

SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOVEMBER 1, 2020



Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek. For they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Bless are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
Matthew 5:3-12

104 WEST FIRST STREET • MANSFIELD, OHIO 44902
419.524.2572 | MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 P.M.
Sunday: 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M.
Monday & Friday 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday - Thursday 7:00 A.M.

Spanish Mass:

Resurrection Parish, Lexington

All Masses are cancelled until further notice.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Pastoral Care Contacts:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572
*Hospital & Follow-up
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living &
Prayer Pipeline*
Deacon John Reef 419.529.3694
Shut-ins/Homebound

Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Center to begin plans for the baptism of your baby or child.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Other times by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the **Parish Center office at least eight months** in advance of the ceremony. A wedding date is confirmed after the initial meeting with a priest.

Bulletin Deadline:

Friday, 12:00 noon. All requests must be submitted in writing or email and must receive prior approval.

Parish Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572 ext.2122

Pastoral Staff:

Fr. Gregory R. Hite, *Pastor*
Fr. Kevin Moebius, *Parochial Vicar*
Mr. Bill Johnson,
Director of Music & Liturgy
Ms. Lynne Lukach, *Pastoral Associate*
Mrs. Elizabeth Wurm, *Director of
Religious Ed. & Youth Minister*

Deacon:

Mr. John Reef

St. Peter's School:

Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta
High School, Jr. High School
Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer
Elementary School and Montessori

Acting Parish Business Manager:

Mrs. Paula Nestor

Director of Development:

Mr. Jason Crundwell

A PARISH OF THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 2 *The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed Souls*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm North Central Ohio Vocations Club

Tuesday, November 3 *Weekday*

7:00 am Dick Marshall

Wednesday, November 4 *Memorial of Saint Charles of Borromeo, Bishop*

7:00 am Parish

Thursday, November 5 *Weekday*

7:00 am Parish

Friday, November 6 *Weekday*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm John Sigler

Saturday, November 7 *Vigil of the Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

5:00 pm Stewart and Mark Nelson

Sunday, November 8 *Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30 am Parish

9:30 am Patricia Straub

11:30 am Landree Rennpage

2:00 pm All Souls' Mass

ST. PETER'S RESTART SMART COMMITTEE MESSAGE

St. Peter's Restart Smart Committee would like to thank the community for their prayers as we continue to safely reopen campus. Opening those doors to students in the midst of a pandemic is an overwhelming effort that requires the support of the whole community. From purchasing PPE, developing new cleaning protocols and gathering supplies, investing in remote learning technology, reconfiguring classrooms, installing a new restroom, training faculty to teach remotely, opening buildings to provide for social distancing, and the myriad of sweeping changes we have made to create a safe learning environment for our children, St. Peter's has made unprecedented investments in our school. In keeping with the mission and ministry of our parish to answer the Gospel's call to model the teachings and evangelizing of Jesus, we ask our faith community to consider supporting our schools during this challenging time.

Donations of any amount will help us ensure those doors stay open to students and to allow us to continue to heed Jesus' call in Matthew 28 to "teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you."

All Saints Day, November 1st, is one of the greatest solemnities on the Christian calendar. It's the day on which we remember and venerate all the holy women and men who, in 2000 years of Christian faith, sought and strove to follow Jesus in the way of love, holiness, service, prayer, and heroic virtue. We know many of them by their names and their stories of living the Faith. Beyond the names of all the great saints in the calendar, there are undoubtedly innumerable saints whose names and stories are known only to God. The vast numbers of saints from all walks of life present us with a "cloud of witnesses" whose lives inspire and fill us with reverence and joy.

Among the many lessons we can draw from our experience of the "Communion of Saints," there are a few we ought to consider more closely.

First, we find encouragement and inspiration in knowing that we are all part of this great mystery of communion with our brothers and sisters, the living among whom we dwell, and more so the saints themselves, who pray for us and worship unceasingly before the throne of God. By our baptism we belong to each other and we belong to the saints. We are all one in Christ Jesus.

