



# Holy Rosary Edmonds

17 SUNDAY, ORDINARY TIME

JULY 25/26, 2020

## A Letter from Fr. Vincent

Dear Parishioners,

This past week I was blessed to attend a retreat with about a dozen priests. It was extraordinary. There was no usual retreat master who provides content or food for thought. The content came from the group, and began with a question: When did you fall in love with Jesus? The priest moderating said no one was obliged to share. I decided that I was not going to share, but listen to the others. The day began, and each priest, one by one, began to share his “story” of how he came to know the love of Jesus and to love him.

It became abundantly clear that our Lord met each priest precisely in his need, in his wounds and brokenness. I have known many of these priests for years, but never really known them in this place of vulnerability and openness. I developed a deep reverence and respect for each priest as he shared what he had gone through on his journey. There is an impression out there, and especially among our people, that the priest is supposed to be this perfect human being. But these were men sharing their real humanity and how God had worked and is working in their lives: the light, darkness, struggles, wounds, and fears. Each story was a story of grace, grace working in imperfect, indeed sinful, humanity. Grace brings healing and forgiveness. In the process of sharing, almost every priest found strength and grace in the Eucharist, especially in Eucharistic adoration, spending time before Jesus present in the tabernacle.

As the day progressed we were down to the last few priests to share. Now I felt compelled to share my story as well. I could now see the common lines of our humanity in my brothers and

how all the stories came together really into one story: a story of grace. I had confidence to share my story of grace.

Bishop Mueggenborg, who was with us, during the closing mass, gave us the meaning of grace by describing the definition of a saint. “**A saint**”, he said, “**is not a perfect human being but a person who stands before God in need. A saint is a person who acknowledges the need of God’s grace: His love and mercy. The reality is not that God needs us to do something for him. We often tend to think we do God a favor by come to Mass or doing some good work.**” The Bishop continued, “This is why we start out each mass with the penitential rite, acknowledging our sinfulness and need of God’s mercy.”

People want a perfect society and a perfect church. And when they see that it is not, they get angry. They begin to look back into history and see more flaws. And then there is the impulse to tear it down, remove the memory or past. What is often not understood is that the flaw is also in the present, our present, our humanity. No person past, present, or future when put under the crucible of pure light can withstand the light -- there are shadows, there are flaws. The “flaw” is explained by our Catholic belief in original sin and grace. Grace is the response to original sin. This teaching on grace is actually a relief and puts everything into context. **To condemn and judge others in the past, often rightly so, is also to condemn ourselves**, because we are all cut from the same flawed cloth. Are we somehow better than those that lived before us and entitled to cast self-righteous judgment?

Any true reform starts within ourselves and not

### Mass

Mon-Sat 8am  
Tues 5:30pm  
Vigil Sat 5pm  
Sun 8am, 10am,  
12am

Please continue to  
register for  
Sunday Masses.  
See website or  
call parish office.

### Mass Livestream

(See website)

Sunday Vigil, Sat 5pm  
Recording may be  
watched at any time.

### Confession

Mon-Fri 7:30-50am  
Sat 4:15-4:50pm

### Parish Office

Phone (425)778-3122  
Now open limited  
hours!

### Parish School

Phone (425)778-3197



“Give your  
servant, therefore,  
an understanding  
heart  
to judge your  
people and to  
distinguish right  
from wrong. .”  
1 Kings 3:9

## Adoration Mass Intentions Faithful Departed

The Church is open:

Mon-Sat 7:30am-9am  
Tues 4:30pm-6:30pm

**Mon 7/27** Gladys Thompson †  
**Tues 7/28 8am** Steve Fry †  
5:30 pm Larry Laporte †  
**Wed 7/29** Norma Day †  
**Thurs 7/30** Karen Columbro †  
**Fri 7/31** Tod Rock †  
**Sat 8/1** Alice Walde †

Let us pray for:

Richard Squibb

### Fr.'s Letter Continued . . .

with casting judgment. True change begins with the awareness of our own sinful humanity and its need for grace: **I am flawed/sinful, and I need grace.** This is why Christ and His Church are so important, indeed indispensable. Christ and His Church give healing and hope precisely because the Church is not a place for perfect people who have no need of conversion. The church is the place for people who are solidly aware of their need for conversion and are striving to become more Christ-like. **Christ becomes the model and standard, not we ourselves.** Being Catholic begins with the assumption that we are all sinners. Therefore the Church is always a Church of sinners and at the same time, always a place of grace. Jesus with his presence in Scripture and Sacrament is the source of grace.

I have shared my story, because the other priests shared their stories, and I could see they were stories of grace. Would you be able to answer the question, “When did you fall in love with Jesus?” If you can, it will be a story of grace.

In Christ,  
Fr. Vincent

## Upcoming Events

**July** Online VBS continues

**July 27, 7pm** — Zoom Study on the Rule of St. Benedict (see website)



### Saint Spotlight: St. Thérèse of Lisieux

St. Therese is often portrayed as an almost saccharine saint — perfectly sweet and sugary, but she was not. Therese Martin was a person, and like us all, she had flaws. As a child, Therese was spoiled and self-centered, but she grew and matured on the human level and in holiness. She is renowned for her “Little Way.” This “way” that she followed to achieve the greatest heights of holiness is summarized by one of her axioms, **“Everything is grace!”** When we see everything as coming to us as a gift from God — the good and the bad, the fun or the annoying — our whole life and how we perceive it changes.

Discover her spunk and learn from her journey in *The Story of a Soul*. WARNING: Translations vary and 18th C. polite French can sound overly sweet to our American ears when translated literally. There are some good modern translations accounting for this.



St. Thomas More Parish invites us to join their VBS!

**Aug. 3rd - 7th**

Prerecord @ 9 AM - 10:30 AM @ [www.stmp.org](http://www.stmp.org)

Live Discussion via ZOOM, code will be emailed.

Arts and craft along with the Bible buddies, Bible booklets, some snack and game supplies will be provided for each participant.

**Registration:** \$25, 1<sup>st</sup> child; succeeding siblings, \$10.



**Needed Items:**

- Jams**
- Cup o'Noodles**
- Cookies**
- Small Velveeta**
- Kleenex**

Monetary donations are always appreciated to help those struggling with bills or rent.

**A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE**

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*Annual Catholic Appeal*

**We are ALL in this together!** Your Parish Matters and Makes a Difference

*Parish Update: Our Goal is \$188,096*

320 Families have pledged \$135,223 (72% of our goal).

**The Rule:**  
An Online Study of St. Benedict's Spiritual Classic

Join fellow parishioners for a 4 week discussion series. See the Parish Website Events for more information!