

The Parishes of
**Saint Mary in Bremen &
Saint Bernadette in Lancaster**



Statue of the Holy Trinity

The Feast of the Holy Trinity

May 27, 2018

St Bernadette Parish

1343 Wheeling Road NE. (740) 654 • 1893
LANCASTER, OH 43130-8701

St Mary Parish

602 Marietta Street (740) 569 • 7738
BREMEN, OH 43107

stbernadetteparish . net

cover picture: **Statue of the Holy Trinity**

This statue crowns the Holy Trinity Column in the public square in the heart of the city of Olomouc, in the Czech Republic. **God the Father giving a blessing** and **God the Son holding his Cross** are standing on the sides of the Earth, while **God the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove is above them in radiant light**. The Archangel Michael with his sword and a shield is at their feet.

The statue, made by Olomouc goldsmith Simon Forstner, is a **spectacular celebration of the Catholic Church and Faith**. A part of the rebuilding of the city after severe damage in the Thirty Years War, a century earlier, it expresses particular gratitude for deliverance from plague that struck Moravia (now in the Czech Republic) between 1714 and 1716. It was constructed in 1716-1754, the most outstanding example of a type of monument that is very typical of Central Europe. The entire group, like a number of statues on the sides of the pillar, is on a larger-than-life-size scale in wrought and gilded copper. The overall height of the column is 35 meters or about 115 feet.

our parishes

Fr Thomas Kessler <i>pastor</i>	(614) 634 • 0499	<i>wnthomaskessler @ icloud . com</i>
at St Bernadette Parish		
Jeff Carpenter <i>deacon</i>	(740) 681 • 9918	<i>carpenter.277 @ osu . edu</i>
Mark Scarpitti <i>deacon</i>	(740) 438 • 3970	<i>dcn.mark @ frontier . com</i>
Ann Essman <i>pastoral minister</i>	(740) 653 • 9347	<i>aessman001 @ att . net</i>
Steve Huber <i>facilities coordinator</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>shuber57 @ yahoo . com</i>
Angie & Kent Kerns <i>religious education</i>	(740) 654 • 2588	<i>kwkerns @ gmail . com</i>
Liz Latorre <i>liturgical music</i>	(740) 243 • 1872	<i>lizlatorre @ gmail . com</i>

The St Bernadette Parish office is in the Mary Good Center, across the back parking lot from the school.

Hours: 9 AM-1 PM, MWThF; 11 AM-1 PM, Tu.

1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701 (740) 654 • 1893

at Bremen St Mary Parish

Ben Factor <i>liturgical music</i>		<i>b_factor @ lancaster. k12.oh.us</i>
Sarah Borah <i>religious education</i>		<i>sborah920 @ gmail . com</i>

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

Hours: 9-11 AM, Tuesdays.

602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107 (740) 569 • 7738

at both parishes

Stephen Karnes <i>business manager</i>	(740) 654 • 1893	<i>stbernbook @ gmail . com</i>
Kathy Kehnast <i>pastoral coordinator</i>	(740) 654 • 1893	<i>stbernparish @ yahoo . com</i>
Julie & Chase Stalford <i>youth ministry</i>	(740) 808 • 7294	<i>maristellaspiri @ gmail . com</i>

Saint Bernadette School

Pam Eltringham <i>principal</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>peltring @ cdeducation . org</i>
Barb Huber <i>secretary</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>bhuber @ cdeducation . org</i>

Saint Bernadette School is located at

1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701

stbernlan @ cdeducation . org [www . stbernadetteschool . com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)

Bremen St Vincent de Paul
Lancaster St Vincent de Paul
Diocese of Columbus
Angels Nurture & Disciple (AND)

(740) 569-7738
[www . svdplancasteroh . com](http://www.svdplancasteroh.com)
[www . columbuscatholic . org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org)
[www . angelsAND . org](http://www.angelsAND.org)

sacramental life

Where

Our parishes are where Catholics worship. We can receive the Anointing of the Sick at any appropriate place from the appropriate minister. First reception of Eucharist and of Penance as well as reception of Baptism, Confirmation, and Matrimony may only be **in one's own parish church, unless** with good reason the pastor deems it **necessary** to do otherwise.

