

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

MASS READINGS

MONDAY: COL 1:24-2:3/LK 6:6-11

TUESDAY: COL 2:6-15/LK 6:12-19

WEDNESDAY: COL 3:1-11/LK 6:20-27

THURSDAY: COL 3:12-17/LK 6:27-38

FRIDAY: 1 TM 1:1-2,12-14/LK 6:39-42

SATURDAY: NM 21:4B-9/PHIL 2:6-11/JN 3:13-

17

NEXT SUNDAY: 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-RDGS: EX 32:7-11,13-14/I TM 1:12-17/LK 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY: DEACON DOMINGO CASTILLO

TUESDAY: SI-BROUWER FAMILY

WEDNESDAY: SPECIAL INTENTION

THURSDAY: DOROTHY SCHULTZ

FRIDAY: POOR SOULS

VIGIL: MARY JO DANAHER

7:30: JOHN & KATHY LESTER

10:00: DOROTHY SCHULTZ

NOON: FOR THE PARISH

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Claude & Anna King, Jody Geller, Charles Connor, Lori Cummins, Ina Jean LaFon, deceased members of Schlosser & Kanthack families, Norbert FitzSimons families, Polley & Schubach families

'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.'

We would certainly expect to see an endless parade of lawsuits and other activities accompanying such a lack of foresight. Being laughed at for poor planning would be minor compared to what might have to be faced under the circumstances. What our Lord asks us to consider here is not whether we possess such resources but precisely what resources HE possesses and how available they are to those who have the willingness to seek them. We can make a list involving the virtues, the theological: faith, hope and charity, the cardinal: justice, fortitude, prudence and temperance, the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit; the variety of graces: Habitual, Actual and Sacramental...in essence the list of ways in which God is desirous of helping are without end since He Himself is without limits. And yet why is it that we often fall so far from the mark when it comes to implementing even the simplest of tasks that give sum and substance to our interior lives, namely prayer, fasting and works of mercy. In each of these there are innumerable gifts and resources available for us to choose and use to become effective disciples. Prayer puts us in touch with these resources. We only must avail ourselves to God's powerful word and find that in many places throughout the Bible God offers us assistance to strengthen, console, enliven etc. The Psalms, for example make an excellent starting point in that God says I am your strength and rock and by trusting in him we come to believe it so. Prayer also provides us with the peace that we need to evaluate a situation before we "build". We need to see precisely what God is asking of us and this takes time and discernment, the difference between a disciple and one who is not is the time one takes to consider what may sound like a cliché but it really is true; "what would Jesus do"? Fasting invites us to take a critical look at the things around us, persons, places and things. God has enriched us with so many things and within those things are aides to assist in finding him. Early man sought God in nature and found the beauty of sun, mountains etc. sources of deep enrichment and comfort. But we are reminded NOT to substitute the creature for the Creator. Discerning the value of the things of this world is a true hallmark of a disciple. One who discerns the way to the Kingdom by using wisely the things of this world. Finally works of mercy say so very much about who and what we are. Our genuine desire to serve rather than be served is so valuable to God that he reserves a whole storehouse of graces to assist us. By establishing a fervent interior life, we find these works become easier and easier and our delight in being able to truly assist people in their own search for the Kingdom is merit in and of itself. We have only one task on this earth and that is to "know, love and serve God in this world so as to be with him in the next". He has already given us everything we need and more to accomplish this and he wishes to be right there with us when we do so. Let us not think we are isolated from God and his people in this but seek to work together living lives of fitting praise to Him who is all good and deserving of our love.

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BUILDING UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH

A Catholic teacher looked at the reading book that her school district gave her for her second grade students. It told stories of children living in garbage pails and using disrespectful language. Facing great resistance and jeopardizing her job, she had the book replaced with one that expressed the beauty and wonder of life for youngsters.

A Catholic member of Congress was told by his party to vote for a particular bill that would help ensure his party's power but harm poor people. When he hesitated, he was told that his committee assignments and donations depended on voting the party line. He voted against the bill, and then appeared on TV to explain his commitment to the poor.

A Catholic contractor was repairing a house and realized that he had underbid the job. He was tempted to use inferior materials. He took the loss.

These Catholics could have refused to be expressions of Christ and thereby spiritually diminished themselves and the everyday world. Instead they proclaimed Christ and spiritually elevated themselves and the world. In the process they even helped spiritually correct what is wrong with today's society and culture. Acting the way they did, they fulfilled their spiritual responsibility as members of the People of God and lay participants in the priesthood of Christ.

