



The Good Shepherd

Philippe de Champaigne (1602-1674)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

As we finally begin to come together once more as a parish family, and under very unusual circumstances at that, I think it would be a good idea to look at where we have been, where we are now and where we ought to be in the very near future.

During this time of trial I personally had an opportunity to do an examination of conscience with regards to my identity as a priest, my relationship to the people that I have been called to serve and where those two forcibly intersect; the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice of the Mass. It is not easy to communicate to you the experience of not being able to publicly celebrate the Mass. It is one thing when I go on retreat and say Mass on my own, that is intended and anticipated, but it is quite another thing to be forbidden to say Mass with the participation of the faithful.

The identity of a priest is completely bound up with the Mass. To offer the Mass is why a priest is ordained. A priest, when he offers Mass, is not acting as middle man between the people and God, no, when the priest offers Mass he is standing in the person of Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and man. The priest is the very visible, sacramental presence of Christ acting in the midst of the faithful who are gathered, incorporated as they are in the very act of worship that Christ offers to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Given this reality of the sacrament and the ministry of the priesthood, it is no wonder that so many people are violently wounded in an interior way when they hear of the moral misconduct of a priest; and it is also why many people find it repugnant when a priest believes that he must entertain the faithful during the celebration of the Mass, and do so seeking approval and esteem.

No! Be a priest! In public and in private. A priest is always a priest, and it is not an accident that the words of consecration are not changed into the third person so that it is said, "this is *His* body which will be given up for you." The words remain in the first person, "this is *my* body," because not only is the priest at that moment speaking and acting in the person of Jesus Christ, but it is also sign of the nature of the priesthood itself, that the body of the priest, his life, is an offering, a living sacrifice for the sake of the people he serves.

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Fourth Sunday

of Easter

3 May 2020

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

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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.

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, May 5th at 6:00 pm: *The sick and shut-ins of the parish*
Wednesday, May 6th at 12:10 pm: *Deceased priest of the diocese*
Thursday, May 7th at 6:00 pm: *Special intention*
Friday, May 8th at 12:10 pm: *Ron Marquardt rb S. Marquardt*

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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When a priest is assigned to a new parish there are always fears. And many of them. He may ask himself, "what will I be walking into?" Upon being installed, the priest, now a pastor, begins teaching, governing and sanctifying the people of the parish to which he has been assigned. And the compromises that have to be made to keep the peace as well as the occasions of looking the other way in order to keep everyone on the boat so-to-speak, are very real realities that every priest faces, and it causes them anxiety, frustration and a lot of heartache. That is where we once were and we cannot go back.

Where are we now? The lights went out all at once and it has taken time for our eyes to adjust, and what is most visible at this moment is opportunity, renewal and grace. Forget the anger and wonderment of the past and focus on what is present to us now and the hope that the future holds.

Where do we go from here? The answer is simple. I am going to teach you what a priest is. How? By teaching you how to worship God with right worship, the only worship that pleases the God who created us, the Eucharistic Sacrifice of His Son Whom He sent into the world precisely because He loves us.

I am preparing for you a brief series of teachings on the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, the instructions that govern the celebration of the Mass, instructions which by their own admission were prescribed "in keeping with **the will** of the Second Vatican Council (GIRM no. 1), instructions which I am bound by obedience to teach and to observe.

It will be good to become reacquainted with you in the coming weeks. Yes this will be awkward and difficult, but again, focus on the good that God is producing in the midst of it all and let's pick up on our journey, not where we left off, but where God has now placed us. A place that is fresh and a place that is new.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

*Remember not the former things (Isaiah 43:18)
See, I make all things new (Revelation 22:5)*



QUEEN OF HEAVEN

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Regarding the Celebration of the Sacraments of the Church

It can be imagined that there is a fair amount of anxiety regarding the celebration of the other Sacraments and the hopes of those who already have prepared for their celebration; i.e., Confirmation, Marriage and First Holy Communion. At this time all Sacraments may be celebrated, as well as funeral Masses, but with restrictions. As we concentrate our efforts on returning to Mass, later we will begin looking at the other Sacraments. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Fr. Kevin for answers and arrangements.

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

