



Sermon on the Mount
Carl Heinrich Bloch (1876)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

From the earliest days of Christianity, scandal has always reared its ugly head in one form or another causing grief, wonderment, and heartache in the life of the Church. And what are we to make of it all.

Before I make any comment on the topic itself, it might be a good idea to look very briefly at the historical development of the word scandal itself. Scandal, first and foremost, is a Greek word that means “snare,” or “stumbling block.” And so, a scandal in the Greek sense of the word is that which prevents movement or is a thing over which people fall, and in this case, we would be talking about anything that would hinder anyone from seeing the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith but are prevented from entering into the Church because of some obstacle.

By the time the word “scandal” had entered into the Latin language it took on the meaning of something that would cause offense, and as it was assumed into the French language and moved into English, scandal took on the specific meaning of any kind of reprehensible behavior that brought discredit to religion. Despite the historical development of the word, the essence of the Greek meaning is always maintained, and a scandal will always be that which places an obstacle between a person and the Church. Given the gravity of what is at stake with regards to a person’s relationship with the Church, it is no wonder that Christ said, *It is impossible that scandals should not come: but woe to him through whom they come. It were better for him, that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should scandalize one of these little ones (Lk 17:1-2).*

What I want to say with regards to the topic is in no way meant to diminish scandal and the great harm that it can bring to souls, but nonetheless, the response to scandal must always be a divine one and not one that is merely human. What do I mean by that? Well, often times we look towards institutional reform as the answer and solution to many of the problems that bedevil the Church, thinking that if we fix this or that, or institute more programs and protocols, we can avoid more scandal in the future. I am not saying that institutional reform is not good and necessary at times, but at the end of the day it remains just that, institutional reform.

Institutions, the Church in this case, are not really the problem, it is the weak and sinful people who belong to them that cause the scandal and harm. You can reform an institution as a response to a scandal, but only the grace of God can bring about the conversion of heart of the people who belong to that institution. And this is the point that I want to settle upon.

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Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11 July 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

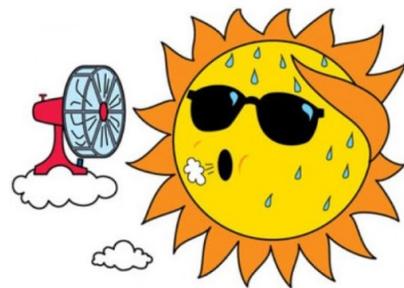
Immaculate Conception at 10:30 am

Update for the summer months (June, July, August)

Wednesday

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm

Confessions are heard at 11:30 am and again after Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.



Stay cool!



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In some of the most difficult and trying times in the Church, God has never failed to raise up men and women of outstanding holiness and faith. These luminaries, the Saints of the Church, are the lights that have and will continue to shine in the darkness, bearing witness to the truth, the goodness, the beauty, the holiness, the power and the grace of God at work in the hearts of those who believe. To put a finer point on it, Bishop Vetter said last Thursday to the two men he was about to ordain as deacons that, "you should live in such a way that your lives would make no sense unless God existed."

As the Lord indicated, there will always be scandal in the Church, and this cannot be avoided, but the goodness and the holiness of our lives can be those doors through which others enter the Church when otherwise other people are putting up obstacles by their poor conduct.

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

A Virtual, Online Retrouvaille marriage program will start Thursday evening, September 16th. The weekend portion will take place Thursday and Friday evenings, with a full day on Saturday and Sunday. The weekend will be followed by a series of virtual Post Weekend Sessions.

Successful Worldwide Program

This is a marriage help program located in about 150 cities in more than 25 countries around the world. It has provided the tools to help 10's of 1000's of marriages and families over the last 40+ years. Some couples come to the weekend at the early signs of difficulty. Others consider the program their last resort and come during times of deep misery. Either way, this program will work for you if you commit to work the program.

Please contact **406-761-4830** for information or register at www.helpourmarriage.org.

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.

Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oulette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, 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, Caroline Hummel.

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 July



Social Friendship: We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Please pray for our seminarians!

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

Was Jesus "Spiteful" When He Said, "Shake the Dust Off of Your Feet"? by Dave Armstrong

...against those who refused the gospel?

