



Job
Leon Bonnat (1833-1922)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

When we think of someone as a contemplative, I often wonder how that description strikes some people. Is being a contemplative a person who contemplates? It can, but not always. The prayer of contemplation is a type of prayer that is given directly by God Himself and is a free gift that cannot be merited; but, you can and ought to dispose yourself to receive such a gift. So when we get back to our question about what is a contemplative, we can say in a broad and general way that such a person is a person who orders their life in such a way as to be open to the grace of God and His works. It is also an outlook on life that transcends this world, and a way of understanding creation and our place in it.

Let's start at the top. To begin cultivating a more contemplative disposition, we begin by interiorizing the fact that while this world was designed to support the flourishing of human life, this world is not our home. Heaven is. This simple truth is fairly self evident and does not require a whole lot of effort to understand; nothing in this world can satisfy our desire to be happy, which begs the question, why do we live in a world where water exists to correspond to thirst and food exists to correspond to hunger, but nothing exists in this world that corresponds to our desire for happiness? Yes, pleasures abound, but they are fleeting, and the things that give us little temporary joys themselves fade and pass away. *(Food and water pertain to our physical bodies, but a desire for happiness is a spiritual thing that indicates that its satisfaction lies beyond the world of physical objects. Clearly then, there is a realm that lies beyond the perception of the senses.)*

While living in this world there are a couple of things to bear in mind. The first is something of God's *immanence*. The immanence of God has to do with His presence that sustains all things in their being (this has *no* relationship whatsoever with pantheism that suggests that all things are god). God not only wills things into existence by a creative act, but He also sustains them, and without Him would cease to exist. *(When you hide*

Sexagesima Sunday

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7 February 2021

Pre-Lent Preparation Continues

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

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

Immaculate Conception at 6:00 pm
Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 8:30 am
Immaculate Conception at 10:30 am

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm
Confessions are heard on each of these days at 11:30 am and again immediately after the 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesday during a period of Eucharist Adoration.

Knights of Columbus Annual Lenten Fish Fry

This year the Polson Council of the Knights of Columbus will be preparing their annual fish fry for Lent; but with a few modifications. This year orders will be for take-out and your fish dinner can be brought out to the curb. Indoor dining is available, but seating will be limited. All meals will be prepared using safe food handling protocols, as always, and the dinners will be served with side dishes offered in separated covered containers (not buffet or serving line style). The cost is \$10 per individual, \$15 for a couple or \$25 for the whole family. The fish fry begins Friday, February 19th, at 6:30 pm.



NOTE: *Cardinal Sarah, the Prefect for the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments has instructed the Church to follow the custom in Rome (and Italy) of sprinkling ashes on the crowns of the heads of the faithful on Ash Wednesday, rather than mark the forehead. Instructions will be given before Mass.*

Our Lady of Lourdes
Memorial on February 11th

A brief meditation on Lourdes taken from Lourdes-France.org.

During the third apparition, on 18th February (1858), the Virgin spoke for the first time: "what I have to say to you does not have to be written down". This means that Mary wished to communicate with Bernadette in a loving heart to heart way. From the very start, Bernadette was invited to open the depths of her heart to this message of Love.

Bernadette was overwhelmed by the second statement of the Virgin Mary: "Would you be so kind as to come here for fifteen days?" It is the first time that Bernadette was addressed in a formal way. She felt she was respected and loved, as a person in her own right. We are all worthy of respect in the eyes of God, because He loves each one of us.

The third statement of the Virgin was: "I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the other." When Jesus, in the Gospel, invites us to discover the Kingdom of Heaven, He invites us to discover the "another world" within our world as it is. Wherever there is love, God is present.



St. Bernadette

I shall spend every moment loving. One who loves does not notice her trials; or perhaps more accurately, she is able to love them. I shall do everything for Heaven, my true home. There I shall find my Mother in all the splendor of her glory. I shall delight with her in the joy of Jesus himself in perfect safety.

The Eucharist bathes the tormented soul in light and love. Then the soul appreciates these words, 'Come all you who are sick, I will restore your health.'



Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oullette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Lou Marchello, Liz Hipp, Michael Conrad, Neil Miskimins, Ellen Holland, Kevin Normandeau, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Leonard & Gail Piedalue, Kate Shrider Olsen, Don Herbst, Bill Nash, Donna Jacobs, Derrie Edge, Madge Vert, Bob Mahon, Joe Wolfekuhle, John Miller.

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 February

Violence Against Women: We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

Please pray for our seminarians!

Dillon Armstrong, Tyler Frohlich, Matthew Christians, Kyle Tannehill and Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, John Cooney



Septuagesima Sunday (Season)

Septuaginta is the Latin word for "70," and *Septuagesima Sunday* simply means 70 days until Easter or at least more than 60. This Sunday begins the traditional preparation for the Lenten Season that was also known as *Shrovetide*, taken from the Old English "shrive" which has to do with confession, penance and absolution from sin. Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which is also called "Fat Tuesday" or more popularly, *Mardi Gras*; and thus concludes the pre-Lenten season of preparation. While many of the traditions and customs of Shrovetide are no longer observed, we can still use this time to thoughtfully prepare for observance of Lent. Ash Wednesday and Lent is every year, it is not a surprise. Let's have a plan!