Second, we find that we are called to be saints ourselves. It's not a question of how perfect we are or how holy we are. It's a question of how we strive to grow in love and holiness, service and prayer, and courage to bear our daily crosses. We can become saints and that, above all else, should be our goal. I'm sure a great many who read this column will be dismissive of the idea that we ought to become or can become saints. After all, they were holy and frequently we are not. Right?

Wrong. In liturgy we often hear ourselves being described as "God's holy people." That's not some sort of placating sentiment. We are indeed God's holy people. Even if we have trouble seeing it, we recognize that we are part of that great communion. We are full members even if we are paralyzed in sin or sickness or separation from the faith. If we put our faith in the one who made us a holy people, the leap to holiness like that of the Saints suddenly seems much more attainable.

If we commit ourselves to cooperate with God's work of change in our lives, holiness will be made manifest in us. God works to transform us, and sometimes the growth and transformation require a very long time to appear. I think many of us would be stunned to know which of our brothers and sisters have experienced God's transforming power...especially those we thought incapable of holiness.

A third consideration is the question of the way by which we seek to be holy...to be changed...to conform ourselves to the image of Jesus. If we study the lives of the Saints, we find they have a few things in common. But chief among those and most essential to our own transformation is bearing our cross...taking up the burdens and suffering of our daily lives and, through them, offering God the opportunity to change us...to work in us.

Many of us, however, think of ourselves as not needing such transformation. Our lives are good, our families are whole, and we rejoice in the rewards of our work and our success. Indeed, for many Christians there is a belief that we can and should avoid suffering because we are Christians. There is a belief that we can change the world around us so as to make a "Christian" culture and thereby eliminate any threat to or hatred of our faith and our way of life.

Continued from page 2

The lives of the Saints tell us a different story. Saints become saints primarily because they suffer. They sacrifice. They give up everything that stands in the way of becoming closer to God...of becoming more holy. The same must apply to all of us. We frequently pray to avoid persecution and to avoid suffering. But it is these very things which lead us to sanctity and sainthood. We should seek to endure our sufferings and try to see beyond them with the eyes of faith, to the prize which awaits us.

Despite what many people will tell you, there is no promise offered to Christians which says that they will not suffer. It takes great courage and a deep and earnest desire to draw near to Christ if we want to be counted among the Saints. We would do well to remember always that if we have died with Christ we will rise with him. That is his promise to us.

So let us embrace the real challenges of being faithful Christians. It does mean sacrifice. It does mean surrender. It does mean suffering. It does mean that we will be persecuted. But the sacrifice, surrender, persecution and suffering are the means...not the end. Our goal is to dwell with God and we shouldn't try to avoid those things unduly. Is there anything we should allow to stand in our way toward that goal?

The Saints knew the answer to that question. We pray that their lives will enlighten us and illumine our way to Christ...to the one who gave up all...to the one who suffered and who was tormented even to death so as to open the way to life. If we have suffered and died with him then we will rise with him. May the light and love of Christ shine on all of us on our way to becoming saints!

Bill Johnson

PSR CLASSES

PSR classes have now begun! If you have a student who is in preschool through the eighth grade. To register please contact Elizabeth Wurm at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org for class sign up today!

Registrations are also now being accepted for First Eucharist and Confirmation!

MANSFIELD AREA CATHOLIC CEMETERIES COMMITTEE

The Mansfield Area Catholic Cemeteries Committee would like to remind parishioners that grave spaces are available in both the Mansfield Catholic Cemetery and the Prince of Peace Cemetery. The price for grave spaces are reduced during the month of November from the normal price of \$500 to \$450. For more information about purchasing grave spaces please contact David Barber, Chair of the Committee at the St. Peter's Parish Office 419.524.2572, x 8003.

For all of the current important information about St. Peters Parish operations during these troubled times, please visit our website at:

MANSFIELDSPETERS.ORG

There you will also find devotional materials for use at home for you and your family.