Every Catholic is baptized into the priesthood of Christ (Catechism Nos. 1546, 901). In the church, along with the priesthood of the ordained, there is the priesthood of the laity. Too often the laity see themselves as second class citizens in the church. While the clergy and bishops have hierarchical authority in the church, all Catholics, clergy and lay, enjoy equal baptismal dignity. So the laity, as Catholic members of the People of God and sharers in the priesthood of Christ, should appreciate the great dignity that their baptism has bestowed upon them.

God gives both the laity and the ordained their particular roles in building up the Kingdom of God on earth. Through baptism — later strengthened by confirmation — every Catholic, as sharer in Christ's priestly office, is spiritually called, empowered and responsible to proclaim the Gospel by being the clearest possible expression of Christ in today's world. Thus the laity and ordained, working in concert, enrich the Kingdom of God on earth in the grace of Christ.

Within the one priesthood of Christ, the laity and the ordained stand between the world and God, each in their own way working to bring the world to God and God to the world. The laity's particular vocation is to bring Christ's spiritual riches directly to today's society and culture, "to make the church present and operative in those places and circumstances where it is only through them that she can become the salt of the earth" (Vat. II, The Church, No. 33).

Christ is God who became human, while remaining God. Christ's humanity embraces everything we are and do, except sin. Christ therefore is present and active in the world in and through parents, students, teachers, government officials, contractors, secretaries. He is absent in lies, hypocrisy, hatred, prejudice, selfishness, greed, unjust wars. The laity fulfill their priestly vocations, e.g., by making their marriages, families, education, their work, and their meaningful and effective participation in today's society and culture, as Christ-like as possible — acting always with prayerful discernment. And if necessary, as our examples above show, they offer themselves as a sacrifice, jeopardizing and even losing something of their life in order to gain greater and fuller life for themselves and the world, and thus participating in Christ's saving sacrifice.

Our baptism and confirmation call us to look deeply into ourselves to become sensitively aware of the gifts, talents, opportunities and possibilities that God is giving us. We understand, interpret and act upon all these according to our age, gender, culture, language, personal history and personality. For example, the spiritual experiences of the young, the old, women, men, the various ethnic groups, the rich and the poor, engender different spiritual discernment and actions, within the one Catholic faith. Whatever their particular vocation, all must take care to grow, mature and evolve insightfully, responsibly and gratefully.

Through their particular participation in Christ's priesthood, the laity move the creation of the world forward in space/time and thereby participate in the eternal salvation of the world in the grace of Christ.

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BUILD KINGDOM OF GOD NOW TO ENJOY HEAVEN

Bishop Anthony B. Taylor delivered this homily on Palm Sunday April 13.

The most important document of the first year of his papacy was Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium" in which he insists that our participation in the Kingdom of God which Jesus came to establish and for which he gave his life cannot be restricted to the private life such that all that is expected of us is that we say our prayers, go to Mass and avoid sin in order to try to get our own souls into heaven. That's just the beginning!

Jesus calls us to continue his work of building the Kingdom of God here and now, and therefore the pope reminds us that we cannot remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. After all, if we do not do our part to establish his kingdom in this life, how do we expect to share in the Kingdom of God in the life to come?

Therefore, just as a mother's love expands to help most those of her children who need her the most, Pope Francis insists that the preferential option for the poor is fundamental for all Christians.

Indeed, he says that we should be a Church that is poor and for the poor as a couple of my brother bishops who recently bought expensive mansions have learned the hard way this year. But that's exactly what Jesus models for us today.

Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king who has renounced his privileges, riding on a humble donkey rather than a royal stallion: "Behold your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." He reaches out to encourage the downtrodden: "The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them."

And he does so courageously, despite the abuse he received at the hands of the powers-that-be: "I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting."

Indeed, by the end of Good Friday he will be in most respects the poorest man on the planet:

- Without any power — condemned by the religious authorities and executed by the state.
- Without any possessions — not even his clothing.
- Without any prestige — abandoned by all those who had acclaimed him on Palm Sunday and practically all of his friends.

