



Christ Healing a Deaf and Dumb Man
Domenico Maggiotto (1712-1794)

Why Do We Work? Six Labor Day Reflections

Hugh Whelchel
September 2, 2013

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.
Proverbs 6:6-8

As a young boy growing up in rural Florida, I loved Labor Day. My hometown celebrated the holiday like many small towns across the nation, with parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks, and other public gatherings. It marked the end of summer, one last celebration before returning to school.

To my young mind, Labor Day seemed like a strange name for this holiday. After all, no one worked on this "labor day." It was not until I was older that I discovered the story behind Labor Day, and understood the true meaning of work.

The History of Labor Day

Americans celebrated the first Labor Day weekend in 1882. It was conceived by America's labor unions as a testament to their cause. Labor Day became an official national holiday in 1894, after the legislation sanctioning it was shepherded through Congress amid labor unrest. President Cleveland signed the legislation as part of an election-year compromise.

America was in the midst of an economic depression in 1894. That year, workers for the Pullman Car Co., one of the country's largest manufacturers, walked off their jobs and went on strike. Hundreds of thousands of workers nationwide joined the walk-out.

President Cleveland feared the strike would shut down America's railroads, so he dispatched 12,000 federal troops to stop the strike. Violence ensued, and at least thirteen strikers were killed.

Cleveland hoped that granting workers a Labor Day holiday would appease them as he sought a third term as president. He signed the holiday into law six days after the end of the strike. Cleveland's efforts failed - he was denied the Democratic nomination in 1896. Politicians and labor leaders were content to

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Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

5 September 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.



Book Group
Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 7, at 6:00 PM.

New Parishioners Welcome Dinner
Sunday, September 19th following the 10:30 am Mass at Immaculate Conception.
Please consider joining us for a community meal to get to know one another, newer and formerly established parishioners alike!

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keep the holiday, though.

Honoring the workers of America is important, but Labor Day also provides Christians an opportunity to celebrate the deeper meaning behind work.

Six Reasons Why We Work

For Christians, celebrating Labor Day has multiple meanings. We honor the workers of America, but the holiday is also a chance to remember the importance of work.

Why do we work? As you celebrate with your friends and family, take time to reflect on these six reasons:

1. Work fulfills three purposes.

Our work should glorify God, serve the common good, and further the kingdom of God. Our work is what God uses to change the world for his glory.

2. Work gives us insight into the nature of God.

The opening lines of Scripture say, "In the beginning, God created." God is a worker. From the very beginning of the Bible, we are faced with the inescapable fact that work is a part of God's character and nature. As my friend Steve Garber explains, vocation is "integral, not incidental, to the nature of God."

3. We were made to work – it is ordained by God.

In Genesis 2:15 we read,

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

God gave us the task of ruling over and taking care of his creation. This cultural mandate, given in Genesis 1:28, is our original job description. Like God, we have the ability to work, make plans and implement them, and be creative. These gifts help point us to our purpose – humanity was created by God to cultivate and keep God's creation, which includes developing and protecting it.

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 September

An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle: We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

Please pray for our seminarians!

Dillon Armstrong, Tyler Frohlich, Matthew Christians, Kyle Tannehill and Kaleb Michell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, John Cooney, Jamie Severson, Hayden Petterson, Alex Olmes, Anthony Olmes, Alex Ramirez, James Semling.

4. Work is honorable – it is a gift, not a curse.

All professions and all kinds of work, assuming that they are legal and biblically ethical, are honorable before the Lord. There is no dichotomy between sacred and secular work. All work brings glory to God and a potential source of fulfillment, if it is done to God's glory.

God did not create work to be drudgery. He gave man work *before* the Fall, as a means of fulfillment. Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 reminds us that a human being can *...do nothing better than...find satisfaction in his work. This too...is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?*

5. Work provides an opportunity for witness.

You manifest a powerful message, both verbally and non-verbally, of a supernatural approach to work. The world needs this powerful witness to the reality of Christ and the difference he makes in his followers.

6. Work gives us a lifetime mission.

Genesis 3:19 reminds us that "by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground." God intends that humans are to work as long as they live, whether paid or volunteer. Retirement shouldn't mean the end of meaningful, purposeful work. Our vocations are for a lifetime.

I'd love to hear what reasons you would add to this list. Have a blessed, refreshing, and fulfilling holiday with friends and loved ones today.

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 4th

Vigil of The 23rd Sunday in OT

Intention of Bill Rueth, r.b. Jane Holland

Sunday, September 5th

23rd Sunday in OT

Sick & Shut-Ins of the Parish

/Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, September 8th

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Repose of the Souls of Joseph & Irene Tessieri,

r.b. Sharon Iseman

Thursday, September 9th

St. Peter Claver

Repose of the Soul of Ron Marquardt, r.b. Sheila Marquardt

Friday, September 10th

Intentions of Bishop Vetter



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary September 8



"The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary," by Giotto, in the Scrovegni Chapel Padua, Italy, c. 1305. (Wikipedia)

Today [September 8] the Church celebrates the birth of Mary, the mother of God. September 8 is nine months after December 8, on which we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the child of Saints Joachim and Anne.