Is this a refusal to "meet people where they are at"?

If we think that something Jesus said is "spiteful" we clearly have taken a wrong turn in our exegesis. This isn't consigning folks to hell. It's a typically Jewish figurative-but-concrete expression of protest against rebelliousness, hardheartedness, and stubbornness (perhaps the leading theme of the entire Old Testament). Hence Jesus says:

Luke 9:5 (RSV) And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.

My friend, Fr. Deacon Daniel Dozier noted: "they are evangelizing their fellow Israelites at a particular historical moment in Israel's history."

Yes, when it was their time (the "fullness of time") to accept the gospel and the Messiah or not. Great point. They certainly had heard and seen more than enough, and now more than ever with Jesus and miracles taking place all around.

We mustn't think that God strives with men forever. He clearly does not. They can cut themselves off with persistent rebellion, as Paul makes clear in Romans 1 and many other places. God can only work with a free will freely accepting His grace and mercy. This is the point.

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Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 10th

Vigil of The 15th Sunday in OT
Repose of the Soul of Michael Lies

Sunday, July 4th

14th Sunday in OT
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, July 7th

Repose of the Soul of Merlyn B. Kuhl, r.b. the Matelich's

15th Sunday OT

Antiphon:

*As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.*

Collect:

*O God, who show the light of your truth
to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honor.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.*

Readings:

Amos 7:12-15
Ps 85:9-10,11-12,13-14
Eph 1:3-14 or Eph 1:3-10
Mk 6:7-13

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

772 *It is in the Church that Christ fulfills and reveals his own mystery as the purpose of God's plan: "to unite all things in him." St. Paul calls the nuptial union of Christ and the Church "a great mystery." Because she is united to Christ as to her bridegroom, she becomes a mystery in her turn. Contemplating this mystery in her, Paul exclaims: "Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

PARISH ACTIVITIES



SAINT PAUL
STREET EVANGELIZATION

Saint Paul Street Evangelization At the Farmers' Market

Ronan: Thursdays
Please call Linda Dorrington
(406-596-1460) for more info.

Polson: Fridays
Please see sign up sheet in the sacristy.

Parish Softball

If you are interested in joining our parish summer softball team, come to practice on Sundays at 4:00PM at the Cherry Valley school fields, or contact Luke at (406) 871-6112.



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



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listener supported non-
profit 501(c)3*
PO Box 568
Polson, MT 59860

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Jesus acted quite differently with Jews who spurned His message than with Gentiles who had not yet been exposed to God's teaching at all (as the Jews had been with some 1500 years or revelation and salvation history).

He simply rebukes stubborn Jews (think of all the discourses against the Pharisees). He knew what was going on there. It was a rebellious spirit. He didn't argue at any length with folks like that. Being omniscient, He knew who would accept His message and who wouldn't, and there was no point.

Both Jesus and Paul would argue / reason / dialogue with and try to persuade people who were open-minded, but not with those who weren't. Both left (and rebuked) towns that were not receptive to the gospel:

Matthew 11:20-24 Then he began to upbraid the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. [21] "Woe to you, Chora'zin! woe to you, Beth-sa'ida! for if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. [22] But I tell you, it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. [23] And you, Caper'na-um, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. [24] But I tell you that it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

Acts 18:4-6 And [in Corinth] he argued in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded Jews and Greeks. [5] When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedo'nia, Paul was occupied with preaching, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. [6] And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

And of course, St. Paul in many of his writings urges us not to participate in foolish controversies and to separate from divisive, unrepentant people. That's all quite biblical and quite loving, and very contrary to our present "PC" society with its false tolerance and pseudo-principles and supposedly niceynicity "values." We mustn't let ourselves be too influenced by that sort of thinking rather than the biblical worldview.

Armstrong, Dave. Was Jesus "Spiteful" When He Said, "Shake the Dust Off of Your Feet"? August 13, 2015. Retrieved from Patheos.com on July 6, 2021.

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
\$3,896 of \$170,000 (2%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$567 of \$44,500 (1%)



Thank you for your generosity!