



King Solomon Holding A Model Of The First Temple
Sebastian Conca (1676-1764)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

So here we go again. Typical of Washington, which has a history and a habit of saving much of its dirty work for the close of the news cycle Friday afternoon, when nobody is paying attention because they are focused on the weekend, the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Roberts, openly challenged the First Amendment and set what has the potential of becoming a very dangerous precedent.

In a 5 to 4 decision this past Friday, the Supreme Court in effect ruled that churches are not so much ruled by their sacred pastors as much as by the state when issues of the common good are in question; *as if churches by their nature are ignorant of the common good and are somehow obstacles to securing it.*

Students of political science will recognize that contained in the idea of *statism* there is a certain legitimacy with regards to a state exercising a centralized authority over those governed with regards to economic and some social policies. But the sphere of its legitimate centralized authority is limited, and the sovereignty of a nation always remains with the people who are governed. The wheels tend to come off the cart when statism is taken to the extreme and the state itself takes sovereignty away from the people governed and rules them with authoritarianism. *(This is not Catholic teaching by the way, just a snapshot of the principles of the founding of our nation.)*

The extreme of authoritarian rule can lead us to places of surreal absurdities, such as those that are being reported in California and New York. I am not sure if you have heard these reports, but apparently a person is not permitted to drink alcohol in a public establishment unless they are also eating a meal; then these states proceed to define what constitutes a "meal."

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Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

26 July 2020

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

Parish Office

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Mass Schedule

Saturday at 6:00 pm

Immaculate Conception
Mildred Teuber rb Barb LaPiana
Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 8:30 am
Fr. Ray Hannigan
Immaculate Conception at 10:30 am
The Parish Faithful

Wednesday at 12:10 pm

Immaculate Conception
Bill Clay rb Margaret Clay
Confessions are heard at 11:30 am and again immediately after Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration. The rite of Benediction is celebrated at 1:30 pm.

NOTE: *Until Phase Three begins the occupancy of Immaculate Conception is greatly reduced. Please maintain a respectful distance from other parishioners who are not of your household, and please use alternate pews between the Masses: pews with a green dot are for Sunday and the red dots are for Saturday. The 8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart is now able to be published. Please bear in mind that the maximum occupancy is 50 people and there are no distancing requirements. Thank you for your continued understanding and patience.*



Memorial of St. Martha
Wednesday, July 29th

Continued from front cover.

You can have a grilled chicken breast with your Caesar salad, but if I am not mistaken you cannot have chicken wings with a side of celery sticks and blue cheese dressing. But let's not get bogged down with these details and return to the issue at hand; our God given right to worship Him and to assemble as a community in order to do so, just as He has commanded.

Navigating into the territory of philosophy we look briefly at the notion of **naturalism**, which is the belief that all things have natural causes, denying the realm of the supernatural and anything spiritual. Naturalism is a close relative of **scientism** which itself is an excessive reliance on the power of a scientific way of knowing. There is nothing wrong with studying the natural cause of things and there is certainly nothing wrong with scientific investigation; the problem arises when these things become an end in themselves and take on the character of a religion that requires the obedience of our faith.

In 1802, responding to a group of concerned Baptists, President Jefferson interpreted the First Amendment as being necessary to protect the state from the church; which then begs the question, who protects the church from the state?

In an overreach of statist authoritarianism, the Supreme Court, struck a blow at the rights of churches and the rights of the Christian faithful by relegating us to a place of no greater importance than a casino (the case was brought forward from Nevada), in the interest of a natural scientism that demands our religious faith. In other words, and I do not exaggerate, we are witnessing the emergence of a state religion, expressly prohibited by the Constitution, to which many are willingly submitting, mostly out of fear, and because of fear they do not recognize what they are submitting to. More on this later.

I do not know precisely where all of this is leading to, but I have a very good general idea, and many challenges still lie ahead that we must face and overcome in order to preserve the practice of our faith. Having said that we have the assurance that these things are being permitted by God precisely in order to purify and perfect our faith, so please do not give up hope or ever loose heart.

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



St. Ignatius of Loyola

July 31st

All the things in this world are gifts of God, created for us, to be the means by which we can come to know him better, love him more surely, and serve him more faithfully.

He who carries God in his heart bears Heaven with him wherever he goes.

We must speak to God as a friend speaks to his friend, servant to his master; now asking some favor, now acknowledging our faults, and communicating to Him all that concerns us, our thoughts, our fears, our projects, our desires, and in all things seeking His counsel.

If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He certainly intends to make you a saint.

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess You have given me. I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.

It is not hard to obey when we love the one whom we obey.

Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oullette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Lou Marchello, 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, Bill Nash

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 July

Our Families We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

Please pray for our seminarians!

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

