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My dear parishioners:

In last week's bulletin I began a conversation with you on a healthy and holy way of addressing conflicts in our relationships with the assistance of Sacred Scripture. We looked at 1. Avoid triangulation, 2. Distinguish between facts and interpretations, and 3. Practice passionate and compassionate curiosity. Let us continue the discussion.

4. Let grace and compassion transform the emotions: "I, then, a prisoner of the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace (Eph. 4:1-3). Conflict is difficult and uncomfortable because by its very nature it involves emotions that we would rather not feel: frustration, anger, disappointment, sadness, etc. In a conflict situation we are acknowledging that the other person has been the cause of unpleasant emotions within us. We must equally acknowledge that we are the cause of unpleasant emotions within the other person. For the conflict to be responsibly addressed, we need to give the other person permission to express to us the emotions that they are feeling knowing that it will most likely make us uncomfortable. Here St. Paul gives us valuable assistance. He directs us to listen to the other person not with an emotional heart but with a virtuous heart. Emotions ebb and flow through us. Virtues are stable good characters and traits. We need to choose to listen to the concerns others have with us with the virtues of patience, gentleness, humility and love. By choosing to listen from the perspective of virtue not emotion, we will not be defensive (a consequence of false pride) but rather attentive and compassionate.

5. Engage the inner voice: "Know this my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, for the wrath of a man does not accomplish the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-20). In many conflict situations the other person may not be ready for resolution. They may still be holding in their emotions, often deliberately, resulting in you being unaware of the depth of their hurt or frustration. It will not help the process of resolution by ignoring the hidden emotions of others. Rather, we often have to give people permission to give a voice to their inner thoughts and feelings. We do that by making statements that demonstrate our desire to understand and resolve the conflict, like "I can understand that this was frustrating to you, please help me understand more fully how this made you feel." By allowing the other person to share their feelings while you remain compassionate and caring, a more fruitful dialogue can take place.

6. Good intentions, bad impact: "Stop judging and you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged" (Mt. 7:12). Making judgmental statements in a conflict only deepen the discord as the person feels the need to justify or defend their actions/feelings. We can easily resort to making judgments about their actions (e.g. "You caused the problem when you….") or about their person (e.g. "You are hard-headed/controlling, etc."). Remember that most conflicts result from well-intentioned people having unintended negative impacts on others. We ought not assume a bad intention on the other person's part when we address a conflict. We must strive to raise issues without raising defensiveness. Resolution is enhanced when we make statements like, "You may not be aware of this but…" and "I felt hurt when…" (rather than "You hurt me when…").

7. Be accountable for your personal contribution to the problem: "When Peter saw this (the huge haul of fish), he fell at the feet of Jesus and said, 'Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man'" (Lk. 5:9). Our tendency to want to assign blame to others is a part of the original sin (Adam and Eve blamed each other in the Garden when God confronted them for having eaten the forbidden fruit). Most conflict situation arise due to both (all) parties involvement as well as issues outside the control of anyone. Each involved person must be willing to accept responsibility for their role in the conflict, even if the role was unintentional. To be able to apologize for what we did that contributed to the conflict demonstrates contrition and moves the conflict towards resolution.

Sadly, conflicts will always be a part of our lives. But conflicts do not have to derail relationships. When parties to the conflict take the time to patiently listen and learn, seek and give forgiveness and learn from the conflict, our relationships can grow stronger and our reverence for others become more firm.