HIGH ALTAR TABERNACLE

You may have noticed that there is a temporary tabernacle on the high altar in church. We are using this tabernacle while we have copies made of the key to our own tabernacle. Previously we only had one key. We will resume use of our own tabernacle once the original key and its copies are returned to us.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF ST. PETER'S PARISH

By mailing in your offering envelopes, OR

By visiting the website at www.mansfieldstpeters.org, to learn about opportunities for electronic giving.

We greatly appreciate your generosity and support during these difficult days!

SAINT PETER'S PARISH MASK POLICY

Richland County is now under a "Red Level" for the COVID-19 Virus, but the State of Ohio is still under mandatory mask wearing orders.

We respectfully ask that all who come to worship with us **WEAR A MASK OR FACIAL COVERING, USE HAND SANITIZER, AND RESPECT SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 6 FEET.**

If you are not comfortable wearing a mask, we ask that you please watch Mass in the church basement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please pray for all during this time of pandemic!

Mary, Help of the Sick, Pray for us!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE SERVING IN THE US MILITARY

Do you know someone serving in the US Military or someone who gave their life for our country while serving in the armed forces? These people can be honored by submitting their names to St. Peter's. They will then be placed on bulletin board by the cry room at the main entrance to St. Peter's. These people will then be remembered by many parishioners prayers. What a great gift to be given to these serving our country.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH



Bill Ruhl, Jeannie Burkhalter, Aaron Blank, Cindy Lassen, Dina Riley, Eliana Nelson, MaKaya Butler, Sharon Valdry, Maria Loschinkohl, John Ziegler, Marlene Ziegler, Dorothy Trinter, JoAnn Marbaugh, Gwen Yockey, Mel Switzer, Louise Steggall, Tammy Dudley, Keith Combs, Mady Ziegler, Elaine Johnson, Cindy Jasnek Cartier, Jeannine Klotz, Tom Powell, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Basting, Peggy Basting Taylor, Kathy Carcione, Carol Pittenger, Jill McMillen, Gary Caldwell, Jeffrey Davis, Willie "Frank" Williams, Catherine R. Liston, Pius Schell, Krista Marshall, Maggie Caldwell, Michael Davis, Michael Krempel, Marilyn Miller, Rose Saul, Charlene Arthur, Alan Gallaway, Marty Moritz, Logan Page, Maxine Shannon, Gracie Shannon, Pam Schopieray, Jacob Randall, Joe Mollica, Beverly Strauser, Thomas Caldwell, Dennis Caldwell, Mark Hawkins, Barb Jefferies, Lucille Thompson, Myrna Bohr, Patrick and Judy Boyer, Mike Fisher, Ardis Steggall, John Doty, David Donley, Elsie Person.

Names will only be listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at 419.524.2572.

OUR ALL SOULS' MASS WILL BE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, AT 2:00 P.M.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, November 8 for our annual All Souls' Mass. We will be honoring the memory of those who we have lost from October 1, 2019 to October 17, 2020. Names received this week will be added to next year's Mass list. Please call Kristi at [419-524-2572](tel:419-524-2572) with any questions.

CARDS FOR SISTER PAULA



Sister Paula Bingert will be turning 95 years young on November 5. Let us shower Sister Paula with cards! Birthday cards can be sent to:

Sister Paula Bingert
 c/o Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home
 1201 Wyoming Ave.
 Joliet, IL 60435

IN GOD'S ARMS...



C. Jane Krempel

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.

PARISH AND SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Did you know that there are many ways in which you can become more involved at St. Peter's? We are always looking for volunteers for the various ministries provided by both the parish and school. The complete list can be found on our website at mansfieldstpeters.org or by contacting the Parish Center office at 419.524.2572.

SCHOOL MASSES

Our students will be attending Mass every other week during this school year. Because of the need for social distancing only students and teachers will attend. **At this time we cannot accommodate additional people in the High School auditorium.** Please keep all students and teachers in your prayer during this challenging school year.

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



We pray for the staff and inmates at our local prisons and greatly look forward to the day we will be able to resume religious services. The following message represents the letters we receive from our RiCI brothers: "Thank you for taking the time to reach out to us by writing and dropping off the devotionals. It is very much appreciated and means a lot. We miss the fellowship! We pray for all of you on the St. Peter's prison ministry team. I continue to renew my mind and spirit every day with the Word of God. It keeps me safe and pushing through this time. I keep all of you in my prayers."

