



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Why did God create us? What if the answer was simple and childlike, such as, *because He wanted somebody to talk to?* This answer is not entirely off base, nor is it really a mere over simplification. God created us so that we might know Him and love Him; so that serving Him in this life we might reign with Him forever in the next. This is the very essence of our human dignity according to the constant teaching of the Church presented anew by the Second Vatican Council in the dogmatic constitution on the Church *Gaudium et Spes*; quoting the document, *The root reason for human dignity lies in man's call to communion with God (19).*

So back to talking with God. Isn't this how our communion with Him begins? Just as our bodies must grow and mature, so too does our soul. When we are born, and after our eyes adjust to the light of this world, we begin to interact with our parents and siblings (and others as well). At first, about all we can do is grin and joyfully kick our legs and flap our arms, and maybe produce a raspberry or two, and the point is that without words we are able to communicate our affection for our parents precisely because they are good; they provide for everything, and in their arms we are able to rest peacefully and feel secure.

When we learn to talk, things begin to go south just a bit, or perhaps even not just a bit. And the reason is *sin*. Even as babes and small children, our inclination towards selfishness and self-love becomes very obvious. We learn to say *no*, and we can become sassy and disobedient, no longer trusting that our parents know what is best, but rather we simply want because we want. In the absence of proper discipline, education and formation, a child will grow up (down really) to become a petulant adult; but let's not digress.

I introduced the effect of sin in our young lives because it is sin, especially unchecked sin, that will more or less place us on our life's trajectory. As we will see next week as we continue this exploration into the nature of human dignity, it is in our liberation from sin that we will come to discover the freedom that is the necessary condition for the authentic understanding of our dignity, and our life of obedience to the commandments of God.

I made the brief digression in order to make more clear the point and the necessity of returning, as it were, to the way things used to be when we were a child.

Continued.

Laetare Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Lent
14 March 2021

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

Parish Office

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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

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.

How were things in the beginning? How did they used to be when we were a child? Basically as I expressed them at the top of this article; non-verbal responses to the goodness we experience from God that produce in us a deep affection and love.

What I mean by this is that in our spiritual development and maturity we must lay aside *childish ways* (1 Cor 13:11), such as the sassiness and disobedience, which are expressions of our self-will and our self-love, and return simply to non-verbal ways of communicating our love and confidence in God; *But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child quieted at its mother's breast; like a child that is quieted is my soul* (Ps 131:2). There are many, many good reasons why the Lord insisted that we become like little children if we want to enter into His kingdom.

No parent despises the language development of their children; don't they rather delight in baby's first word? So to does our conversation begin with God. It is awkward, at times senseless, rambling, and let's face it, it can lean frequently towards self-centeredness. But God does not despise our efforts. With study, practice and most importantly, determined perseverance, we grow in the language of prayer and mature in the language of love. The goal in our life of prayer is the goal that many times we only learn very late in life, such as in the case of an elderly married couple, who after the children have long left the house, no longer need to communicate with words, but can simply rest lovingly in the presence of their spouse, relishing their presence, just as they did as infants in their mother's arms.

And so now we come full circle and the answer to the question, *why did God make us?* Because He wanted someone to talk to. Someone, who, freed from all attachments and the cares of this world, is willing to enter into His silence and relish the mystery of His presence. And for those who chose this, the *better thing*, we are promised that it shall never be taken away. (Lk 10:42).

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



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 19th.

Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oulette, 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
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 13th

Vigil Mass; Third Sunday of Lent

The Repose of Michael Lies rb The Parish Community

Sunday, March 14th

Third Sunday of Lent

Sick and the Shut-ins of the Parish/The Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, March 16th

Lenten Weekday

The Repose of Bill Clay rb The LeBrun's

Wednesday, March 17th

Commemoration of St. Patrick

The Intentions of Erik Hyle rb The Hyle's

Thursday, March 18th

Lenten Weekday

The Repose of Bill Clay rb The LeBrun's

Friday, March 19th

Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Intentions of the Parish Faithful



St. Patrick
Commemoration March 17th

I am Patrick, yes a sinner and indeed untaught; yet I am established here in Ireland where I profess myself bishop. I am certain in my heart that 'all that I am,' I have received from God. So I live among barbarous tribes, a stranger and exile for the love of God.

Daily I expect to be murdered or betrayed or reduced to slavery if the occasion arises. But I fear nothing, because of the promises of heaven.

He [God] watched over me before I knew him, and before I learned sense or even distinguished between good and evil, and he protected me, and consoled me as a father would his son.

If I have any worth, it is to live my life for God so as to teach these peoples; even though some of them still look down on me.



I am not ignorant of what is said of my Lord in the Psalm: "You destroy those who speak a lie." And again: "A lying mouth deals death to the soul." And likewise the Lord says in the Gospel: "On the day of judgment men shall render account for every idle word they utter.

Before I was humiliated I was like a stone that lies in deep mud, and he who is mighty came and in his compassion raised me up and exalted me very high and placed me on the top of the wall.

Problems in Marriage?
RETROUVILLE can help

An online Retrouville marriage help program starts Thursday evening, April 22nd. The Retrouville 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.



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



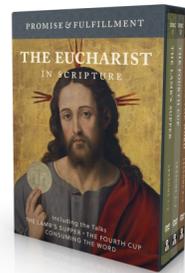
DMR is a locally owned, listener supported non-profit 501(c)3
PO Box 568
Polson, MT 59860

PARISH ACTIVITIES



NEW ACTIVITY!

Beginning on Sunday, February 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 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 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$124,256 of \$170,000 (73%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$26,903 of \$44,500 (60%)



Thank you for your generosity!