



The Feeding of the Multitude
A 17th Century Artist from the South of Italy

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Everyone is familiar with the teaching *render unto Caesar (Mt 22:21)*, and like many of the Sacred Scriptures it is not interpreted well. A fairly common interpretation is that the Lord is advocating, or at the very least, giving a nod to the idea of the separation of the Church and the state. But this is not the case.

Subtle as it may be, the Lord is acknowledging that there are two spheres of authority, and each sphere has its own concerns and activity proper to it, but they are not to be understood as utterly separate or in competition with each other. Both spheres of authority are ordered to the common good, and given that the salvation of souls is the highest good, the authority of the Church would in fact outrank that of the authority of the world of men. In the 13th century Pope Boniface VIII issued a papal bull more or less on this very topic. In *Unum sanctum* he said,

We are taught by the words of the Gospel that in this Church and under her control there are two swords, the spiritual and the temporal . . . both of these, i.e., the spiritual and the temporal swords, are under the control of the Church. The first is wielded by the Church; the second is wielded on behalf of the church. The first is wielded by the hands of the priest, the second by the hands of kings and soldiers, but at the wish and by the permission of the priests. Sword must be subordinate to sword, and it is only fitting that the temporal authority should be subject to the spiritual.

Clearly the words of Pope Boniface VIII are representative of the age in which he lived (though it may not be long before priests once again may need the service of men with swords), but they do convey the fundamental truth of the superiority of the authority of the Church over all other authorities, and for the simple fact that all authority is granted by God so that others may rule in His Name for the common good of all. This truth is seen the Decalogue and the ordering of the Commandments; the first three Commandments pertain our obligations toward God, and the fourth requires that we honor our parents who govern us with the authority given to them by God. The Church understands this Commandment to include all of those who exercise legitimate authority over us.

Leaving aside the issue of the Church hierarchy voluntarily laying down its sword during the initial phases of the world wide lockdowns back in March, let's get back to the issue we began to explore last week with regards to the heinous Supreme Court ruling that was handed down late last Friday night.

Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

2 August 2020

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

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Mass Schedule

Saturday at 6:00 pm

Immaculate Conception

Tyson Clay & Sarah Miller rb Margaret Clay

Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 8:30 am

Vicki Rogers

Immaculate Conception at 10:30 am

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday at 12:10 pm

Immaculate Conception

Tyson Clay & Sarah Miller 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.

Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This first week of August, please join me after each Mass to renew the consecration of our parish to her heart. The month of September is dedicated to her Seven Sorrows, and October of course is the month of the Holy Rosary.



May She Rest In Peace

Faithful to the very end, Vicki Rogers past away this week after a long illness. A private Funeral Mass for the family is being scheduled for this coming week.

*Eternal rest grant unto her O' Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.*

In a 5-4 decision, led by a presumably Roman Catholic Chief Justice Roberts, the high court took what belongs rightfully to God, and gave it to Caesar (and in this case that is not an exaggeration, and perhaps one of this year's greatest ironies, in that the issue at hand had to do with occupancy limits in Nevada churches and casinos).

The grievance had to do with the inequality being applied to certain businesses and organizations during Nevada's reopening phase following its statewide lock down. Nevada was allowing gambling casinos to reopen at 50% occupancy while churches were told that only 50 people could attend Sunday services, regardless of the size of the church. For all practical purposes this meant that 1000's of people could stream into the state's casinos while 1000's were being denied access to worship in their own proper churches. (Brothels, by the way, did not close during the lock down and have remained open.)

Here is the dynamic as I have observed it so far. In an act of good will (not prudent, but nonetheless well intentioned), the hierarchy of the Church voluntarily closed the doors of our nation's churches, citing reasons of collaborating with civil governments in the interest of the common good. However, no good deed ever goes unpunished, as the saying goes, and reopening the nation's churches has proven to be very problematic to say the least. *Please name one instance in American history when the government or its bureaucrats ever gave power back once it has been given to them. Name just one time.*

This is not a lesson that can be learned from hindsight, it is now a reality that we must live with, and the Supreme Court has proven that. In addition to the apostasy and the lawlessness of our country, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has now signaled to the nation's governors and other civil authorities that they can indeed dictate how and when people gather to worship God (and whether or not they can even sing).

When Our Lady came to Fatima in 1917, she came to warn us of a coming darkness and how we could avoid it or at least mitigate it, but we did not listen. She asked us to pray (a daily Rosary) and to do penance. Only heaven knows where we stand right now, but one thing is fairly certain from the Scriptures; when the children misbehave, God permits them to be overcome by the rule of tyrants. Pray your Rosary everyday, do penance and most importantly, trust.

God bless,
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, Samantha Huber (Found and in need of healing), Leonard & Gail Piedalue, Anonymous Request (Greatly Improved!), Kate Shrider Olsen, Don Herbst, Len Moeder, Bill Nash, another Anonymous Request. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Vicki Rogers (May she rest in peace)

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.

Please pray for our seminarians!

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



St. John Vianney (The Cure of Ars)

August 4th

God commands you to pray, but forbids you to worry.

The sign of the cross is the most terrible weapon against the devil. Thus the Church wishes not only that we have it continually in front of our minds to recall to us just what our souls are worth and what they cost Jesus Christ, but also that we should make it at every juncture ourselves: when we go to bed, when we awaken during the night, when we get up, when we begin any action, and, above all, when we are tempted.

The Lord is more anxious to forgive our sins than a woman is to carry her baby out of a burning building.

If you invoke the Blessed Virgin when you are tempted, she will come at once to your help, and Satan will leave you.

Prayer is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself.

A priest goes to Heaven or a priest goes to Hell with a thousand people behind.

On the Way of the Cross, you see, my children, only the first step is painful. Our greatest cross is the fear of crosses. . . We have not the courage to carry our cross, and we are very much mistaken; for, whatever we do, the cross holds us tight - we cannot escape from it. What, then, have we to lose? Why not love our crosses, and make use of them to take us to heaven?