RECYCLING—NEXT DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2020

FOOD COLLECTION: November 14 & 15

SUNDAY OFFERING	<i>Year to Date</i> <i>September 30, 2020</i>
Sunday and Holy Day Collections	
Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$202,963
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$213,000
Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$10,037)
School Collection	
Total School Collection To Date:	\$23,546
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$36,000
School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$12,454)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



BUSINESS MANAGER

Reporting to the Pastor, the business manager provides leadership and day-to-day supervision of the temporal affairs of the parish and school. Essential duties include financial responsibilities, personnel responsibilities, and administrative responsibilities. Must have BA/BS in Business, Finance or Accounting with at least five years of business management experience. Requires a high level of expertise in QuickBooks and Microsoft Office products including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook. Practicing Catholic preferred. *Candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass an FBI/BCI background check.*

Send resume to Finance Council Chair
 jjkastelic40@gmail.com.

ELEMENTARY PART-TIME TITLE I READING TEACHER

St. Peter's elementary school is seeking a part-time Title I reading teacher. The preferred candidate must hold a valid Elementary teaching license. Candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass an FBI/BCI background check.

Interested candidates should send their resumes to Ashley Rastorfer at rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org.

SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY & CLASSROOM SUBSTITUTE

St. Peter's Elementary is in need of substitute teachers and substitute secretaries for the 20-21 school year. Must have Bachelor's degree, substitute/teaching license, and have BCI, FBI checks completed as well as VIRTUS requirements. Send resumes to rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org. The secretary subs do not need a degree/license...they just need FBI, BCI, and VIRTUS. Thanks! *All candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass FBI/BCI background check.*



ASK FOR HELP

Ask Our Lady to help you. Ask her to entreat her Son to let you know what you should do. —Bl. Marie Rose Durocher

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE

The 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign is underway with a campaign goal of \$3 million. We can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our Diocese each year; education of our seminary students, care of the sick and needy are among them. We ask you once again for your help; we have to work together. Please respond generously when you are asked to make your pledge. Thank you for your attention and thank you for being my parish family. For more information, visit the Diocesan website at Toledodiocese.org/ACA. Your pledge may be sent to: Annual Catholic Appeal, Diocese of Toledo, 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604.

Our parish goal is \$55,000.00 so far we are at \$42,668.10, with pledges from 326 households or 77.58%. Thank you for your support of our diocesan ministries and the help you provide to our seminarians and deacons who are in formation to serve our parish's future. Through your generosity, 4 men were ordained to the priesthood on June 27, 2020, and we **Welcome Fr. Kevin Moebius** to our parish. **Your pledge** to the Annual Catholic Appeal helped to make this possible!

Remember, we have a Seminarian in Training, Hayden Eighinger, studying at the Athenaeum of Ohio (Mt. St. Mary's of the West) who depends on your support to continue his formation as he continues in his studies for the priesthood. In his name, and for the ministries that serve our parish, I am making a last time appeal to you for your generous and faithful support.

We are still within reach of our goal with only \$12,331.90 to go!

Thank you for your consideration,
 Father Hite, Pastor



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FEATHER RAFFLE



Friday November 20 is the drawing date for one of our annual fund raisers. Eight tickets will be drawn to win, the top prize being \$250, 2nd prize \$150, 3rd prize \$100, 4th prize \$75, 5th prize \$50, and three turkeys to round out the last three prizes. Cost per ticket is \$25 and only a limited number are being sold, so get yours now! The drawing will be at the Mansfield Knights Hall at 7:00 P.M. You do not need to be present to win. Contact Grand Knight Larry Strauser at 419.543.6952, or Mike Winters at 419.543.3080 or any Knight to get your tickets.



