

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From the Pastor's Desk

During the past week I received a correspondence from a young man in the area. He was concerned about his calling in life. As he expressed it, he has more questions than answers. He has faith but does not know where God is leading him or what he needs to do with his life. He wants to help others but does not know how this figures into how he is to be of service to others. All in all, good questions for a young man in his twenties. For that matter, he has concerns that are for any young person who is serious about the future of his or her life.

His questions forced me to spend some time to formulate my thoughts as part of my response to this young man. Some of those thoughts I would like to share in this column. My first thought was a recollection of a talk given to high school students by a guest speaker. He spoke about their preparedness for the future. Since many were heading to college, he directed most of his thoughts in that direction. He encouraged them to take full advantage of their years in college: they go by fast. In his words he encouraged them to exploit every opportunity that the university offered them whether it was their classes, lectures from visiting professors or any other extra-curricular offerings on campus. You have four years; take advantage of those quickly passing years.

His point was connected to a second point about "good luck". He defined "good luck" as the intersection of preparedness and opportunity. When these two paths cross you will find good luck. All of us have control over our personal preparedness. This is being attentive to our personal development in mind and heart. However, we do not have control over the opportunities that present themselves along the way. Opportunities are for the most part random. Our task is to be prepared to recognize them and act. One sad reality of life is that many people are not prepared when opportunities present themselves. In a very real sense, good luck is not some magical event beyond our control. We are not helpless if we are personally prepared.

I think what the young letter writer, without realizing it, was concerned about personal preparedness. He has a desire but finding one's path in life is another story. I would say that at a young age one has to be open to several experiences whether they seem to fit your big plan or not. Our life experiences are great instructors that can reveal what it is that we really would like to do in life. What is important to understand is that we will not find our ultimate life's work right at the very beginning with everything falling into order on day one. The various jobs, people, places etc. all have a way of shaping and clarifying the person we are and ultimately contribute our life's work.

I am confident that if we were to ask anyone who has found fulfillment in their life's work they would tell of the various jobs, people and life experiences they had along the way. Personally, at the time when I was employed cleaning classrooms, scooping ice cream, working on the assembly line at Chrysler and GM, cutting grass in a cemetery etc. would have been unlikely experiences preparing me for the priesthood. Surprisingly they were helpful and mostly indirectly. As I look back on all those jobs, I can see how they have had an influence on my personal development and hopefully have added some positive dimension to my character.

As a Christian, when it comes to discovering our life's work and living our faith, we have numerous examples that can be very helpful. These numerous examples are found in the lives of the saints. The saints come from all walks of life. The lives of the Saints span the range from the Apostles, Popes, Religious, Priests, Teachers, and Preachers, to married men and women, children, handicapped persons, impoverished individuals etc.;

You name it there is a saint who has lived their lives in service to Christ and others. If there is anything, we can say about the saints it is that they lived their lives of faith in Christ in very unique ways and found fulfillment. The examples of their lives have given inspiration for many to live in imitation. My suggestion for the young man (and for young ladies) was to look on the internet for Catholic Websites. Many of these have links that feature articles and stories about the lives of the Saints of the Church. This is great since it takes the burden off our shoulders in having to reinvent the wheel in discovering meaning and purpose in finding and living one's life's work. One key feature... we live in service to Christ and not for self.

A very important part for discerning one's future or life's work is the matter of reflection and a prayer life. Thinking about the future is best done in the context of prayer. One must be in the habit of a daily prayer life. This is crucial. A personal prayer life must also be structured. A structured prayer life consists of regular prayers that are said daily. Thinking over my youth I must admit I had a prayer life that was structured. By no means was I a paragon of prayer, but I did pray. The majority of my prayers were from the traditional arsenal of Catholic prayers. They were committed to rote memory and created the necessary structure. The structure puts one in prayer time that provided a specific time for personal reflections.

Years ago, there was a big stress on spontaneous prayer while abandoning the memorized prayers (which were considered mechanical and empty). This was part of the trend of prayer groups and prayer meetings. There was a stress on praying spontaneously from the heart. This was considered genuine prayer. No doubt about it, this is good, but it has a weakness. What I have discovered with a purely spontaneous prayer eventually that prayer becomes mechanically repeated. Spontaneous became rote. At times this began to make prayer time more laborious than it needs to be: Having to say something unique each time. Then again one's heart may not be in the moment of spontaneity. This may be one of the reasons why many of those prayer groups faded away over time. A structured prayer life with its many memorized prayers helps to balance this out. It leads us into all types of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, contrition, etc.

When it comes to a prayer life, we have a great resource of formal prayers. We don't have to recreate a new one every time, which could be a frustration and lead to abandonment of a daily prayer life. What is beautiful about all the formal prayers we have is that we can say them daily and they can easily become our inspiration for further thoughts and expressions of prayer. What is great about an arsenal of prayers, like the mass, the rosary, novenas, as well as some personal favorites, they all take time to pray that engage us in prayer time. They become a habit. They put us in the presence of God. Remember personal preparedness and opportunity? I'm not saying our prayer life is about good luck, but we are definitely putting ourselves in a position of openness to opportunities to receive insights and some spiritual treasures. Sometime when it comes to answers to our prayers it may well be at these moments of opportunity that we are actually prepared to receive. We never know when that opportunity will present itself.

