



### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

During my first assignment as a new priest our pastor suggested to the parish "liturgy committee" that we begin reading a section of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* at the beginning of each monthly meeting. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* is the title of the Church's *Constitution On The Sacred Liturgy* promulgated by the Second Vatican Council.

As a group of folk who made up the parish's liturgy committee not one of them had ever read the teachings of the Second Vatican Council on the Sacred Liturgy. The idea of reading the document was welcomed because these were people of good will who sincerely wanted to know what the Church taught. They hadn't even the foggiest idea that there was even such a thing as a "constitution."

At the beginning of the second meeting during the reading of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* one of the folk on the committee began to weep and then got up and left. The next day the pastor received a letter from the person in question who wrote to resign their position on the committee and to explain why they would no longer attend Mass. Their reason for leaving the committee and also the Mass was that what the Church taught was not what they believed, and for many years this individual, thanks to a previously indulgent and very confused pastor, had allowed them to take great liberty with changes and novelties that they had wished to introduce into the Mass. The Mass for them was an expression of their own personal piety and they considered that imposing this piety on the rest of the parish was somehow a "ministry." The new pastor ruined it all.

Stories such as these were not uncommon during the 1990's and well into the 2000's. In fact they were all too frequent. Why? Bishops and priests failed to teach and to instruct. To be fair to them there was not a lot of preparation for the introduction of the revisions of the Mass that were called for by the Council, revisions embodied in the new *Roman Missal* and the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* in 1970. But still. Right?

As a result of this failure to teach and to instruct, something of a war broke out. Convulsive changes were introduced into the Mass and its celebration with very little to no explanation, only that "this is what Vatican II wanted." But these changes were not asked for by the Church or the Council, and while the Council was continually invoked as the rationale for many changes, the documents of that Council were never consulted.

Why does this even matter? It matters for the simple reason that the rule of prayer (*lex orandi*) is the rule of faith (*lex credendi*).  
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# Sixth Sunday

# of Easter

17 May 2020

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

### Parish Office

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### Mass Schedule

*All Masses are at Immaculate Conception*

#### Saturday at 6:00 pm

*Confessions are available at 5:00 pm*

#### Sunday at 10:30 am

*This Mass is restricted. You may not attend unless you have registered and have received a personal confirmation.*

#### Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

*Mass is at 12:10 pm and there are no restrictions on these days. Confessions are available at 11:30 am each day and again immediately after the 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesday during a period of Eucharistic Adoration. The Rite of Benediction will be celebrated at 1:30 pm.*

**NOTE: I find myself asking again for your continued patience and understanding as we pass through the various phases that have been imposed upon if we want to reopen our parish without any setbacks. I understand the frustration and impatience, but I also have my instructions. Sunday Mass remains restricted and requires registration. The other Masses, Saturday evening and the Masses during the week, are not restricted because there is no danger of exceeded occupancy limits. Please continue to respect the protocols with regards to using only designated seating areas and distancing yourself from others who are not of your household. Thank you! -Fr. Kevin**



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*credendi*). What this means is that how we worship reflects and is an expression of what we believe, and more specifically what we believe as Roman Catholics. The Mass, because it is the mystery in which Christ is really and truly present, contains the whole of the Catholic faith, and taking liberties with the Mass jeopardizes the faith of those who participate.

The reason again for all of this is very simple; if we have not learned anything these past two months, then I guess I would have no response to that. But nonetheless, it is my intention to take you back to 1970 and the promulgation of the new *Roman Missal* so that we can retrace our steps and start over again from square one, in keeping with the mind and thinking of the Church.

We cannot let this present experience be lost on us. We must know what has been taken away and what we are returning to. As I mentioned before, all I see is grace and opportunity and I look upon our present crisis as a blessing willed by God for our good and ultimately for our sanctification.

God bless,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



**May is the month especially dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pray the Rosary each day and strive with her help to imitate her virtues.**

***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

**Music Groups Forming**

At this time both Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart parishes are seeking individuals who would like to participate in assisting with the music for Sunday Mass and other Holy Days. All that is required is a willingness to learn and to serve the liturgy, and to sing on key. Rehearsals are each Saturday morning at Immaculate Conception and Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart in Ronan. Please contact Fr. Kevin for more information or Dr. Bill Cullis in Ronan.



*So let us ask ourselves this evening, in adoring Christ who is really present in the Eucharist: do I let myself be transformed by him? Do I let the Lord who gives himself to me, guide me to going out ever more from my little enclosure, in order to give, to share, to love him and others? Let us pray that participation in the Eucharist may always be an incentive: to follow the Lord every day, to be instruments of communion and to share what we are with him and with our neighbour. Our life will then be truly fruitful. -Pope Francis*



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. **Download the App!**