We hope you are enjoying getting acquainted with FORMED online at home. Our next parish-wide event will be Saturday, Nov. 7 after 5:00 Mass. All are welcome! We will watch "What Is the Kerygma?" presented by Fr. John Riccardo and Dr. Tim Gray followed by discussion and hospitality.

If you have any questions on signing in to FORMED or recommendations on particular topics, please call the Parish Center - 419-524-2572 - and ask for staff members Bill Johnson, Angie Dillon, or Lynne Lukach.



Thanks to a generous donor, the Diocese of Toledo is offering FORMED free to every parish! FORMED offers outstanding Catholic content through thousands of videos, audio, books, faith enrichment series, children's programming and more! We encourage all our parishioners to take advantage of this amazing resource.

It's easy to begin: Go to formed.org. Click on Sign Up. Click "I belong to a Parish or Organization." Type "St. Peter's..." and a list will instantly appear. Be sure to choose our parish - listed as St. Peter's Catholic Church, 104 West First Street, Mansfield.... Then type your name and email address and you're done. There are no passwords or codes. Enjoy looking over the range of materials. Watch the bulletin and the announcement screen before Mass for special programs, including plans to gather at the parish, view a video together, and have discussion and hospitality (observing distancing guidelines). More to come!



40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN - LAST DAY

Catholic Charities is hosting the ecumenical 40 Days for Life campaign in Northwest Ohio through today November 1. You can participate in three ways: prayer and fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigil. We invite you to pray for an hour in front of Capital Care of Toledo, located at 1160 W. Sylvania Avenue. To learn more or to sign up for daily prayer intentions, hours of prayer and information on upcoming events visit: www.40daysforlife.com/toledo. Since the international 40 Days for Life Campaign began in 2007, over 1 million volunteers in over 61 nations have stood in prayerful witness at abortion clinics to witness to the dignity of human life. Through these prayerful campaigns, over 17,226 lives have been saved, 206 abortion workers have quit their positions, and 107 abortion facilities have shut down! To learn more, email Peter Range at prange@toledodiocese.org or Veronica Leguire at: vleguire@gmail.com. Join the movement, and help us end abortion in northwest Ohio!



GIVING TREE 2020

St. Peter's has a long history of supporting our Community families with love and generosity through providing Christmas gifts through our annual Giving Tree program. Planning for this event has been in progress for months with our partner agencies with respect to safety and challenges of Covid-19. Although there will be changes to the overall Giving Tree operations, we remain committed offering an opportunity to serve families in our community. Please look for upcoming bulletin announcements for information of how our program will implement changes soon. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support to the families!



EVERY SATURDAY AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Saturdays give us time to do things we don't have time for during the week. Saturdays are also a great chance to spend time in prayer such as the Rosary. A gathering of "pray-ers" takes place every Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. in front of Planned Parenthood. Prayers are so necessary in the effort to end abortion. Your prayers will aid in that cause. Please join us.

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

We are now taking reservations for the Steubenville Youth Conference, June 11- 13th. Students who will be incoming freshman to outgoing seniors for the 2021-2022 school year are eligible to attend. Registration forms are available in the parish office and by contacting Elizabeth Wurm at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org. All those wishing to attend MUST preregister no later than December 13th. We hope you can join us!



Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



“Fratelli tutti”

With these very first words of his third and newest Encyclical Letter, signed by Pope Francis in Assisi and published on October 3rd, the vigil of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Holy Father quotes his namesake in an address to all his brothers and sisters, proposing to them “a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel.” In the introduction, the Pope mentions how he has taken his inspiration from the saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy; how the issues of human fraternity and social friendship have always been a concern of his; and how, in this Encyclical, he has sought to bring together reflections he has spoken of repeatedly and in other contexts, situating them in a broader context of reflection.

This Encyclical represents a summation of the underlying vision that the Holy Father has proclaimed throughout his papacy: “It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Brotherhood between all men and women” (n. 8).

