

THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Annunciation Catholic Church

Bogalusa, Louisiana

October 25, 2020

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 24th 4:00 PM
Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Lawrence Wille, Rita Anderson, Welfare of Jerri Stewart Welfare of Jo and Leo Mickenheim, Sr., Welfare of Millie Underwood, Welfare of Sheryl Scroggs Shellby, Patty Sue Stevenson and Camile White, David Arceneaux

Sunday, October 25th 8:30 AM
Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Irma Lee Callender, Lawrence Wille, Welfare of Linda Haaga, Welfare of Millie Underwood, Frank Montalbano and Family, Welfare of Newell Bush, Edward Ratcliff, Rodney Capo, Hazel Rayburn, Bennie Saltaformaggio, Welfare of Jerri Stewart

10:30 AM
Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Tuesday, October 27th 8:00AM
Lawrence Wille
Sarah Parker

Wednesday, October 28th 8:00AM
Lawrence Wille

Thursday, October 29th 8:00AM
Lawrence Wille

Friday, October 30th 8:00AM
Lawrence Wille,

Saturday, October 31st 4:00PM
Mickey Paduda, EJ and Dody Champagne, John Underwood, Lawrence Wille, Welfare of Jo and Leo Mickenheim, Sr., Welfare of Millie Underwood, Patty Sue Stevenson, Welfare of Father Lawrence Phelps, Wayne Planche and Glenda, David Arceneaux, Welfare of Tommie Jean Rayburn, Welfare of Kristen Nicholders

Sunday, November 1st 8:30AM
Earl Hughes, Betty Scroggs, Irma Lee Callender, Lawrence Wille, Welfare of Newell Bush, Edwar Ratcliff, ACS Dean of Students and Staff, Welfare of Tommie Jean Rayburn, Welfare of Roger Holloway, Welfare of Jerri Stewart, Welfare of Vic Haik

10:30AM
Annunciation Catholic Church Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp
Our Sanctuary Lamp burns
For the Repose of the Soul of:
Rev. Fr. Ed
Lauden

Last Week's Collection October 17th and 18th 2020

Loose-Checks & Cash \$1,724.00
Envelopes \$2,638.00
Total: \$4,362.00

Budgeted funds needed to operate: \$6,299.00

Amount under Weekly Budget:
\$1,937.00

World Mission Sunday
\$ 866.00

Thank You for Your
Generosity!!!

THE NECESSITY OF DISCIPLINE

Greg hated discipline in high school. He did not like to do homework. He did not like to get up early. It seemed like the only reason to be disciplined was to get good grades, then get into a good college, then get a good job, then get a lot of money, then get a big house, and then slave away making enough money to pay for college and house debt. All of that didn't seem worth the discipline to Greg.

So, instead of embracing these goals, Greg followed paths of least resistance and looked for pleasure and comfort. Why not? Live for the moment, as they say. Then, in a way, the comfort itself became the goal and it was harder and harder to say no to comfort than to be able to say yes to harder things. Later, when goals that Greg wanted presented themselves, he found it very hard to have the discipline to reach them.

GETTING TO GOD

In the ancient world, philosophers reasoned their way to belief in one God. They figured God is like a perfect thought thinking about the thought. Perhaps we should not be surprised that brilliant philosophers imagined that God was the ultimately brilliant philosopher! Philosophers "mused" on the highest things they could think of – virtue, honor, etc. – and since nothing is higher than God, then God must think about Himself. So, He is a thought thinking a thought. This sounds funny – God sitting around thinking about Himself – but there is something true about it. And when Jesus came to reveal God to man, He burst open a whole new understanding about God that would bring the ideas of the philosophers into the full light of truth. In other words – the philosophers were really, really close, but God had to visit us in the Incarnation to bring us to a fuller understanding of Himself and, therefore, a greater understanding of ourselves.

WHY EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT NOW...

It is true that nothing is higher than God. So, if higher beings think about higher things, then God must think about Himself. So, what we have is the thinker and the thing he is thinking about – a thinker and a thought. Right now you are thinking something, and that thought is from you but it is not you – it is something separate. To voice that thought makes it into words – your words are like a gift to the world from your mind (at

least they should be!).

God has an eternal Thought, and that Thought became Man and was born of the Virgin Mary. That Man was the Word of God – the "voicing" of the thought. This is why the Gospel of John is so profound when in the first chapter we hear that "the Word was with God... and the word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1). God's Word is the way He says, "This is who I am." **God gives us His Word to show us that we can trust Him fully.**

Through Jesus we learn that God's inner life is not just a really lofty thought exercise, but an eternal act of love. It is Father and Son, not just thinker and thought. They both mutually love and give of themselves totally to the other, and their Love is so real, so intense, that it has the distinction of being another Person, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Love of the Father and the Son, and it is shared with us so that we can love the Father in the highest possible way. "When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is the Spirit Himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:15-16). God is not a thought. "God is love" (1 John 4:8).

SO, WHY DISCIPLINE?

The paragraphs above might all seem like lofty ideas, but what does it tell us about ourselves, about how we should live? Well, if you are united to God by faith then this life that He lives is the life that you live. In other words, as the Son shows us that the Father is a total gift of love, we as his children must become total gifts of love to live out who we are – created in His image and likeness.

So, what does this have to do with Greg not wanting to wake up early and do homework? Just replace the name "Greg" with your own. (It certainly works when I put "Fr. Bru" in there!!!) Well, as Greg grew in laziness and selfishness, he could not give himself away. Greg was enslaved to the comfort and even the vice and sins that came with it. So, in order to be able to give himself away, Greg had to have mastery over himself... In order to be able to give ourselves away (to others), we have to have mastery over ourselves... We have to possess ourselves fully.

Living in Christ makes all suffering and all burdens worthwhile, most especially by making our suffering and discipline not about us, but about love. When the Lord tells us he wants us to go and take up our cross, He allows us to unite every act of suffering and discipline with His cross. And that's the point of His cross... To save mankind in the greatest act of love of all time. All of our discipline, suffering, self-denial, and penances are united to Christ's cross and find their worthiness there alone – and it is all for love.

Living discipline for love's sake instead of for the sake of worldly gain helps us to live as Christ's children, and not as slaves to sin. We're true Christians when we give ourselves away. Therefore, in order to be a true Christian, we must fully possess ourselves through discipline.

