



**Baroque Trinity**  
*Hendrick van Balen (1575-1632)*

#### **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

It can get fairly complicated when we begin to explore matters of law, and the ways in which various types of laws are related. For all practical purposes there are three kinds of law; divine, natural and human. Divine Law is just that, divine. All things that exist are providently governed by the reason and intelligence of a Divine Being, and because this Divine Being, God, dwells outside of time, His laws are also eternal.

Natural Laws are those laws that pertain to the good of man with respect to his final end, the reason for which he was created; eternal happiness. Because we are creatures endowed with reason, we have a kind of participation in the Divine Law which flows from God's own use of reason. This participation in the Divine Law is what we call the Natural Law. The Natural Law is also a kind of way in which we participate in the Providence of God as we pursue the good according to our nature and in keeping with our final end. Human Laws are simply products of the practical intellect that shore up so to speak both the Divine and Natural Law.

The Natural and Human Law both have their basis in the truth, and participate as it has already been said, in the Eternal Law of God. All legitimate forms of government would recognize the Eternal and Natural Law and form its own human laws in conformity with them, so that their societies might be well ordered, harmonious and promote human flourishing in keeping with our special creation and our final end.

Our nation was founded on principles that recognized the "laws of nature and nature's God," (to quote the Declaration of Independence). Granted, the Founders of our nation were not theologians; they were Deists and men of the Enlightenment, but nonetheless they had a great respect for rationality, despite their personal moral failings.

Just shy of 200 hundred years after our break from the imperialism of the British crown, 189 to be exact, all of that would change and we would fall from our use of reason, and as a consequence descend into lawlessness and ultimately chaos.

*Continued on next page.*

# *Trinity Sunday*

**7 June 2020**

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

#### **Parish Office**

PO Box 1477 Polson, MT 59860

Phone: 406-883-2506

Cell: 406-594-0474

Email: lakecountyromancatholic@gmail.com

Website: www.lakecountyromancatholic.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lakecountyromancatholic

#### **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**

**Wednesday**

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

**NOTE: At this time only members of the parish with a residence in Lake County may attend the weekend Masses on Saturday and on Sunday. There are no restrictions on Mass attendance, but please choose one or the other Masses since space is limited with our limitations on occupancy. As you come to church, please consult the usher for instructions regarding seating and occupancy. Thank you for your understanding and patience.**

#### **Our Baptism**

*See, Fire and Spirit in the womb that bore you! See, Fire and Spirit in the river where you were baptized! Fire and Spirit in our Baptism; in the Bread and the Cup, Fire and Holy Spirit!" Christ, the Light of the World, dwelt first in the womb of the Virgin—who was thus "baptized" by her Son—and then in the womb of the Jordan; he emerged from both as the Incarnate Word, the Savior of mankind. Those who are baptized thus become the children of Mary and partakers of the body, blood, soul, and divinity of her Son. —From a Baptismal hymn written by St. Ephraim the Syrian (4th c.)*

*Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and "walk in newness of life" Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 537*

*Continued from front page.*

In 1965 the Supreme Court ruled in *Griswold v. Connecticut* that married couples had a right to use artificial contraception. During this case the *right to privacy* was invoked for the first time, a phrase that does not occur in the Constitution, and the Court decided that at the very minimum it was implied. The door was open, or rather the flood gates, and the further descent into lawlessness was rapid:

- 1969—*Stanley v. Georgia*: Pornography became “legal.” Legal is in quotes because the definition of “obscenity” would be drawn out for a just over a decade.
- 1972—*Baird v. Eisenstadt*: All people, regardless of marital status, had a right to artificial contraception.
- 1973—*Roe v. Wade*: Again, invoking *privacy*, abortion on demand became the law of the land in all 50 states.
- 1977—*Carey v. Population Services International*: Children under the age of 16 had a right to non-prescription contraceptives.
- 2003—*Lawrence v. Texas*: The anti-sodomy laws of all 50 states were struck down regularizing same sex relations.
- 2015—*Obergefell v. Hodges*: All 50 states must recognize same sex unions legalized in other states, making these unions the law of the land.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, He created us in His Divine Image, male and female, and gave us the command to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and to subdue it. Our nation may not have been perfect, but for a season our laws were just and ordered in such a way that upheld the dignity of the human person.

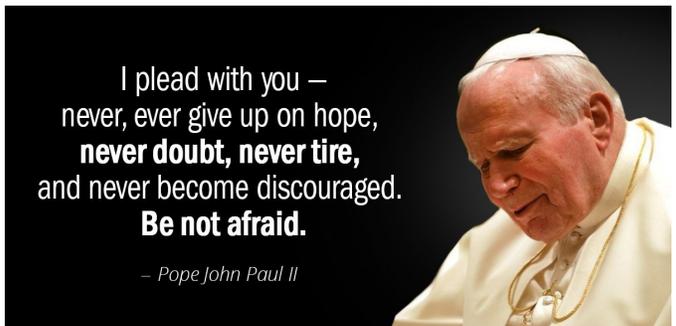
To descend into lawlessness does not suggest that there are no laws. No. Lawlessness properly understood means “disordered.” Lawlessness means that we reject our dignity and our final end, to which all just laws are ordered, and fashion laws that deviate from the good and orders things contrary to nature and the use of reason. As in the example of the Court cases cited above, our lawlessness has to do with the rejection of God’s plan for human love and the family. And now we are paying dearly for our pride.

This past week our lawlessness has taken a further turn, this time towards apostasy. One of the first and most obvious of all laws, even if only based on the use of reason alone, is to honor the God who created us. Jesus Christ affirmed this law when He said that to love God is the first and greatest of all of

the commandments. In a stunning decision, the Supreme Court dismissed charges that churches (in California and Illinois) were being unjustly discriminated against during national, state and local lock downs during the months of April and May, and that a different standard seemed to have been applied to them during a process of re-opening. Likening the worship of God to entertainment, the Chief Justice blithely commented that the standard applied to churches was also being applied to theaters and other places of amusement, and therefore churches were not being treated differently. There you have it.

A dangerous precedent has been set. We have let a genie out of a bottle and we will never get it back in. In our desire to “fit in” and to be good sports, good citizens, we voluntarily closed our houses of worship and restricted access to the Sacraments. We sent the message, whether we intended it or not, that a positive Divine Law can be suspended during a time of crisis, and now that churches are being treated differently than those truly necessary places of business, well, what is there to say? We have declared that faith in God is not “necessary” and it appears that the Supreme Court agrees. Our response to this crisis has not been exactly *well ordered*, meaning we have placed our faith in man instead of God, and it won’t be long before we rue that day.

God bless,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



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

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oullette, 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, 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, Len Moeder

*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 June**

**The Way of the Heart** We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

***Please pray for our seminarians!***  
Dillon Armstrong, Tyler Frohlich, Matthew Christians, Kyle Tannehill and Kaleb Michell

