



St. Peter
Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Perhaps this week we can take a break from themes that are so serious and pressing in our times and turn to briefly consider some of the more simple things in life. In the midst of so much anxiety and fear, not to mention the uncertainty of it all, perhaps it would be a good idea to recall some of the basics of our faith that make life a little more pleasant. And so, this week, let's remember gratitude.

When we consider gratitude, we can consider it as a feeling, a virtue or even as an attitude and outlook on life. All three of these aspects are perfectly valid considerations, but this week I do not want to get bogged down in all of the distinctions that can be made and simply examine the experience of gratitude and the effect that it has on our soul.

Gratitude, at its very essence, is the recognition that we have received or benefited from some good. Take for example a very simple gesture such as opening the door for another person or having the door opened for you when you enter a building. When someone opens the door for you they may be showing you deference, respect, or they may recognize you as someone in need (you are carrying a large package). At any rate, you are the recipient of an act of kindness to which the only appropriate response is "thank you." Gratitude. Our "thank you" is the recognition of the goodness of the act and the pleasant feeling that accompanies being the recipient of that kind act.

An act of gratitude for a kindness received impresses upon us that there is goodness in this world and is a reminder of it. This is why having a kind of "attitude of gratitude" is so important and necessary for our general well-being. People who are grateful tend to see the good that surrounds them and are not weighed down or oppressed by so much evil. This is not to suggest that we ought to blithely live our lives as though evil

Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time

23 August 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

Saturday at 6:00 pm

Immaculate Conception
A Special Intention

Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 8:30 am

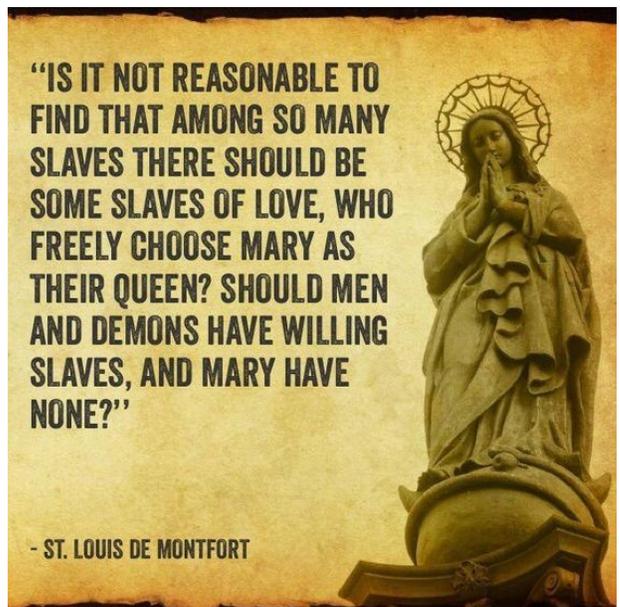
The Sick and the Shut-ins of our Parish
Immaculate Conception at 10:30 am
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday at 12:10 pm

Immaculate Conception

Shawn McElwee rb The McElwee's

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.



- ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT

does not exist, and force a kind of cheerfulness and optimism that quite frankly is detached from reality and not even really human. Not at all.

Gratitude ought to be for us a kind of habit that inclines us to see the good in the world even as it (the world) seems to be succumbing to so much evil. And why would this be important? The importance has to do with the correlation between the good we recognize and the love that it generates in our hearts. Just as a lamp requires that we plug it into an electrical socket in order to produce light, so to does our heart require a connection to the good in order to produce the love that gives it life and hope, and gratitude does just that.

“Count your blessings” the saying always used to go. Perhaps this saying like many others has become so over used as to become nearly cliché, but contained in the saying is the one thing necessary that will produce in our hearts the love of God that we need to save our souls. Gratitude.

As we take the time to count our blessings, we are intentionally looking to recognize the good that surrounds us and affirming that good with acts of thanksgiving, acts that dilate the heart and dispose it to an increase in love, specifically the love of God. God is the supreme good (goodness itself) and the first cause of all things that are good. In other words, every good can be traced back to God as its origin and cause. St. Ignatius of Loyola was keenly aware of the dynamic between gratitude and love and crafted a spiritual exercise to help his clients grown in their love of God; he had them sit in solitude and silence and simply consider the goodness of God and count their blessings.

Times are tough. There is confusion, disorientation and fear. People are anxious and have become suspicious of others. This whole wretched drama that we are being forced to act in is putting a lot of people on edge and making some of them cranky and combative. Don't be one of them. Remember goodness. Remember love. Be thankful for what you have received and make the effort to repay the kindness you have received by being extra, extra kind to others. Give others an opportunity to be grateful by being a sign of God's goodness.

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oulette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Lou Marchello, Patricia Kelly, Glen Rogers, Liz Hipp, Michael Conrad, Neil Miskimins, Ellen Holland, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Leonard & Gail Piedalue, Anonymous Request (Greatly Improved!), Kate Shrider Olsen, Don Herbst, Len Moeder, Bill Nash, another Anonymous Request, Marge Welty.

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 August

The Maritime World We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.



St. Augustine of Hippo
Bishop and Doctor of the Church
August 28th

If God seems slow in responding, it is because He is preparing a better gift. He will not deny us. God withholds what you are not yet ready for. He wants you to have a lively desire for His greatest gifts. All of which is to say, pray always and do not lose heart.

In order to discover the character of people we have only to observe what they love.

It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.

Men go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wondering.

To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.

Please pray for our seminarians!

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