Sincerely in Christ,

Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
Pastor

January 26, 2019 - February 3, 2019
Readings and Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 26 — **4:30pm—Mass** / **6:30pm—Spanish Mass**
2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 [3]/Mk 3:20-21

Sunday, January 27 — **9:00am—Mass**
Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, January 28 — **4:30pm—Communion Service**
Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 [1a]/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 29 — **No Mass**
Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 30 — **4:30pm—Communion Service**
Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday, January 31 — **8:30am— Communion Service**
Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/Mk 4:21-25

Friday, February 1 — **9:30am—Communion Service**
Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 [39a]/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday, February 2 — **4:30pm—Mass** / **6:30pm—Spanish Mass**
Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 19 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22-32

Sunday, February 3 — **9:00am—Mass**
Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31-13:13 or 1 Cor 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life. (Ps 19)

Sun. Jan 27	Mon. Jan 28	Tues. Jan 29	Wed. Jan 30	Thurs. Jan 31	Fri. Feb 1	Sat. Feb 2
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time				**8:30am—Mass**	**9:30am—Communion Service**	
9:00am—Mass			*4:00pm—Rosary*	*9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet*		*3:45-4:15pm: Confessions*
Faith Formation following Mass	**4:30 pm—Mass**	*6:30pm—RCIA*	**4:30pm—Mass** *6:00pm—CCE* *6:30pm—First Reconciliation*			**4:30pm—Mass** **6:30pm—Spanish Mass**

Sun. Feb 3	Mon. Feb 4	Tues. Feb 5	Wed. Feb 6	Thurs. Feb 7	Fri. Feb 8	Sat. Feb 9
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time				**8:30am—Mass**	**9:30am—Communion Service**	
9:00am—Mass		*10:00am—Senior Social* **11:30am—First Tuesday Mass**	*4:00pm—Rosary*	*9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet*		*3:45-4:15pm: Confessions*
Faith Formation following Mass	**4:30 pm—Mass**	*Noon—Lunch* *1:00pm—Altar Society* *6:30pm—RCIA*	**4:30pm—Mass** 5:00pm—Choir Practice *6:00pm—CCE*			**4:30pm—Mass** *Anointing During Mass* **6:30pm—Spanish Mass**

Adult Faith Formation Classes
Sundays after Mass
Family Center Conference Room

NEW SERIES

The Turning Point
The Gospel of John

Led by Madeline Arnett

Online Giving
If you would like to give electronically, visit our website *www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com* and click on **Donation**.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Bobbie Broussard, Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt; Darien Maxwell, Trish Young, Norton Leger, Wayne Cook, Trish Crossette, Ronnie Cloyd, Kimberly Murray, Annie Jacobs, Connie McDowell, Bobbie Broussard, Suzanne Parker, Cindy Neal Ferguson, Irene Johnson, Greg Daigle, Frances Martin,Peggy Watt, Janet Epinette, Michelle Duncan, Mack Stotts

Repose of the soul: Zoeway Guillory; Bishop Joseph Howze, A.E. Peveto

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

Weekly Stewardship

January 19 & 20 Weekly Offering	**$ 2,804.57**
Average Weekly Cost	**$ 3,152.00**
Excess/Deficit	**$ -347.43**

Thank you for your generosity.

Rite of Welcoming

Today the Church celebrates the Rite of Welcoming for the Catechumens who have been faithfully participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes. These adults will be celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation and enter into full communion with us at the Easter Vigil. Please welcome:

Bob Boyd
Wuisayo Kuciemba
Bobby Hatcher
Rusty Kuciemba
Amber Tanton
Irene Johnson
Tim Parker

Keep them in your prayers.

DO YOU LIKE TO COOK?
CAN YOU MAKE A MEAL FOR THE CHILDREN?

Every Wednesday at 6:00pm the church provides a meal for the children attending CCE classes. Contact Twyla Darder, 409-384-0819, to volunteer to prepare a meal or make a donation.

TWO OR MORE CAN JOIN TOGETHER TO MAKE THE MEAL MORE FUN TO PREPARE!

Religious Articles

Come and see new items for sale.

Browse on Saturday after Mass or while having coffee on Sunday mornings.

Upcoming Events

January 27: Rite of Welcoming, Our Lady of the Pines
January 30: First Reconciliation for First Communion Class
February 16: Charismatic Renewal, Infant Jesus, Lumberton, TX