. Please register by emailing nkycatholicsservice@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for our **PARISH PICNIC** on Sunday, **August 18**, at the Villa Madonna picnic shelter from 4–7 pm. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish (e.g., appetizer, salad, vegetable, dessert) to share. More information will be forthcoming. It is a wonderful time to meet our new parishioners and to catch up with old friends and acquaintances. We hope to see you there!

2019 MOG PHOTO CONTEST: It's time to start thinking about our **MOG 9th Annual Photo Contest with Prizes**. Can you believe it's been 9 years running? We need everyone to participate to make this year our biggest year ever! This year's theme will be "**Everyday Blessings**." Deadline for entries is August 18, after the 11:30 Mass. Entry forms and contest guidelines will be available at the back of church all Sundays after both Masses. **David Ziser: 859-250-8855** and **LaDawn Ziser: 859-250-8833** will be coordinating the event this year, so please give them a call with any questions. **Good Luck!**

| SUNDAY COLLECTION | 7-28-19 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Envelopes | \$6,142.00 |
| Loose | \$ 457.00 |
| Online Giving | \$ 307.48 |
| TOTAL COLLECTION | \$6,906.48 |

DIOCESAN NEWS

LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: 5TH Annual Caregivers Conference on Saturday, August 10, at Beechwood School, 54 Beechwood Rd. Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017. Registration 8:30 am with continental breakfast; two speakers, and panel discussion at 11:30 am. Free admission. Register online at www.aloizalzheimerafoundation.org/education or call [513-605-1450](tel:513-605-1450).

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 41059. 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.

SAVE THE DATE--"THE MARRIAGE JOURNEY"
The Diocese of Covington invites all couples to attend a Marriage Enrichment experience on Sat., Sept 21, at St. Barbara Church, Sterling Center, in Erlanger from 8 am to 3 pm. Cost is \$25 per couple, light breakfast, lunch and refreshments included. Mass at 8 am. Bishop Foys, celebrant. 8:40 am sign-in and continental breakfast. 9-3 p.m. Marriage enrichment, closing prayer and blessing by Bishop Foys. Deadline for registration is September 10. Please email TheMarriageJourney2019@gmail.com to register and for more information.

RETROUVAILLE PROGRAM helps couples restore and rebuild a loving relationship. It is for couples with marriages that are struggling, not communicating well, and those who are considering marriage separation or divorce. Retrouvaille of Cincinnati/Tri-State 2019 Weekend: September 6-8. For more information contact: www.cincyretrovaille.org; helpourmarriage.com or call 1-513-456-5413.

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 pm.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 4
Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Cocoa Sale in the Hall between the Masses (10:30 to 11:30)
Tuesday, August 6
7 pm Education Meeting (Hall)
Saturday, August 10
8 am Service Saturday (Young adults 18-35)
Sunday, August 11
St. Vincent de Paul collection

HYMNS FOR 9:30 AM MASS

636 Morning Has Broken
Response: "If today you hear His voice,
harden not your hearts,"
202 Humbly, Lord, We Worship You
Eucharistic Acclamations and Lamb of God
NEW SETTING: Mass of Renewal #865 and following
(Memorial Accl: #866 We Proclaim Your Death ...)
321 Bread of Life
193 Holy God We Praise Thy Name

SCRIPTURE FOR AUGUST 4, 2019: Ecclesiastes 1: 2; 2: 21-23; Psalm 90; Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11; Luke 12: 13-21.

MASS INTENTIONS

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|---------|----------|--------------------|
| Aug. 4 | 9:30 am | Louise Dickman |
| | 11:30 am | Mary Silva |
| Aug. 5 | 12:05 pm | Communion Service |
| Aug. 6 | 12:05 pm | Deceased Parents |
| Aug. 7 | No Mass | |
| Aug. 8 | 12:05 pm | Communion Service |
| Aug. 9 | 12:05 pm | Dr. Ron Mielech |
| Aug 10 | 12:05 pm | Norma Thompson |
| Aug. 11 | 9:30 am | Joe & Thelma Foltz |
| | 11:30 am | Ed Hunkemoeller |

LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

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| 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 |
| Nancy Salzer | Ed Salzer |
| Pat Wiedemann | Jack and Rilla Kerns |
| Trudy Koehling | Mary Lou Wilson |
| Carolyn James | Jim White |
| Paula Schwarte | William Fredie |
| Marcia Arnett | Bessie Plymesser |
| Rusty Erpenbeck | Michael Carter |
| Wilma Brown | Archie Williams |
| Terry Renzelman | Ebry Erdman |
| Abby Weeden | Jamie Igo |
| Lois Knochelmann | Uriah Searp |
| Mary Estelle Roesel | Angela Casanova |
| Courtney Thurman | Joe Legner |
| Spencer Carr | Bill Lonneman |
| Bob Schroeder | Special Intention |
| Ralph and Gloria Kunkemoeller | Christopher Mackay |
| Shirley O'Reilly | Lily Kolb |
| Maxine Trouten | Bill Moreland |
| Jean Bitter | |