



**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

After the Fall of Adam and Eve it was not as though sin exploded all at once across the face of the earth. In the revelations that she received, Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich describes what one could call a gradual unraveling, or perhaps a sort of drifting away from obedience to the will of God. Two thousand years after the Fall, that drift would reach critical mass.

In a world entirely given over to evil, only Noah had found favor with God, and it was to Noah that God disclosed His intention to punish the human race, and how it was that Noah himself and his family would survive the coming destruction (*For God does not do anything without first telling his friends. Amos3:7*).

Nearly four thousand years after the event of the Great Flood, the Lord would tell the mystic and Servant of God Louisa Piccarreta that through the lengthy sacrifice involved in building the Ark, Noah in a sense merited the salvation of his family and not only that, but that he also secured the continuation of the human race until the promised Messiah should appear.

These are things that God can do. God can intend a blessing for many, but ask one man (or woman) to make an extraordinary sacrifice in order to merit that blessing. Think of Abraham as another case in point. Noah, Abraham and others are figures in history who all prefigured Christ and merited great blessings for the human race in anticipation of the merits Christ would win for us by His sacrifice on the cross. Or rather, it is more precise to say that God foreseeing the merits of Christ would apply those merits in anticipation of His saving sacrifice. This is also how we explain the how the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was made possible.

But let's get back to Noah and the Ark. The events of the Great Flood are too rich to explore in a brief column in the Sunday bulletin, but there is one thing that I want to land on and that is the sign and the meaning of the Ark.

The Ark is a figure of Christ. Think of the door in the side of the Ark and the open wound in the side of our crucified Lord, and the Ark is also a figure of the Church in which we are saved from destruction by the waters of Baptism. And if the Ark is a figure and a sign of the Church then it is also a figure and a sign of the Mother of the Church, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We are all familiar with the Mary's title *Ark of the Cove-*  
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*Fifth Sunday  
of Easter*

10 May 2020

Sacred Heart, Ronan  
Immaculate Conception, Polson  
St. Joseph Mission, Charlo

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**Mass Schedule**

*All Masses are at Immaculate Conception until Sacred Heart in Ronan is able to open. You must sign up for Mass since occupancy is limited.*

**Sunday at 10:30 am**

*For the intentions of all the parish faithful*

**Tuesday and Thursday**

*6:00 pm*

**Wednesday and Friday**

*12:10 pm*

*Confessions will be heard at 11:30 am on Wednesday and Friday and again immediately after those Masses during a period of Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction will be celebrated at 1:30 pm. NOTE that there is no Saturday evening vigil Mass for the time being.*

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-nant which refers to the Ark that God commanded Moses to build, but there is also the sense in which we can see an image of Mary in the Ark that God commanded Noah to build, especially when we consider this image under her title as *Refuge of Sinners*. Mary is a refuge, a place of safety and security.

I am bringing all of this up as we now find ourselves well into the month of May, a month especially dedicated to the Blessed Mother and the month that see the celebration of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13<sup>th</sup>. I bring this up because I also want to emphasize how important it is to consecrate oneself to the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially now and in the times in which we live.

In the Book of Exodus we recall that the Israelites were commanded to sign the doorposts of their homes with the blood of the paschal lamb, now sacrificed, in order to preserve their homes from destruction. In the Book of Revelation we are told of the marking of certain people with the infamous *mark of the Beast*, quite possibly a demonic perversion of the signing of the people who belong to God.

We have all been indelibly marked with the seal of Holy Baptism, and also Confirmation, and there never is nor will there be a more powerful and efficacious marking as that brought about by the Sacraments instituted by Christ. There is no doubting or denying that. But, given our weakness, would it not seem wise to entrust our membership in the Body of Christ, our place in the Ark, to someone who cannot fail us, and can defend and shelter us from all harm, bringing us to safe harbor?

A sincere consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary and living it intentionally is a means of entrusting all and everything to our Blessed Mother, including our salvation. Our consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a kind of mark, a seal, that shows that we belong to Christ and have entered deeply into the mystery of the Church precisely because our consecration will bring us more deeply into the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church.

In times of uncertainty and unrest we can all use a place of shelter, a place to shield us from the storm. At Fatima the Blessed Virgin Mary warned us of storms to come, and so that we would not worry too much she consoled us with a most extraordinary promise, *in the end my Immacu-*

*late Heart will triumph*. 103 years after Mary's appearance in Fatima we still have not taken note of her warnings, nor have we done as she had asked, which is to pray (the Rosary) and to do penance. We are reaping the fruits of our failure to listen, but it is never too late to begin listening anew, nor is it too late to fly to the Blessed Mother, and consecrated ourselves to her, boarding the Ark of her Immaculate Heart where we will find a secure shelter.

God bless,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



11:30 am—Confessions

12:10 pm—Mass

*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

*Consecration of the Parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*  
*Confessions*

1:30 pm—Benediction



As the parish converts to the use of Flocknote for all of our communications and notifications, it is very important that everyone open an account. If you or someone you know is not receiving communications from the parish using Flocknote, please contact the parish office with a name, cell phone number and email

address. Also, if you have an account but are not receiving our emails, please add mail@flocknote.com to your address book or favorites list.

#### ***Humbly asking for your prayers***

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oulette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Lou Marchello, Deanna Hermes, Patricia Kelly, Glen Rogers, Vicki Rogers, Liz Hipp, Michael Conrad, Neil Miskimins, Ellen Holland, Leo Walchuk, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Samantha Huber (Found and in need of healing), Leonard & Gail Piedalue, Anonymous Request (Serious), Kate Shrider Olsen, Don Herbst.

*Please help to keep the list current by contacting the Parish Office. Also, out of respect for a person's privacy, please make sure that all individuals wish to be publicly identified.*

***Grace be to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for you all; Making a remembrance of you in our prayers without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 1:2***

#### **The Holy Father's prayer intention for May**

**For Deacons** We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

#### ***Please pray for our seminarians!***

Dillon Armstrong, Tyler Frohlich, Matthew Christians, Kyle Tannehill and Kaleb Michell