Although Mary's early life, including her birth, is not detailed in the Bible, many traditions and documents describing her birth

23rd Sunday OT

Antiphon:

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

Collect:

*O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
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:

Is 35:4-7a
Ps. 146:7,8-9,9-10
Jas 2:1-5
Mk 7:31-37

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

1941 *Socio-economic problems can be resolved only with the help of all the forms of solidarity: solidarity of the poor among themselves, between rich and poor, of workers among themselves, between employers and employees in a business, solidarity among nations and peoples. International solidarity is a requirement of the moral order; world peace depends in part upon this.*

are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers in the first centuries of the Church. These accounts are not considered authoritative in the same way as the Bible, but they outline the Church's traditional beliefs about her birth.

The "Protoevangelium of James," likely put into its final written form in the early second century, describes Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. He and his wife, Anne, desperately wanted a child but were unable to conceive, which pained them greatly. The text says that "he called to mind Abraham, that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac."

Joachim and Anne devoted themselves to prayer and fasting in efforts to please God, wondering if they had sinned in some way to be unable to have children. However, they were blessed beyond measure with the birth of Mary.

An angel revealed to Anne that all generations would honor her future child. "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth, and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world."

The Protoevangelium says that after Mary's birth, Anne made a sanctuary in her room, and "allowed nothing common or unclean," due to her daughter's special holiness. When Mary was a year old, her father "made a great feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the elders, and all the people of Israel."

Mary's parents brought her to the priests, and "they blessed her" as did the chief priests.

St. Augustine described the birth of Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, an appropriate prelude to the birth of Christ: "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley." He wrote that "through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

Angelus Staff, Angelus, September 8, 2020. Retrieved from <https://angelusnews.com/faith/saint-of-the-day/nativity-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>

2 weeks to Sign Up for Retrouvaille – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? When was the last time you said "I Love You"? Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille VIRTUAL ONLINE Weekend program for couples, contact registration team: at 1-800-470-2230 or visit our website: www.HelpOurMarriage.org

September 16-19, 2021



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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PO Box 568
Polson, MT 59860

Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$32,538 of \$170,000 (19%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$5,542 of \$44,500 (12%)



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH ACTIVITIES 2021-2022

COME AND SEE

Credo is a video course produced by the Dominican Friars of the Thomistic Institute in Washington, D.C. The videos are fairly short and leave plenty of room for questions and discussion. The program is for non-Catholic spouses, Catholics who would like a comprehensive refresher, and for all who simply have questions and are searching. The program is offered on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am before Mass.

KNITTING GROUP

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!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The dates and times for monthly meetings are to be announced. If you are interested in becoming a Knight or an Associate, please call Luke Venters at 406-871-6112



FIRST WEEKEND DEVOTIONS

Devotional materials and catechesis are available at the entrance of the church in advance of each first weekend.

First Wednesdays

Votive Mass in honor of St. Joseph at 12:10 pm
as well as all Wednesdays when permitted.

First Thursdays

Votive Mass in honor of the priesthood of Jesus Christ at 12:10 pm *when permitted.*
Holy Hour of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 7:00 pm.

First Fridays

Votive Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus *when permitted* for 9 consecutive First Fridays from September through May at 12:10 pm



First Saturdays

Confessions are heard at 9:30 am and Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is offered at 10:00 am. After Mass the Rosary is prayed followed by a 15 minute period of private meditation on one or any of the mysteries of the Rosary as Our Lady had requested.

Confessions are always heard each day at 11:30 am when a 12:10 pm Mass is scheduled.



That Man Is You!

A study and fellowship group for men (and their sons). Meetings are on Thursday morning from 6:00 am to 7:30 am and begin with a hot protein breakfast and premium roast coffee. Meetings begin on September 16th.

Wednesday night is Family Night and there is a little of something for everyone of all ages, from pre-school to adult and seniors. Faith formation opportunities include: pre-school, Religious Education, Sacramental Preparation (First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation), middle school and high school Youth Group, and an Adult Study group with Fr. Kevin. Family Night begins on **Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:00 pm** with registration for Religious Education and an opportunity to meet your teachers. Snacks will be provided. Classes begin on the following Wednesday, the 29th. Dinner will be provided each Family Night at 7:00 pm.



BOOK CLUB AND DISCUSSION GROUP



Discussion Group meetings will be on the first and the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm at the latest. Presently the group is reading short stories from Flannery O'Connor's *A Good Man Is Hard To Find*. Watch the bulletin for upcoming dates. A bottle of wine may appear at one or more of the meetings.

THE PRIORY

The Priory is an ecumenical study and prayer group that meets each Tuesday at the home of Jason and Jessica Edwards. The evening begins at 6:00 pm and always concludes with fellowship. Call Jason or Jessica at 406-407-5973 for more information. Group begins on Tuesday, September 21st.



ENDOW Women's Study Group

This year we will be studying the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church. Meetings are on Thursdays at 10:30 am and will begin on October 7th. Please contact Sheila LeBrun at 208-5788 for more information and cost of materials.