In the current worldwide situation in which we find ourselves, strained by the effects of a pandemic, and the resulting polarization,

isolation and division, it is not hard to see why Pope Francis strives to offer a message of concord instead of discord, turning to the Gospel Parable in which Jesus tells of a man assaulted by thieves and lying injured on the wayside. He writes: “The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan. Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked by without showing compassion for the sufferings of the man on the roadside. The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good. At the same time it warns us about the attitude of those who think only of themselves and fail to shoulder the inevitable responsibilities of life as it is” (n. 67).

It is Pope Francis’ conviction that the practice of social friendship, whether it be between nations, peoples or individuals, is one where each person knows and maintains his or her identity, but is also able to know and respect the

identity of others and work toward “coming up with shared goals that transcend their differences and can thus engage in a common endeavor” (n. 157). Further, the way forward to a new political future based on fraternity and social friendship begins with “moving beyond ourselves” which requires dialogue: “Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other’s point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns” (n. 203). And it is religion which can play such a significant role in helping the dialogue of social friendship which leads to a greater sense of fraternity in our political world. Touching as he has before on topics of import in the realm of the Church’s social teaching, Pope Francis highlights that the religions of the world are called to the service of fraternity.

In receiving this new Encyclical Archbishop Jose Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote: “In analyzing conditions in the world today, the Holy Father provides us with a powerful and urgent vision for the moral renewal of politics and political and economic institutions from the local level to the global level, calling us to build a common future that truly serves the good of the human person. For the Church, the Pope is challenging us to overcome the individualism in our culture and to serve our neighbors in love, seeing Jesus Christ in every person, and seeking a society of justice and mercy, compassion and mutual concern.”

As we receive this new Encyclical, we affirm that among Catholics, among other Christians and

those of other religions, “the effort to seek God with a sincere heart, provided it is never sullied by ideological or self-serving aims, helps us to recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters” (n. 274). And we understand more deeply that “The Church has a public role over and above her charitable and educational activities. She works for the advancement of humanity and of universal fraternity. She does not claim to compete with earthly powers, but to offer herself as a family among families, this is the Church, open to bearing witness in today’s world, open to faith, hope and love for the Lord and for those whom he loves with a preferential love. A home with open doors. The Church is a home with open doors, because she is a mother” (n. 276).

In releasing this new Encyclical, the Holy See concluded: “Faced with those injured by the shadows of a closed world and still lying by the roadside, we are invited by Pope Francis to make our own the world’s desire for fraternity, starting with the recognition that we are all ‘*Fratelli tutti*,’ brothers and sisters all.” May this be the starting point for us all.

The Pope’s Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship) may be found at bit.ly/fraternity2020.



Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
October 9, 2020

ENCYCLICAL LETTER
FRATELLI TUTTI
OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS
ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP

Conflict and fear

25. War, terrorist attacks, racial or religious persecution, and many other affronts to human dignity are judged differently, depending on how convenient it proves for certain, primarily economic, interests. What is true as long as it is convenient for someone in power stops being true once it becomes inconvenient. These situations of violence, sad to say, "have become so common as to constitute a real 'third world war' fought piecemeal".^[23]

26. This should not be surprising, if we realize that we no longer have common horizons that unite us; indeed, the first victim of every war is "the human family's innate vocation to fraternity". As a result, "every threatening situation breeds mistrust and leads people to withdraw into their own safety zone".^[24] Our world is trapped in a strange contradiction: we believe that we can "ensure stability and peace through a false sense of security sustained by a mentality of fear and mistrust".^[25]

27. Paradoxically, we have certain ancestral fears that technological development has not succeeded in eliminating; indeed, those fears have been able to hide and spread behind new technologies. Today too, outside the ancient town walls lies the abyss, the territory of the unknown, the wilderness. Whatever comes from there cannot be trusted, for it is unknown, unfamiliar, not part of the village. It is the territory of the "barbarian", from whom we must defend ourselves at all costs. As a result, new walls are erected for self-preservation, the outside world ceases to exist and leaves only "my" world, to the point that others, no longer considered human beings possessed of an inalienable dignity, become only "them". Once more, we encounter "the temptation to build a culture of walls, to raise walls, walls in the heart, walls on the land, in order to prevent this encounter with other cultures, with other people. And those who raise walls will end up as slaves within the very walls they have built. They are left without horizons, for they lack this interchange with others".^[26]

28. The loneliness, fear and insecurity experienced by those who feel abandoned by the system creates a fertile terrain for various "mafias". These flourish because they claim to be defenders of the forgotten, often by providing various forms of assistance even as they pursue their criminal interests. There also exists a typically "mafioso" pedagogy that, by appealing to a false communitarian mystique, creates bonds of dependency and fealty from which it is very difficult to break free.