Food Pantry Necessities

Peanut butter and cereal are a constant need; as well as oats, flour and rice. Pet foods are frequently in demand, and clients tend to prefer healthy options for food that are not so loaded with sugar. Items may be left in a bin at the entrance of the church.

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 6th

Vigil Mass; Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Intentions of David Venters rb Cindy Robertson

Sunday, February 7th

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

/Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, February 9th

Votive Mass in Honor of the Holy Angels

The Intentions of Paul Venters rb Cindy Robertson

Wednesday, February 10th

Memorial of St. Scholastica (sister of St. Benedict)

The Repose of Neil Miskimins rb Sheila Marquardt

Thursday, February 11th

Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes

The Repose of Ron Marquardt rb Sheila Marquardt

Friday, February 12th

Votive Mass in Honor of the Mystery of the Holy Cross

The Repose of Mary Ann Lebrun rb The Lebrun's

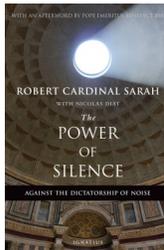
your face they are dismayed; when you take back your breath they die and return to the dust from which they were made. Ps 124:29). The second thing is an understanding of God as the “unmoved mover,” or the One from whom all motion finds its origin. I think it is fair to say that we can look at this angle in two respects; on the one hand it is God who established the natural order of things so that all things tend toward the fulfillment of their nature as God intended, and secondly there is the reality of God’s providence by which all things are ordered towards Him as their final end. In other words, there is a plan.

So, given all of this we can apply it in a practical manner in the following way; I am thirsty, and it is God who satisfies my thirst by virtue of His immanence and as the Prime Mover, since it is He who created this element to correspond to my need, and by sustaining it in its existence by His power, I am satisfied and my thirst is quenched, by God! The same can be said of our hunger and the food we eat; this is why we say “grace” before meals. In this simple act of gratitude we tell the truth about the nature and the reality of things, and to tell the truth about the nature and the reality of things is to ground ourselves in humility; which is practically a synonym for truth.

To be contemplative in our outlook is also to regard nature with the awe and wonder for such great works as we see in creation. Our response to such grandeur is offered in praise of God as we give thanks and acknowledge His power and perfection reflected in the things that He has made. However, in order to do this properly and in truth we must inquire into the nature of things. For example, why do trees exist? We can answer that trees exist to provide fruit that feeds the creatures that God has created (ourselves included), to be beautiful, and to provide shade when it is hot outside. All these things God has thought out and provided for our benefit in all of creation, a place of human flourishing, if we choose to open our eyes and see. But, and this is a significant “but,” but, if we fail to accurately regard the world as a place of pilgrimage and as a consequence begin to attach ourselves to things in our search for happiness, we are lost and desperately so, because the truth is no longer within us.

To more or less wrap things up here, for lack of space, there is one more key element in all of this that has to be taken into account, and that is **silence**. Silence is the climate in which we develop a contemplative mind and heart. Many prefer the noise of this world, and it is noise, but sadly the comfort we take in this noise is but a counterfeit of the consolation that comes from knowing and loving God, not to mention that it gives us the excuse we need to not have to listen to the questions that might arise in hearts in times of silence; questions that once asked will necessarily call us to a deeper conversion in Christ. For this reason, silence is often feared.

By way of conclusion I have just one more book recommendation for Lent and that is *The Power of Silence* by Cardinal Sarah.



Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



All Sunday homilies are available on YouTube and can be found by searching the full name Fr. Kevin Christofferson.

ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

Monday at 6:00 pm
Friday at 9:00 am



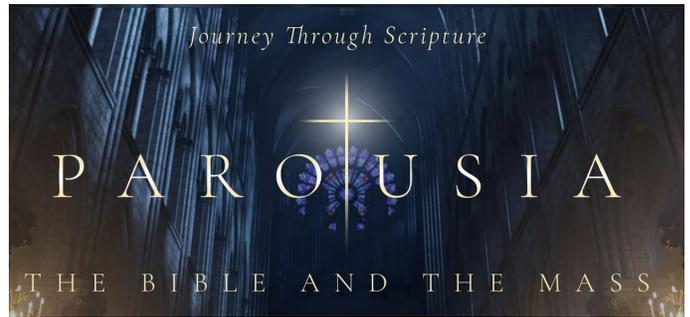
DIVINE MERCY RADIO
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NEW ACTIVITY!

Beginning on Sunday, February 21st, at 6:00 pm, a Bible study series on the Mass presented by Scott Hahn will be available to the young adults of the parish (married or single). The series is 10 weeks long and participant books are \$15. If you have any questions, please call Katie Devlin at 406-207-8186. Please respond soon so that materials can be ordered. Thanks!



Endow study group for women on Thursdays at 10:30 am. Please call Sheila LeBrun for more information at 406-208-5788.

That Man Is You!

Thursdays at 6:00 am. Meetings start with hot premium roast coffee and breakfast.



The Polson Council of the Knights of Columbus has resumed their monthly meetings. The next meeting of the Polson Council will be **Thursday, February 18th at 7:00 pm.**

Knitting Group

Knitters and Crocheters meet in the parish hall of Immaculate Conception on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please contact Julie Hille at 715-882-2716 for more information. All are welcome!



Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$109,805 of \$170,000 (65%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$22,121 of \$44,500 (61%)



Thank you for your generosity!