Without any pleasure — suffering brutal pain from crowned head to nailed feet and everywhere in between; back shredded by whips, knees shredded by falls, hands pierced by nails, delirious from dehydration and loss of blood, suffocating as fluid filled his lungs, able to speak only in short painful gasps and apparently abandoned even by God: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus was a redeemer who became utterly poor to set us free from the power of sin and death, revealing the way of truth and life to us who had been blinded by our own idolatrous pursuit of power, possessions, pleasure and prestige which promise happiness that they cannot deliver. But on Good Friday there was one thing of which no one could deprive Jesus — not even Satan, his most bitter adversary — and that was his Father's love, which will vindicate him and save us and then send us forth to bring that same self-sacrificing, saving love to others, especially the poor and downtrodden who need it — and us — the most.

Inspiring Quotes which remind us of God's desire to assist us in our seeking him!

“Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus — a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you.” *St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

“Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggle increases.” *St. Rose of Lima*

“A humble soul does not trust itself, but places all its confidence in God.” *St. Faustina*

“Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe.” *St. Augustine*

“I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.” *Pope Francis*

“Know that the greatest service that man can offer to God is to help convert souls.” *St. Rose of Lima*

“The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day.” *St. Gianna Molla*

“Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul except sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry.” *St. Francis de Sales*

And the Lord said to me, “My child, you please Me most by suffering. In your physical as well as your mental sufferings, My daughter, do not seek sympathy from creatures. I want the fragrance of your suffering to be pure and unadulterated. I want you to detach yourself, not only from creatures, but also from yourself...The more you will come to love suffering, My daughter, the purer your love for Me will be.” *St. Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul*

“Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again: for forgiveness has risen from the grave!” *St. John Chrysostom*

“Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered. God exists: that is the real message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this means also knows what it means to be redeemed.” *Pope Benedict XVI*

“Mary, who is the Virgin Most Pure, is also the Refuge of Sinners. She knows what sin is, not by the experience of its fall, not by tasting its bitter regrets, but by seeing what it did to her Divine Son.” *Venerable Fulton Sheen*

“The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.” *Pope Benedict XVI*

“The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the world.” *Pope Saint John Paul II*

“Nothing great is ever achieved without enduring much.” *St. Catherine of Siena*

“In my deepest wound I saw your glory and it dazzled me.” *St. Augustine*

“I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.” *Saint Mother Teresa*

“Genuine love is demanding, but its beauty lies precisely in the demands it makes.” *Pope Francis*

“We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” *Saint Mother Teresa*

“To have a right to do a thing is not at all the same as to be right in doing it.” *G.K. Chesterton*

“The saints did not all begin well, but they ended well.” *St. John Vianney*

“Hold your eyes on God and leave the doing to Him. That is all the doing you have to worry about.” *St. Jeanne de Chantal*

“The devil fears hearts on fire with love of God.” *St. Catherine of Siena*

“To be tempted is a sign that the soul is very pleasing to the Lord.” *St. Padre Pio*

“It isn't good to let our thoughts disturb us or worry us at all.” *St. Teresa of Avila*

“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.” *St. Maximilian Kolbe*

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→ seek first ←

“Each generation is converted by the saint who contradicts it most.” *G.K. Chesterton*

“If God sends you many sufferings it is a sign that He has great plans for you, and certainly wants to make you a saint.” *St. Ignatius of Loyola*

“Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in You.” *St. Augustine of Hippo*

“Jesus, help me to simplify my life by learning what you want me to be – and becoming that person.” *St. Thérèse of Lisieux*

“He who possesses God lacks nothing: God alone suffices.” *St. Teresa of Avila*

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.” *Saint Mother Teresa*

“Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure.” *Saint John Paul II*

“Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice.” *Isaiah 41:10*

“The future starts today, not tomorrow.” *Saint John Paul the Great*

“The Lord is loving unto man, and swift to pardon, but slow to punish. Let no man therefore despair of his own salvation.” *St. Cyril of Jerusalem*

“You will never be happy if your happiness depends on getting solely what you want. Change the focus. Get a new center. Will what God wills, and your joy no man shall take from you.” *Venerable Fulton Sheen*

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!” *St. Catherine of Siena*

“A single act of pure love pleases me more than a thousand imperfect prayers.” *Jesus (According to St. Faustina)*

“Though an army encamp against me, my heart does not fear; Though war be waged against me, even then do I trust.” *Psalms 27:3*

“True charity consists in doing good to those who do us evil, and in thus winning them over.” *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

“Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God.” *St. Francis de Sales*

“The Holy Spirit leads us like a mother. He leads His child by the hand...as a sighted person leads a blind person.” *St. John Vianney*