GLOBALIZATION AND PROGRESS WITHOUT A SHARED ROADMAP

29. With the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, we do not ignore the positive advances made in the areas of science, technology, medicine, industry and welfare, above all in developed countries. Nonetheless, "we wish to emphasize that, together with these historical advances, great and valued as they are, there exists a moral deterioration that influences international action and a weakening of spiritual values and responsibility. This contributes to a general feeling of frustration, isolation and desperation". We see "outbreaks of tension and a buildup of arms and ammunition in a global context dominated by uncertainty, disillusionment, fear of the future, and controlled by narrow economic interests". We can also point to "major political crises, situations of injustice and the lack of an equitable distribution of natural resources... In the face of such crises that result in the deaths of millions of children – emaciated from poverty and hunger – there is an unacceptable silence on the international level".^[27] This panorama, for all its undeniable advances, does not appear to lead to a more humane future.

30. In today's world, the sense of belonging to a single human family is fading, and the dream of working together for justice and peace seems an outdated utopia. What reigns instead is a cool, comfortable and globalized indifference, born of deep disillusionment concealed behind a deceptive illusion: thinking that we are all-powerful, while failing to realize that we are all in the same boat. This illusion, unmindful of the great fraternal values, leads to "a sort of cynicism. For that is the temptation we face if we go down the road of disenchantment and disappointment... Isolation and withdrawal into one's own interests are never the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. Rather, it is closeness; it is the culture of encounter. Isolation, no; closeness, yes. Culture clash, no; culture of encounter, yes".^[28]

ENCYCLICAL LETTER - continued from page 10

[31](#). In this world that races ahead, yet lacks a shared roadmap, we increasingly sense that “the gap between concern for one’s personal well-being and the prosperity of the larger human family seems to be stretching to the point of complete division between individuals and human community... It is one thing to feel forced to live together, but something entirely different to value the richness and beauty of those seeds of common life that need to be sought out and cultivated”.[\[29\]](#) Technology is constantly advancing, yet “how wonderful it would be if the growth of scientific and technological innovation could come with more equality and social inclusion. How wonderful would it be, even as we discover faraway planets, to rediscover the needs of the brothers and sisters who orbit around us”.[\[30\]](#)

PANDEMICS AND OTHER CALAMITIES IN HISTORY

[32](#). True, a worldwide tragedy like the Covid-19 pandemic momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person’s problems are the problems of all. Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together. As I said in those days, “the storm has exposed our vulnerability and uncovered those false and superfluous certainties around which we constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities... Amid this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about appearances, has fallen away, revealing once more the ineluctable and blessed awareness that we are part of one another, that we are brothers and sisters of one another”.[\[31\]](#)

[33](#). The world was relentlessly moving towards an economy that, thanks to technological progress, sought to reduce “human costs”; there were those who would have had us believe that freedom of the market was sufficient to keep everything secure. Yet the brutal and unforeseen blow of this uncontrolled pandemic forced us to recover our concern for human beings, for everyone, rather than for the benefit of a few. Today we can recognize that “we fed ourselves on dreams of splendour and grandeur, and ended up consuming distraction, insularity and solitude. We gorged ourselves on networking, and lost the taste of fraternity. We looked for quick and safe results, only to find ourselves overwhelmed by impatience and anxiety. Prisoners of a virtual reality, we lost the taste and flavour of the truly real”.[\[32\]](#) The pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realization of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our styles of life, our relationships, the organization of our societies and, above all, the meaning of our existence.

