

Honoring the Real Presence Laura Kelly Fanucci | September 10, 2019

“You are so precious,” she whispered to the baby in my arms.

I handed her back the cup, a silver chalice brimming with the precious blood. In a lovely twist of irony, she used the same holy word to describe my infant son.

Did she know how perfect her words were?

St. Augustine proclaimed that in the Eucharist, we become what we receive. What if I could see not only my own child, but every sinner with whom I shared that sacrament as precious in God’s eyes?

On Aug. 5, the Pew Research Center released the latest survey on Catholic belief in the Eucharist, amid much lament at the shrinking number of Catholics who believe in the real presence.

Immediately, we heard calls for a return to liturgical reverence — more sacred hymns, more adoration, more kneeling, even more modest clothing — as a way to restore faith in Christ’s presence in the Eucharist.

But here’s one take I haven’t heard: Could deepening our respect for humanity help deepen our faith in divinity?

The power of “imago Dei” — our belief that each human bears God’s image — is that our love of God compels us to love the humans that God has created. But the opposite also holds true: If we dismiss each other, we degrade God in our midst.

Take the ways we talk. Contemporary discourse is marked by an easy tendency to demonize the other. I confess I’ve done it too. We hear the latest news about that politician we can’t stand, and we angrily decry them as an idiot, an animal or a monster.

Lately I’ve tried to catch myself, especially when little ears are listening. “I don’t hate that person,” I reframe my words for my kids. “I don’t agree with his politics, and I think his behavior is wrong, but I still believe he can be a good person and that God loves him.”

History proves the evils of dehumanization. For my children’s sake and mine, I have to watch my language.

As I’ve meditated on our collective faith in the Real Presence, I wonder how we honor each other’s human presence — or don’t. If we can’t behold the beauty of another person in flesh and blood, how can we begin to appreciate our God present in flesh and blood?

And when we behold each other — an exercise of holy imagination to see another with God’s eyes — how do we ultimately see ourselves? Self-loathing runs rampant in our time. Researchers claim that loneliness and isolation may never have been higher in the history of human existence.

Do we struggle to see Christ present in the sacraments because we cannot imagine ourselves worthy to receive God in such an intimate, bodily way — especially when our culture has twisted our views of intimacy and bodies?

All these questions make me wonder if coming to see another as precious — whether myself, my child, my neighbor or a stranger — could help me to deepen my faith in the precious body and blood.

Watch our words. Behold each other. Remember our worthiness. Is believing in the real presence in the Eucharist as simple as this?

Surely not. The mysteries of our faith demand a lifetime of prayer and pondering.

But we can each deepen our faith in the Real Presence — and help our children and grandchildren to do the same — in small ways each day.

After all, what could be smaller than a bite of bread or a sip of wine? Yet this is our God, truly present to us in flesh and blood. This is a mystery worthy of our wrestling and a presence worthy of our honor.

Fanucci is a mother, writer and director of a project on vocation at the Collegeville Institute in Collegeville, Minnesota. She is the author of several books, including “Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting,” and blogs at MotheringSpirit.com.

NEWS FOR OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES

St. Mary’s, Badger Sacred Heart, Roseau St. Philip’s, Falun

Office: 403 Main Ave. N, Roseau, MN 56751

Pastor: Fr. John Kleinwachter email: frjohnk@centurylink.net or schroseau@centurylink.net

Phone: #218-463-2441 website: www.roseaucatholic.org Facebook: @RoseauCatholicCommunity
Secretary / Religious Ed Coordinator: Tracy Borowicz Phone: #218-242-4053 email: tborow50@gmail.com

Parish Coordinator: Sarah Jack email: sajack21@outlook.com

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Cindy Hulst, LSW Phone: #218-281-7895 (24hr confidential)

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Week of May 17-24

Sunday --

- 2nd Collection – Catholic Comm /Catholic Univ.
- Mass– live streaming through Facebook at 10:00am

Monday

- Financial Council Mtg.– S. Heart 5:15pm via Zoom
- Confessions– Sacred Heart 6:45-7:30pm

Wednesday

- Confessions– Sacred Heart 10:30am-12pm
- Euch, Ador. & Confessions –Badger- 6:30-9:00pm

Friday

- Confessions– Sacred Heart 6:30-8:00am

Saturday

- Confessions– Sacred Heart 4:00-5:30pm

Next Sunday **ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

- Second collection– Cemetery Maintenance
- Mass– live streaming through Facebook at 10:00am

Next Monday **MEMORIAL DAY**

“The fire of God’s love needs to be fed. It must grow each day, gathering strength in our soul; and a fire is maintained by burning more things. If we don’t feed it, it may die.” - St. Josemaria Escriva

MAY 17 • 6th Sunday of Easter

The Strength of Faith

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." (Jn. 14:23)

- **Adults:** The Spirit gives us inner wisdom and strength. When have you experienced this?
- **Kids:** The Holy Spirit makes you strong inside. When do you need to be strong?

Men’s Spirituality Group

If interested contact Caleb Mellstrom #242-9408

This group will be watching a series of 12 short videos on men’s spirituality and then discussing them afterwards online beginning on **Sunday, June 14th at 9am** (gathering in person pending state’s regulations). This is open to any men of all three parishes.