Baptism

To have a child baptized, parents must register and attend a class as a couple (unless attendance just isn't possible, in which case some discussion with Kathy Kehnast will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. Try to attend before the child is born. If you are expecting or if you somehow have somehow haven't gotten around to have an older child baptized, call Kathy to make plans now.

Please don't ask if you "have to go." This is an opportunity to meet with parents of children about the same age as your little one; those parents are in the same wonderful boat as you are.

At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic. Both godparents need to be practicing Catholics. If you don't **attend Sunday Mass regularly (a major component of being a practicing Catholic!)**, there is something you can do about it: Start coming to Sunday Mass.

Penance

The priest is available for Penance

- at St Bernadette Saturdays at 3 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM, and
- at St Mary Bremen on Sunday at 8 AM.

Every Catholic priest is **available whenever there is a need**. There are Penance opportunities for St Bernadette School children four times in the year so that they will learn the beauty of frequent confession. The Church's law requires us to receive the Penance at least once a year.

Anointing and Care of the Sick

The priest gives the Anointing of the Sick to one who is dangerously ill, facing major surgery, or suffering from the ravages of old age.

- We celebrate the sacrament communally at a Sunday Mass before Advent and during the Easter season so that we can all pray with you **for "health of mind and body."**
- The priest brings Penance, Anointing, and Holy Communion to the sick or shut in. It is very helpful to call the parish office to let us know before a hospitalization or when it has been too long since the sacraments were last available.

Holy Matrimony

Couples wishing to marry should contact the parish office six months before a wedding. Why so long? Because **this sacrament, not just the ceremony, requires serious preparation**. And the Church needs to be involved in that preparation. Catholics who marry outside the Church have left the sacramental life and need to change that situation before receiving the other sacraments. The Church needs to **support couples through the years of married life**. That's why our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. To learn about these programs, watch the weekly bulletin.

At Prayer with the Church

How the Church Prays at Mass Today

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in profession the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Mass Intentions This Week

May 28, Monday	8:20 AM	St Bernadette	Timothy Daugherty
May 29, Tuesday	8:20 AM	Bremen St Mary	Joe Keifer
May 30, Wednesday	8:20 AM	St Bernadette	Mary Lou Beiter
May 31, Thursday	6 PM	St Bernadette	Chuck Beiter
June 1, Friday	8:20 AM	St Bernadette	Margaret&Dolores Phillips
June 2, Saturday	9 AM	St Bernadette	Lee & Edith Guinan

Hear God's Word

May 27 The Most Holy Trinity	Deut Romans	4:32-40 8:14-17	Ps 33	Matt 28:16-20
May 28, Monday	1 Peter	1:3-9	Ps 111	Mark 10:17-27
May 29, Tuesday	1 Peter	1:10-16	Ps 98	Mark 10:28-31
May 30, Wednesday	1 Peter	1:18-25	Ps 147	Mark 10:32-45
May 31, Thursday Visitation of the Blessed Virgin	Zeph	3:14-18	Is 12	Luke 1:39-56
June 1, Friday Saint Justin, martyr	1 Peter	4:7-13	Ps 96	Mark 11:11-26
June 2, Saturday Sis Marcellinus & Peter, martyrs	Jude	17-25	Ps 63	Mark 11:27-33
June 3 The Body & Blood of Christ	Exodus Hebrews	24:3-8 9:11-15	Ps 116	Mark 14:12-26

Pope Francis Asks Us to pray ...

during May

that the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today

and during June

that social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.