[34](#). If everything is connected, it is hard to imagine that this global disaster is unrelated to our way of approaching reality, our claim to be absolute masters of our own lives and of all that exists. I do not want to speak of divine retribution, nor would it be sufficient to say that the harm we do to nature is itself the punishment for our offences. The world is itself crying out in rebellion. We are reminded of the well-known verse of the poet Virgil that evokes the “tears of things”, the misfortunes of life and history.[\[33\]](#)

[35](#). All too quickly, however, we forget the lessons of history, “the teacher of life”.[\[34\]](#) Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of “them” and “those”, but only “us”. If only this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing. If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators, partly as a result of the dismantling, year after year, of healthcare systems. If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might rediscover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human family can experience a rebirth, with all its faces, all its hands and all its voices, beyond the walls that we have erected.

[36](#). Unless we recover the shared passion to create a community of belonging and solidarity worthy of our time, our energy and our resources, the global illusion that misled us will collapse and leave many in the grip of anguish and emptiness. Nor should we naively refuse to recognize that “obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction”.[\[35\]](#) The notion of “every man for himself” will rapidly degenerate into a free-for-all that would prove worse than any pandemic.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

Congratulations to our elementary school students of the month for October. This month, students were recognized for their virtue of **responsibility**.

Spartan of the Month and the virtue program coincides with our *Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)* program. "Be a Spartan" includes school-wide expectations, and students are expected to "Be safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible" Spartans every day.

Teachers reinforce the virtue of the month with lessons in their classrooms, and the virtue is reinforced every morning on announcements, and students are given a task each week so that they practice the virtue of the month in action.

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OUR HOPE AND GOD'S PROMISE

The Church uses these waning November days and darker skies as the season to remind us of the last things. Today's feast, the Solemnity of All Saints, is the centerpiece of three days that point to doctrines we proclaim each time we say the Apostles' Creed: "We believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting." And while the days and our hearts may be dark, the readings today are bright with the light of faith. John's vision in the book of Revelation reveals dazzling angels and white-robed saints gathered in triumph around the throne of God. In the responsorial psalm we sing our longing to see God's face, and in the second reading John writes that we are God's children and will, in fact, see God "as he is" (1 John 3:2). This is our hope. This is God's promise. Today we celebrate the triumph of those who already gaze on the face of God. Tomorrow we cry out for mercy with those in purgatory, who, like us on earth, still long to see God's face.

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SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES (1579-1639)

An old illustration pictures Martin de Porres, finger to his lips—"Shhhh!"—as several mice peek out of sacristy vestment drawers, preparing to join a rodent "procession" following him out of church! Martin's rescue of these unwelcome guests, and statues depicting him, broom in hand, feeding a dog, cat, bird, and mouse from the same dish symbolize his life and sanctity. Initially denied entrance by the Dominicans because of his mixed race (Spanish father, Panamanian mother), Martin cherished society's marginalized. For him, menial tasks, lovingly done, were sacred. Great and lowly alike feasted on his charity. Enemies were reconciled by this "poor mulatto" (his self-description), kind even to those whose racism demeaned him. Apprenticed to a surgeon-barber in his youth—thus patron saint of hair stylists and public health providers—Martin dispensed healing and dignity to Lima's poorest, serving in them the Christ he adored for hours in the Blessed Sacrament. By the time he died, all Peru called him Martin the Charitable, a title even those of us who will never be called "saint" might still aspire to.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — John's vision of a vast throng from every nation and people, whose robes had been made white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14).

Psalm — Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — By God's love, we may be called God's children (1 John 3:1-3).

Gospel — The Beatitudes: your reward will be great in heaven (Matthew 5:1-12a).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40, or any readings from no. 668 or from Masses for the Dead, nos. 1011-1016

Tuesday: Phil 2:5-11; Ps 22:26b-32; Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday: Phil 2:12-18; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 14:25-33

Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 15:1-10

Friday: Phil 3:17 — 4:1; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 16:1-8

Saturday: Phil 4:10-19; Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9; Lk 16:9-15

Sunday: Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18 [13-14]; Mt 25:1-13

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