“I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God.” *St. Dominic Savio*

“If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” *Saint Mother Teresa*

“Father, I am seeking: I am hesitant and uncertain, but will you, O God, watch over each step of mine and guide me.” *St. Augustine*

“I love You, O my God, and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life. I love You, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You. I love You, Lord and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally...My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath.” *St. John Vianney*

“We are to love God for Himself, because of a twofold reason; nothing is more reasonable, nothing more profitable.” *St. Bernard of Clairvaux*

“If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!” *St. Catherine of Siena*

“To convert somebody go and take them by the hand and guide them.” *St. Thomas Aquinas*

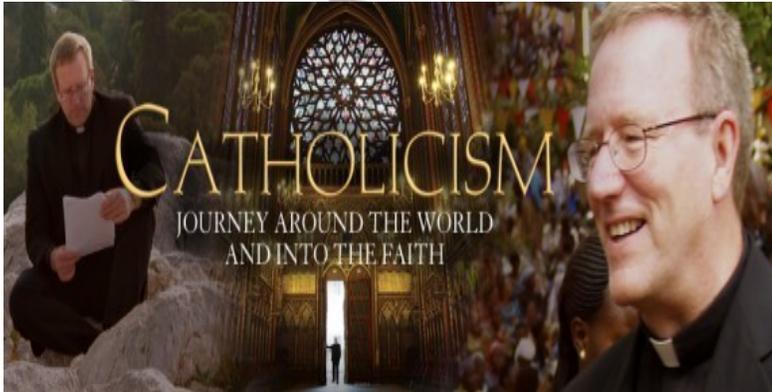
“If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are.” *Saint Mother Teresa*

“Do not lay too much store on the favorable judgments of men, for I love thee with a perfect love. I spent My earthly existence in humiliations and scorn and in a hidden life. It was thus that I glorified My Father, laid the foundations of My Church, and remedied the evils of pride. This is the path that thou must follow.” *Our Lord to Venerable Maria Celeste Crostarosa*

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Announcements and Upcoming Events



Journey around the world and deep into the Catholic Faith in all its richness, history, beauty, goodness, and truth in breathtaking, high-definition cinematography.

Travel with acclaimed author, speaker and theologian Bishop Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 15 countries. You'll be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture, claiming more than one billion of Earth's people.

From the sacred lands of Israel to the beating heart of Uganda; from the glorious shrines of Italy, France, and Spain to the streets of Mexico, Kolkata, and New York City; the fullness of CATHOLICISM is revealed. **CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8 FROM 8:45-9:45 A.M. IN THE ADULT CONFERENCE ROOM OF BENNETT HALL.**

Tippecanoe County Right to Life® Presents A Benefit



RIDE FOR LIFE

& Smoked Pork Fellowship / Picnic

Sept. 21, 2019

Register 10:30 | Ride 12 Noon

Immanuel RP 1893 E 600 N W. Lafayette

Single Riders \$20 Couples \$30

Enjoy Picnic only \$10

Pre-register at tcrtl.com

CENTRAL CATHOLIC
HOMECOMING & ALUMNI WEEKEND
5:00PM
fish fry
7:00PM
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019
HOSTED BY PACE

SPONSORED BY
IRISH BROTHERS
TRADITIONAL IRISH PUBS

Fish Dinner includes Nine Irish Fish & Chips, Coleslaw, IGLOO frozen custard and Lemonade

	Advance Purchase	Game day
Fish Dinner	\$19	\$12
Kids Chicken Tender Meal	\$6	\$4

*Tickets can be purchased at the CC front office or online at ccs.org/alumniweekend

CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE

KICK-OFF @ 7:00 VS TIPTON

Scout Retreat

The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is having an all scout (all ages, boy scouts and girl scouts) on Saturday, September 21st, 2019. "Close Encounters with God" will be held at St. Mary's Noll Hall in Muncie from 9am to 3pm. Our theme is the Glorious Mysteries. There will be games, prayers, stories, a craft and Mass. Cost is \$5 (adults free). Bring a sack lunch and we'll supply the drinks. Contact Steve at bigbear96@comcast.net or 765-286-5093.

SUNDAY OFFERING

\$7315.00

"FIND OUT HOW MUCH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU, AND FROM IT TAKE WHAT YOU NEED; THE REMAINDER IS NEEDED BY OTHERS"

ST. AUGUSTINE