'Tis the Season

Make today **the first day of the new season of Christian Initiation**. The RCIA (Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults) marks by ritual several of the steps on the way to entry into the Church. I would like to declare today the day we begin praying, thinking about, and talking to next year's Easter entrants into the Catholic Church. It is time to begin the coming year's project of Evangelization! Last Sunday we celebrated the day the Spirit empowered the Church to go out to all the world and tell the Good News. Now is the season for prayer, thought, and talking with/to/about our friends and neighbors, getting them ready for the RCIA class that will begin in late Summer!

Too shy for that kind of thing? Get over it! You are a Christian, aren't you? This is what Christians do. They tell the Good

News. They do it respectfully, gently, and as intelligently as they can. But they do it! If you care about a person, you care about her or his eternal salvation. God can save people outside of membership in our Church. But the Church, since she provides her members with the sacraments, is the way the Lord Jesus has given to us as the ordinary means for us to receive that salvation. To neglect to share that gift is to neglect something your friend or neighbor or spouse may need. Start today.

Prayer for Our Diocese

Good and gracious God, we praise and we thank you for the many graces that you have showered upon us over the past 150 years in this Diocese of Columbus.

You have brought together faithful men and women from many cultures, races, and ethnic groups, and through your Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, have molded them into one Catholic Church.

With gratitude, we remember those who have gone before us for their commitment, prayer, and work. We honor their inheritance with our own devotion to the Faith and with a desire to pass it on to another generation.

We give thanks as well for all those devoted clergy, religious brothers and sisters, and lay people who have served the diocese so well.

Through the continued gift of your love and wisdom, stir up in us a lively faith, a devotion to the worship of your great name, and a desire to serve others, as we await in hope the great day of the coming again of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

For 150 years, you, O God, have been our guide and inspiration. We beseech you to remain with us on this journey of life and faith.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Both Parishes

Retirement Reception

Mark your calendars for a retirement reception for Father Kessler. It will be hosted by both parishes on Sunday, June 24, from 12:30 until 2 PM in the St Bernadette parish hall. All are invited. Details will follow soon.

By the way, after July 10, Father Kessler will live and help out at St Catharine Parish in Columbus.

His address will be

500 South Gould Road, Columbus, OH 43209

His email will continue to be:

wmthomaskessler @ icloud.com.

His cell phone will also continue to be:

(614) 634-0499.

The next pastor has not yet (as of last Tuesday) been named, but will be soon.



Baby Bottles

Remember the PDHC's *Baby Bottle Campaign* by collecting your loose change *from Mother's Day to Father's Day*, June 17, to help local parents and would-be parents in need. Spare change from baby bottles goes a long way to continue offering free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, material assistance and life-affirming programs to strengthen families. Grab a bottle and bring it back on Father's Day. Let us give thanks to our father and mother for choosing life and help a local family do the same.

Catholic Home Missions

Next Sunday, we will collect for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. More than 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are **unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities**. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Bremen St Mary Parish

Vacation Church School

St Mary Parish will host children from parishes all over our area for a week of fun, learning, and prayer at a very special Vacation Church School again this summer, on the evenings of June 18-22, **at Schmelzer's Grove**. Anyone (from either parish!) interested in helping should contact Sarah Borah at (740) 569-7738.

Memorial Day at Sacred Heart Cemetery

We will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 10:30 AM on Memorial Day, May 28, at Sacred Heart Cemetery, a few miles south of Bremen. Many of our ancestors or loved ones are buried there; still more have received the sacraments there over the past 160-some years. **You don't have to have relatives associated with Sacred Heart to join us for the Mass.** You just have to have loved ones buried somewhere. It wouldn't hurt to come if you have someone who died in the service of our country whom you wish to memorialize on Memorial Day. And it is a good idea to bring a folding lawn chair.

There is a fallback location for Mass; in case of really bad weather, we will meet at the pavilion at Schmelzer's Grove.

Many Years of Love!

We have heard about some big round-numbered wedding anniversaries soon to be celebrated by our parishioners. Please congratulate these folks. You could do that by sending them a card. You could do that by just dropping a card in the offertory basket at Mass at either parish. We will deliver it.

