



**Purification of the Temple**  
*El Greco (1541-1614)*

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

It is my hope that you have been taking some time to read the first chapter of *Guadium et Spes* which I made available to you in last week's bulletin. I realize that reading the documents of the Second Vatican Council was probably not high on your list of priorities, but then again it is Lent, and that's my answer. My reason for publishing this kind of information and many of the other things that I publish for your benefit, is so that you can see for yourself that I am not merely opining about this, that or the other thing, and that what I am really trying to communicate to you is the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church. There is no substitute for source material when speaking about the truth, especially the truth of Jesus Christ handed down to us and faithfully transmitted by the Church's magisterium for over 2000 years.

When it comes to our understanding of the social doctrine of the Church, as well as its many, many implications, the one thing that we have to get right is our understanding of the dignity of the human person. This is the motive of supplying you with the Church's teaching on the topic articulated by the Second Vatican Council.

One of the first things that we ought to be aware of is how the word *dignity* is used by the world and by the Church. From Divine Revelation itself, we understand as a Church that *dignity* is something inherent to each person on account of their special creation in the Divine Image when they are called into existence at the moment of conception. This is not the view of the world.

The world (using the word *world* in the sense that St. Paul uses the word to describe that which opposes Christ and His Kingship), anyway, the world, which largely understands the human person using the categories of an atheistic evolutionary model following Charles Darwin (a eugenicist by the way), thinks otherwise. The world's understanding of the human person suggests that dignity is something that is achieved or conferred, not given by God, and certainly not inherent to the person in question.

This misguided understanding of dignity is manifestly obvious in attitudes towards abortion, the euthanasia of the elderly and the terminally ill, and it reveals itself in a variety of

*Continued.*

*Third Sunday of Lent*  
**7 March 2021**

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**  
 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 after the 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesday during a period of Eucharistic 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. When you arrive, call the parish office (883-2506), and your order will be brought out to you.* 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 (mac 'n cheese and colslaw) 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's are Friday at 6:30 pm.**



*Continued from front cover.*

other issues that touch on matters of social justice, often with words that end in *-ism*. For example, in the now infamous *Obergefell v. Hodges* case, which for all practical purposes legalized same-sex unions in all 50 states, Justice Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court wrote for the 5-4 majority in favor of same-sex civil unions invoking the idea of *dignity* saying, *they (those with same-sex attraction) ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law*. When you read the details of the case you see that SCOTUS defines the institution of marriage, and with references to personal autonomy and the common good of the nation, they seem to favor the idea that dignity can be conferred by law as a right, or withheld unconstitutionally as was believed by the plaintiffs in this particular case.

We don't have time to get into *rights* at this moment, and it is a topic that we have considered in the recent past, but the point I wanted to make was the difference in the way in which human dignity is understood by the world and by our nation's laws.

One of the first points that *Gaudium et Spes* makes is that we are not merely bodily creatures, and that our bodily concerns are not the end all; there is something greater. By the use of our intellect we are able to enter into the depths of our being, entering into our own heart; there, in our heart we encounter reality because it is in our heart that we encounter God who is waiting there. In this encounter we realize that we have come from God and that our destiny is to return to God, and this truth places us in contact as it were with our proper dignity, and not as the Church teaches *a speck of nature or a nameless constituent of the city of man (GS 14)*.

To deny our origin and our supernatural destiny in order to focus or preoccupy ourselves with the body and its well-being is to place ourselves outside of the truth and the reality of things. This of course has no bearing on our dignity, apart from a choice, based on ignorance, to live otherwise and rather beneath it. This is not to suggest that bodily concerns are of no concern, however, given our supernatural destiny, our body and its needs pale in comparison.

Before we close, let's take a brief look at the distorted view of the human person as it is continually presented to us by the world, and in such a way that is frightfully beneath our dignity.

*Continued.*



### Stations of the Cross

*Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph Mission*  
Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday during Lent at 6:00 pm beginning on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

### *Humbly asking for your prayers*

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oullette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Lou Marchello, Liz Hipp, Michael Conrad, 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, Mike Lies.