ONLINE GIVING now available! *Online giving goes beyond tithing*

Already many families and visitors have been enjoying the benefits of giving one-time and recurring gifts directly from the parish website. And our new online donations and payments system will help streamline CCD and youth ministry registrations by simply paying program fees within the same form as the registration. Simple, quick, and effective. Learn more and begin offering your gifts online at roseaucatholic.org/onlinegiving

May 10th, 2020	Sacred Heart
Adults	(17) 1391.00
Loose Plate	65.00
Rice Bowl	8.53
Youth Ministry	25.00
Holy Land	15.00
Home Mission	40.00
Building Maintenance	25.00
Online Giving	590.00
Total	2,159.53

Thank you to Eric Klein for purchasing the new speakers for the bells and work on rewiring them and for new cabinets in the old sacristy for the bell system and sound system, **and to Jason Dahl** for removing the wall air conditioner from the rectory living room and re-doing the inner wall. We are in need of a volunteer or two to re-do the brickwork on the exterior wall (we have the bricks for it). Contact Jason or Fr. John if able to do it.

Cemetery Maintenance Collection This collection helps pay for maintenance for each parish's cemetery and also helps build up perpetual care funds which we need to do over time at St. Mary's and Sacred Heart cemeteries.

ST. MARY'S, BADGER

Mailed Collections: St. Mary's Church PO Box 214, Badger, 56714

Drop Off Collections: use the drop box at church

ST. PHILIP'S, FALUN

Mailed Collections: to Jennifer Moser 47600 225th St. - Roseau, MN

Sacred Heart Parish Emergency Response Team (PERT)

- **Unmet Needs:** contact the parish office #218 463 2441
- **Attended a webinar** about preparing parishioners to return back to church after COVID-19



2020 DAA			
Parish	Goal	Committed Received	Goal
St. Mary's	4,424	4,435.00	Reached!
St. Philip's	2,008	2,390.00	Reached!
Sac. Heart	12,630	10,374	-2255

A memorial was given in memory of +Ida Novacek for the Sacred Heart Building Fund.

This weekend we will take up the collection for **Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC)**. Your support helps the CCC connect people to Christ in the U.S. and around the world through the Internet, television, radio, and print media. Half the funds we collect remain here in the Crookston Diocese to support local efforts. Be a part of this campaign to spread the Gospel message. Support the collection today! www.usccb.org/nationalcollections

GROW IN YOUR FAITH

FORMED.ORG Pick of the Week:
SHADE– The Series a new acoustic series featuring the music of Brother Isaiah, CFR. Brother Isaiah offers simple and uncut prayers from the heart hoping these "holy-hooks" might offer you an experience of the Lord's accompanying presence and refreshment in the midst of your day-to-day journey. The pilgrimage of life can be difficult at times and we can easily find ourselves pretty weary along the way, but the Lord wants to meet us along that road in little moments of quiet rest with renewal unlooked-for, like the simple refreshment one finds "beneath the shade of a tree."

SACRED HEART, ROSEAU

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



- **Grades K-8th:** students please pick up your RE books at the Sacred Heart Church.
 - **Google Meetings:** (gr. 7-11) **THANK YOU!** for those who attended the online meeting this past Wednesday. It was great to come together as a group again. We will again meet May 13th (not sure if we will meet at the Church or maybe at the park — will practice social distancing. Watch for updates.
- YOUTH MINISTRY** Teens & young adults are invited to an online gathering every Sun. night during May & June for Theology & Ministry. Register at: www.csbsju.edu/sot/ytm

Capital Campaign / Building Project Update

- Currently we are at **\$5,432.40 pledged or 102%** of the amount needed for our monthly payment of **\$5,335**. 77 households (43%) have responded with pledges .
- Calculations show we need about \$30,000 for additional add-ons that have come up making everyone's participation more urgent to cover this.
- **Note: The \$10,000 Loan Pledge Challenge deadline has been extended to the fall supper.** We need only \$568 more in monthly pledges and 31 additional households contributing to meet the challenge.
- Elevator is fully completed and inspected. New cupola is mostly finished. Heating and air circulation nearly finished. Hoping to strip and wax church floors soon .
- Continue to pray for the successful completion of the project and worker safety. -- Fr. John -

ST. MARY'S, BADGER

- **Window Cleaning:** volunteers needed to clean the RE windows.
- **The Church is open daily** 8a-8p for prayer.

Reflection on Readings for Next Sunday

- **May 24th The Ascension of the Lord**
 Jesus returned to the right hand of the Father, not to leave us but to lead us all the way to heaven. The great paradox is because he has ascended, and he is able to remain with us in a profound new way.
- **7th Sunday of Easter**
 In today's Gospel, a passage known as the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus in John 17, Jesus talks about the work the Father gave him to do. We might ask, "Exactly what is his work?" And many Christians probably would answer, "Dying on the Cross for the salvation of humanity." But as we unpack this reading, it becomes apparent that Jesus had something more in mind.

Daily Reflections on Facebook

Notes -- Missionary Disciples May 12 Mtg

1. Shared about personal evangelization efforts.
2. Will look into some way to do the "99" parish mission via Zoom -- possibly with smaller groups of around 10 persons.
3. In place of sharing at Mass we are looking at taping witness talks of parishioners and posting them to the parish website.
4. Discussed some ways to greet people more effectively in the new gathering space when we are able to have public Masses again.
5. Will talk with Eric Klein about possibility of setting up a camera as before not only w/ possibly of viewing downstairs but also for live-stream of the Mass.
6. Fr. is working with a person or two to get a men's spirituality group going. Adam M.'s schedule is too full to take this on now.
7. Webinar on prayer with people on phone or in person was very good. We will be open to that in future calls to check on parishioners.
8. Will put more into future Penance Days.
9. Hoping for more on-line faith-sharing groups and use of FORMED.
10. Next meeting: June 2 at 6:30 PM