- **Richard & Virginia Boch** celebrated the sacrament 70 years ago, on June 1, 1948.
- **John & Mary Eleanor Schmelzer** have been married for 65 years, since May 30, 1953.

Both couples have been an inspiration to so many of us!

Summer Square Dances

Summer means square dancing at Schmelzer's Grove. Mark your calendars on the Sunday evenings of June 10, July 15, and Aug 12 from 7-9:30 PM. Admission is \$4 per person.

Ministry at Mass at St Mary

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Holy Trinity May 27 at 8:30 AM	Paul Kunkler	Alex Schmelzer, Jillian Wilkinson	Irene Kunkler, Pam Redding, Dismas Schmelzer	Paul Kunkler family	Chris Redding
Corpus Christi June 3 at 8:30 AM	Linda Qualls	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Neil Boch, Tyna Schmelzer-Fox, Angi Skinner	Nick Schmelzer family	Angi Skinner

St Bernadette Parish

St Bernadette Blood Drive Thank You

Thanks to all who attended our blood drive on May 19. We made goal and collected 35 units of blood which can save up to 105 lives. We are already in the "summer trauma" months and blood needs continue every day. In central Ohio we use 850 units each day. The next drive will be in 8 weeks on July 21. Plan to join us for lunch, cupcakes, and fellowship.

Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

+	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, May 26 at 4 PM Holy Trinity Vigil Mass	Marguerite Grimm	Mallory, Mason & Mitchell Ortiz	Bob & Angie Christy Susan Garrett Kathy Kehnast Jim & Becky Kuhn
Sunday May 27 at 11 AM Holy Trinity	Patrick Gins	Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messerly	Tara Craayabeek Pat Dreyer John & Teresa Hartig Rita Merk Ben Peters
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen		Pat Dreyer Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy		Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast		Lee Guinan Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 PM	Jim Merk		Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim & Rita Merk
Saturday, June 2 at 4 PM Corpus Christi Vigil Mass	Sandy Landefeld	Kendall Cox, Abby & Mary Frazier	Terry Carpenter Lee Guinan Brad Rider Craig Shaw Mickey Steyaert Kathy Wagner
Sunday June 3 at 11 AM Corpus Christi	John Hartig	Anna Hartig, Brooke & Bryson Vogel	Larry Sanford Teresa Scarpitti Anna Sevigny David Shonk Becky Wickham Amy Woo



Thank You from a Dear Old Friend

Father Robert Noon, former pastor of St Bernadette, was overwhelmed by his card shower or as he refers to it, his “**card storm**.” He sends this message,

“I wish to thank so many people who remembered **my 95th birthday** with 157 cards plus letters and phone calls. May God keep you in His care. Love you all, Father Noon”

Very Newly Baptized!

Welcome and pray for St Bernadette’s newest Christian, **Samuel Joseph Latorre**, son of JD and Liz Latorre, who was baptized on Saturday, May 19.

Around Central Ohio

Springs Celebrates 150 Years

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of **St Mary of the Springs Academy**. A committee of Academy graduates is searching for memorabilia, including photos, yearbooks, and diplomas, for a permanent display at The Jubilee Museum in Columbus. St Mary Academy was a school for girls founded by the Dominican Sisters in 1830 in Somerset in response to the educational needs of frontier Catholics. When a fire destroyed the buildings, the Sisters rebuilt in Columbus in 1868. To reflect the natural springs on the property, “of the Springs” was added to the name. The Academy closed in 1966. For information or donations, contact (614) 237-1379.

Heroes of the Catholic Reformation

St Mary Parish in Lancaster offers a course this summer titled “True Reformers - Saints of the Catholic Reformation.” In this 6-part DVD series from the Augustine Institute, Dr Christopher Blum explores the lives of six saints who spearheaded the Church’s renewal after the turbulence and confusion caused by the Protestant Reformation. You will discover that their call to return to the adventure of following Christ is just as compelling today as it was 500 years ago. Deepen your understanding of the Church’s response to the Protestant Reformation through her saints. The series happens on Monday evenings from 7 to 8:30 PM from June 18 through July 30, and on Wednesday mornings from 8 to 9:30 AM from June 27 through August 15, in the Spirit Center. Workbook cost is \$17; registration closes June 5. For information, contact Brian McCauley at (740) 653-5054.