*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 March

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

### *Please pray for our seminarians!*

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

**"Come to Me"**  
~ Matt 11:28



**Catholic Women's  
CONFERENCE**

**SAVE THE DATE**

FRIDAY, APRIL 16 - 5:30 PM  
ROSARY & MASS OFFERED FOR FAMILIES  
FOR ALL MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN  
CATHEDRAL OF ST. HELENA

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021**  
CIVIC CENTER - HELENA, MONTANA

[helenacwc.com](http://helenacwc.com)  
Check out Group Registration Rate

**SPA DAY FOR THE SOUL**

Join women from Montana and beyond for prayer, speakers, music, fellowship, and more!  
Our "Spa Day" includes Mass.

### **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, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

*Vigil Mass; Third Sunday of Lent*  
The Repose of Fr. Michael Smith

#### **Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Third Sunday of Lent*  
Sick and the Shut-ins of the Parish/The Intentions of the Parish Faithful

#### **Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Lenten Weekday*  
The Intentions of Alex Kortuem rb Margaret Clay

#### **Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Lenten Weekday*  
The Repose of Cliff LeBrun rb The LeBrun's

#### **Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Lenten Weekday*  
A Special Intention

#### **Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Lenten Weekday*  
The Intentions of Alex Kortuem rb Margaret Clay



*Continued.*

Abortion is of course the first and easiest issue to address. For decades we have been told that new human life is merely a *product of conception* or a *blob of tissue*, falsehoods that have been definitively crushed by ultrasound technology. But we don't need technology to arrive at the truth that new human life begins at conception.

In philosophical terms we can call the soul of a thing (plant, animal or human) *the principle of animation*. What this means is that immediately after conception, cells begin to divide and differentiate themselves, not by an outside force or agent, but rather within itself, because it is alive. However, in the case of the human person, we are not talking about a simple biological fact, because as we are learning in *Gaudium et Spes*, we are much more than our biology, and this is discovered in part by the fact that our soul, our principle of animation if you will, is *rational*. We have a mind. *We are not going to dive down the rabbit hole of when does the soul enter a person's body after conception, given that the dogma of the Incarnation and that of the Immaculate Conception make it clear that this union takes place at the moment of conception.*

When we speak of a *blob of tissue*, we are really speaking against the dignity of the human person by reducing them to a body, and in this case even less than a body. Because we cannot be reduced to biology, we are confronted by the question, *where then does our soul come from? And who made it?* These are questions that can only be answered by Divine Revelation. *You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made. (Ps 139:13-14) Just as you do not know how the life breath enters the human frame in the mother's womb, So you do not know the work of God, who is working in everything. (Eccl 11:5).*

We will continue this conversation in the coming weeks and in the course of the conversation we will look at the way in which the teachings of our Lord have become distorted and misunderstood. Continue reading and re-reading the text. It is worth it.

God bless,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

**Problems in Marriage?  
RETRouvaille can help**

An online Retrouvaille marriage help program starts Thursday evening, April 22nd. The Retrouvaille Community of Montana has been invited to join with California's Santa Cruz/Monterey Community in offering this online weekend. The virtual program is Thursday and Friday evenings and a full day on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 - 25, 2021. The weekend will be followed by a series of virtual Post Weekend Sessions. There is a \$175 registration fee. Please know that no one is turned away because of the inability to pay. For additional information please contact us at **406-761-4830** or view the details. at [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).



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**  
90.7 FM



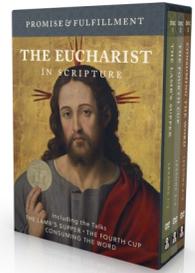
*DMR is a locally owned, listener supported non-profit 501(c)3*  
PO Box 568  
Polson, MT 59860

# PARISH ACTIVITIES



**NEW ACTIVITY!**

Beginning on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 6 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, March 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 1<sup>st</sup>*

**Immaculate Conception**  
\$121,327 of \$170,000 (71%)  
**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph**  
\$24,998 of \$44,500 (56%)



**Thank you for your generosity!**