



Christ Carrying the Cross
El Greco (1541-1614)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Of all of the creatures that God has created we are the only ones that must aspire to our nature. What does that mean? It means that all other things are simply what they are and they act according to their nature. We, on the other hand, having fallen from grace, must rise and become who we were created to be. This is at the very heart of our redemption; to appropriate or to make our own, the restoration of our nature made possible by the work of Christ.

The practice of virtue perfects our nature and reveals what it is to be truly human, but this requires the use of reason. By the use of reason, we must overcome the base impulses of our passions arising from our lower nature (the impulses we have in common with animals), and with the help of God's grace act in a way that accords with God's will, the natural law and the use of reason. *Reason of course does require the illumination of Divine Revelation because things like our supernatural destiny are not obvious to us. For example.*

In a general way, this is what it means to take up our cross and follow in the steps of Christ; that we overcome sin and sinful inclinations and with the help of grace aspire to the fulfillment of our nature and act in a way that corresponds to our great dignity as men and women created in the divine image. *The inclusion of Simon of Cyrene in the Lord's passion is a concrete expression of God's will that we collaborate with Christ in the restoration of our nature.*

In the absence of the use of reason, either willfully by indulging the passions, or the darkening of the intellect by deliberate and habitual sin, we act in a way that is truly beneath us and can be aptly called *bestial*.

Some folks blanch with horror when some people are referred to as *animals* because the manner of their conduct is, well, animalistic. This despite the fact that the Sacred Scriptures are replete with references to people as being *dogs, vipers, bulls, wolves* and other such creatures. Am I suggesting that we should begin name-calling? No. But what I am suggesting is that when we see events like the ones that have been taking place in Seattle, specifically the Capital Hill district, and the perpetrators of such lawlessness are called *animals*, maybe instead of being so

Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

5 July 2020

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

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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

**There are no daily Masses scheduled for this week.
Fr. Kevin will be on retreat.**

NOTE: *Until Phase Three begins the occupancy of the church 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. Thank you for your continued patience.*

sensitive about the name, we should stop and reflect on why that word accurately describes these people and their conduct.

St. Thomas Aquinas refers to the human person as an *animali ratione*, or in other words, *a living being* that possess the use of reason, rationality. An animal, strictly speaking, is any living being that breathes. Some of these beings make use of reason, and others do not. There is no lack of charity in pointing this out. But charity would not simply stop at making some kind of distinction between thinking and non-thinking people, it would urge us to pursue some kind of conversation to awaken folks from the sleep of non-rationality to a mature conversation about the nature and reality of things.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



Prayer For Our Government
Offered by Bishop John Carroll in 1791

We pray, O almighty and eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of your name.

We pray Thee, who alone are good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, the pope, the vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, all other bishops, prelates and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise among us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct your people into the ways of salvation.

We pray O God of might, wisdom and justice, through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the president of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to your people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality.

Let the light of your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by your powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to your unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of your most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to you, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of your servants departed, who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech you, a place of refreshment, light and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

In 1789 Pope Pius VI created the Diocese of Baltimore and named John Carroll to be the first bishop of the newly formed United States. His cousin, Charles, was one of the Founding Fathers and the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence.



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 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