Jubilee of Marriages

Bishop Campbell is inviting couples **married at least 25 years and celebrating an anniversary divisible by 5 ... and, in fact, any couple married more than 60-years** is invited to the Jubilee of Anniversaries to be held at 2:30 PM on Sunday, June 24, at St Andrew Church in Upper Arlington. The occasion will begin with Mass followed by a reception. Registration forms are available through the parish or register online at columbuscatholic.org/marriage-ministry-1 or by calling the Marriage & Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560 x 5. RSVP by Wednesday, June 13. Names of couples registering before June 13 will be featured in the event program and *The Catholic Times*. Other couples will receive their certificate in the mail after the event.

As part of the national Religious Freedom Week, a Mass and Holy Hour for Religious Freedom will be celebrated Wednesday, June 27, at 5:15 PM, at Saint Joseph Cathedral. Holy Hour will include the rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction. All are welcome. For information, contact Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or orsocmailbox@columbuscatholic.org. Elevator access to the Cathedral is available from the west entrance (in the courtyard) from E Broad St. For information about religious freedom issues, visit www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty.

Diocesan Senior Citizens Celebration

Bishop Campbell **will honor senior citizens** on Tuesday, June 19, at 10:30 AM at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Grove City. He will celebrate Mass. A luncheon will follow. To register, send a check for \$15 by June 14 to the Office for Social Concerns, Diocese of Columbus, 197 E Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For information, call (614) 241-2540 or email socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org.

Pilgrimage to Alabama

St Gabriel Radio's **pilgrimage to EWTN and the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament** in Alabama is filling up. Bus transportation, lodging, tours, and meals are all included. The bus leaves from 4747 Sawmill Road on Wednesday, June 27, at 7 AM and returns on Saturday, June 30, at 6 PM. For information or to register, go to the radio website or contact colleenl@stgabrielradio.com or (614) 459-4820.

Irish Alumni Golf

Alumni of St. Mary, Bishop Fenwick and Fisher Catholic High Schools will play at Pleasant Valley Golf Course on Saturday, June 9, at 9 AM at \$150 per team. For information and to check availability contact Molly Neighbor at (740) 654-1231 or mneighbor@cducation.org.

Weekly Confessions & Masses							Penance
But these times sometimes change, so call ahead!							
parish	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
Bremen St Mary		8:20 AM					8 AM Sun
Lancaster St Bernadette	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	9 AM 1 st Sat	5:30 PM Thu, 3 PM Sat, 8:30 AM on 1 st Sat
<i>Lancaster St Mary</i>	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM			4 PM Sat
<i>Lancaster St Mark</i>	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM		5:30 PM Sat
<i>Sugar Grove St Joseph</i>	VARIES	12PM	8 AM	12PM	12PM		½ hour before Mass
<i>Circleville St Joseph</i>	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		9 AM		4 PM Sat
<i>Logan St John</i>	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM	4 PM Sat



Ponder and Pray for Religious Freedom

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

On Friday, June 1, the last Catholic Men's Luncheon Club for this Spring (no luncheons in July & August) will feature a talk by Deacon Chris Campbell of Immaculate Conception Parish. Deacon Campbell's day job is principal of Bishop Watterson High School. He will speak about **Catholic education**. The men will meet at St Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for Mass at 11:45 AM, to be followed by lunch at 12:10 PM and Deacon Campbell's talk. Reservations are not necessary; \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend. For information on Catholic men's luncheons, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc or contact George Harvey, CMLC President at GLHarvey56@gmail.com.

Giving Birth and Giving Life

Angels Nurture and Disciple, AND is a new pro-life ministry that aims to inspire, empower, and facilitate significant improvement in the educational, career, financial, and spiritual well-being of single mothers who have chosen life for their unborn child. **AND's** programs extend to women who desire and seek change but don't have the support available to them to make transcendent change a reality. Each woman who seeks to enroll in **AND** is matched with a mentor who walks with her for two years, providing positive role modeling as a woman, mother, and child of God. **AND** is in significant need of volunteers and supporters. To support or volunteer, visit www.angelsand.org or call Tim Welsh at (614) 419-6985. Whether you have 1 hour @ month or 10, there is a need for you. Every mother is a gift to her baby; help **AND** show her just how much. **The poverty rate of single mothers** is twice that of single fathers. **AND** is transforming single motherhood. Will you join us?

Fifty Years after Humanae Vitae

A conference reviewing **this encyclical by Pope Paul VI** will be held at Chillicothe St Peter parish hall on Saturday, July 7, from noon until 4 PM. Speakers will be Sr Rene Mirkes, Dr Ashley K Fernandes, Fr Adam Streitenberger OFS, and Dr Alicia Thompson.

Drug Addiction & Behavioral Health

Our Diocese continues addressing the drug addiction crisis with a two-day Trauma Informed Care (TIC) training occurring at Bishop Watterson High School's Dominican Hall on Monday and Tuesday, June 11-12. This approach acknowledges the role of trauma in addressing behavioral health problems. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services will assist in the training. Cost is \$25 per person. To register as a team or individual from a parish and/or school, visit <https://columbuscatholic.org/tic-training>.

The Chair

"From the Chair with Bishop Campbell" airs monthly on St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM820. Bishop Campbell takes your questions on Tuesday, June 5, from 5 to 6 PM during his live call in show. St Pius X students will give their reflections on how they plan to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus this summer. Call St Gabriel Catholic Radio at (614) 459-4820 to ask your questions about the Catholic faith and growing in holiness.

Sharing His Love, Encouraging Hope

Bishop's Annual Appeal: 3rd Report

BAA 2018 week 3	families	participating	pledged	average gift	paid	BAA goal
St Bernadette	450	112	\$33,540	\$ 299	\$17,855	\$36,305
% of goal		25%	92%		49%	
St Mary	135	39	\$14,505	\$372	\$8,635	\$13,121
% of goal		29%	111%		66%	
Diocese			\$2,508,364			\$6,750,000
% of goal			37%			

Appeal Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we are ever grateful for the many gifts which you have bestowed upon us.

We are especially thankful, dear Father,

for the gift of your Son, Jesus.

May his Sacred Heart help us to know your infinite love for us, and may it give us the courage to continue his work in the world

by **sharing his love and encouraging hope**.

We pray that you will help us all respond to your love by imitating your generosity, as we consider the needs of all those living in our diocese.

May we touch the lives and hearts of others by our participation in this appeal.

May you send your Holy Spirit to dwell with us always, so that all we say and do will give you fitting praise.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Appeal

The BAA is a diocesan appeal for financial support. Your gift to the BAA will directly support these critical areas of need:

- Catholic education for our children through tuition assistance, capital repair grants for high schools, and operating aid for schools.
- The education and formation of seminarians discerning and answering the call to the priesthood.
- The vital work of serving parish catechetical leaders in parish and school religious education programs.
- Marriage preparation and enrichment programs supporting the vocation of traditional marriage, natural family planning programs, and family faith formation events.
- The formation and ministry of permanent deacons in our diocese.
- The education, spiritual cultivation, and evangelization of our multi-ethnic Catholic communities and the parishes serving them.
- The coordination of all liturgies presided at by Bishop Campbell, and sponsorship of diocesan events such as the Rite of Election and adult Confirmation.
- Unified programs for youth and young adult ministry that deepen the faith and involvement of our younger generations.



In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ! It's the Feast of God!

Catholics begin their prayers and conclude them with those words. When they say them, they trace the Cross of Jesus, the Son, on their head, heart, and shoulders. They conclude public prayers, addressed to God the Father, sometimes saying “through Christ our Lord,” and sometimes “through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.”

I remember the day I realized that I didn't know what this was all about. I was young, so I thought that if I couldn't make sense of something it must not make sense. It seemed like a holdover to me, a remnant from ... from *what*, I couldn't say, but it must have been something long since extinct. It wasn't enough for me to say that “It's the way we have always done it.” After all I was an adolescent, and, anyway, the whole world seemed to be asking adolescents' questions in the mid 1960s. Our motto (or mine, in any case) was “When in doubt, change it or drop it.”

But I was given the grace of asking myself why did wise and generous people I knew do the deepest thing they did—praying—in this way. So I didn't give it up. The more I studied and the more I prayed, the more I began to figure out two things, that I would never be able completely to figure out: **this was a profound Trinitarian attitude to prayer**, and that it was **based on the teaching of Jesus** and had **something very rich to say about who God is ... and who I am**. Maybe that is three things.

Christianity teaches that God is one and yet he is Father and Son and Holy Spirit, that these are three distinct persons, equal in dignity, equally to be adored. This is at the heart of Christianity. So what?

The way the teaching was unfolded for humanity is itself, I learned, a big part of the story:

God revealed himself to the Hebrew people, letting them in on the secret that the One is all-creative, all powerful, unlimited, always was and always will be. This teaching of the Old Testament was a wonderful advance over the pagan myths of multiple gods who came and went, who were peevish and, well, sometimes, downright petty. Those other gods were about as real as Superman or Paul Bunyan. They were made in the image of mankind. The God of Israel was the maker who **made mankind in his image**. And this God was so awesome, so beyond anything we could imagine that his people needed to worship him, that they could not make any image of him, that even his name must be spoken in no other way but with respect.

Then along came Jesus. And he spoke to us of “**my Father**.” That sounded like a disrespectful way of speaking about God except to people who understood that this was **his only- and eternally-begotten Son**. God was more than just a power, a maker, a ruler; he was Jesus' Dad! Jesus was eternally related to this Father and lived with him in utter love.

Jesus taught his disciples that they could know the Father too — and they could come into the life of love that Jesus and the Father had with each other. The Father brought us into being in an unfathomable act of love. He knows that we are in a distinctly inferior class — he's the maker and Lord, we're not. But for reasons we can't begin to understand, he wants us human beings to be involved with him as family. This isn't only poetry. It is the most fundamental reality. The Father sent his Son among us: **he humbled himself to share our humanity** so that we could be **exalted to share his divinity**.

The Son let us listen in as he was praying to his Father. He said that he prayed for us, that we might be one, as he is in the Father and the Father is in him. Fine, but how is the Son one in the Father and how is the Father one in the Son? Jesus unfolds the answer to that, too: **One in the Holy Spirit**. That Spirit is his life, the fire of his love. And that Spirit came forth from the Father and the Son and was poured out upon his people, the Church. So we have for our bond of unity with one another and with God the very life of God who is the bond of unity between Father and Son.

I am not a Muslim or a Jew. These other two “religions of the book” have many commendable things to say about their **awe** and their **duty to obey the one God**. But they are shocked at the notion that there are three persons in God. It is not that we are any better people than they. Only that we have been blessed with a fuller revelation of God, a fulfilling and eye-opening revelation that God, who is Lord, is **not simply Lord**; he is **the vigorous, dynamic movement of love among three Persons**. And amazingly enough, he wants for me not simply that I be his obedient servant, but that I become involved in that life of love. He wants me to be a participant in that divine life of his.

It took a while to grow into this Trinitarian faith in God. I am glad that God has been patient with me. He lets all of us grow in the awareness of what he has to tell us. Trinity Sunday, **the Feast of God**, is a day to rejoice in his revelation and to express our gratitude for what he has revealed to us about himself — and about his plan for us.

—Father Kessler

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