A regular prayer time that is both structured and spontaneous, reading Sacred Scripture, inspirational stories from the lives of the saints and desiring to do God's we may very well be moving in the direction of fulfilling our life's work. Life experiences will help form our character, even the seemingly most insignificant experience, encounters or employments may have a lot in setting us in the right direction. Bottom line; It is good that

in all we do we have a sincere desire to do the will of God. We can trust that God will lead us to where we need to be, and it may be very possible that we are doing our life's work and may not even know it.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

This week we pray Week IV of the Liturgy of the hours.

*We pray for those who have died recently:
Mary V. Hall
and William E. Moyer*

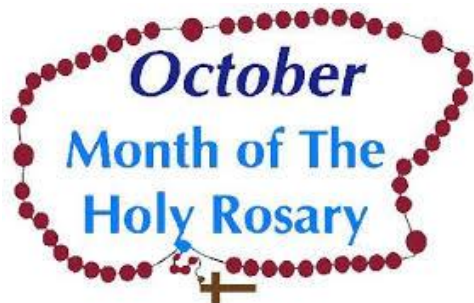
Church Support

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|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| September 6, 2020, 2020 | |
| OFFERTORY | \$12,714.00 |
| Diocesan Tax | \$(770.00) |
| Fenwick Subsidy | \$(2,635.00) |
| Rosecrans subsidy | \$(485.00) |
| Available for Parish Operations | \$8,825.00 |
| Parish Operating Expenses | \$(7,825.00) |
| Religious Education Expenses | \$(890.00) |
| Other Income | <u>\$1,855.00</u> |
| Weekly surplus | \$1,965.00) |

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

Sunday School News!

Sunday School classes will **begin Sunday, September 20 at 9:15 a.m.** Please note that due to Covid-19 restrictions Sunday School classes will **now be held in the Parish Office Building.** We are asking for advance registration to assist in planning and for classroom assignments as some rooms are bigger than others and we want to make the best use of the space we have available. **Please register as soon as possible.** Registration forms can be found online at stnickparish.org and in the parish office. For more information please contact Suzanne and Kevin Dooley (740) 319-2170.



October, The month of Our Blessed Mother, Mary

In honor of Our Lady of The Rosary, we will pray the Rosary before the weekend Masses. Those interested in leading the Rosary before the 5:15 p.m. Saturday Mass or the Sunday 8:15 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. Mass should contact the parish office.

SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY – MONTHLY DEVOTION FOR SEPTEMBER



A depiction of the Seven Sorrows of Mary can be found in the back of the Church with 6 to the left of the cry room and one above the candles to the right of the cry room. The Seven Sorrows are: The Prophecy of Simeon, The Flight into Egypt, The Loss of Jesus for three days, The Meeting of our Sorrowful Mother and Jesus on the road to Calvary, Jesus' Death on the Cross and Mary Receiving the Body of Jesus as He is removed from the cross (also known as the Pieta). The Seven Sorrows of Mary may be prayed individually or in a group. Booklets and devotionals are available in the back of the Church for those interested in this Devotion. Those interested in the praying the devotional as a group should contact the parish office. To talk to kids about the Seven Sorrows go to: <https://teachingcatholickids.com/the-seven-sorrows-of-mary-monthly-devotion-for-september/>

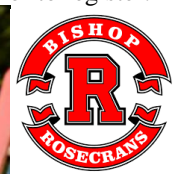


The virtue of "Honesty" is described as uprightness, goodness, and trustworthiness. A person who exhibits the virtue of honesty is sincere and truthful in word and deed. One who tells lies creates a web of deceit. I asked my students once if they had ever told a lie. Almost all had done so, and some felt they got away with it. Then I asked them if they were ever lied to. Those who answered yes, when pressed, confirmed their unhappiness with the situation citing feelings of betrayal that left them with suspicious feelings toward the one who had lied to them. Honesty is a wonderful virtue that leads to happiness and peace while the opposite (lies) lead to misery and loneliness. This week practice the virtue of honesty. This can be a difficult one, especially for those who have fallen into the habit of the "lie". God remains ready to help those who ask to live a more virtuous life. Mastering this virtue may take a while, do not give up! Run to the confessional to purge the lies and receive the gift of forgiveness and begin again. Persevere!

4th Annual Rick "Paps" Lee Memorial Golf Outing "Gives Back"

Proceeds this year will benefit the Landon Jade Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund for Bishop Rosecrans High School

Saturday, Sept. 19 at Jaycees Golf Club- 8:00 a.m. shotgun start (4 person scramble). \$60/person: includes lunch and 2 drink tickets. Contact Chad Lee at (614) 397-4105 or cdlee12@icloud.com for more information or to register.



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY BOOSTER MANIA WINNERS:

\$50: Steve Dickerson, Chris Nash, John Biedenbach, Marianne Michel and Charlie White

\$25: Jeff Kosco, Debbie Johnston, Joe Johnston, Vonda Moyer, Jerry Burnett, Joan Weidig, Terry Paul, Jason Paul, Larry Burkhardt, Dan Backus, Lisa Matson and Bobbie Saunders

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

To get you started, here are five questions to ask instead of “How was your day?”

What made you laugh out loud today?

This might sound like a silly question, but more than likely it will lead to sharing a story, whether it’s to provide context or explain what happened. Out of this you might learn more about your partner, [increasing your connection](#).

If your day was a meal/song/color, what would it be and why?

Here’s another question you can have fun with, but that can give you insight into the flow of each other’s day

What gave you a sense of accomplishment today?

Sure, you might find out about a big work project or the third day in a row of hitting their step goal, but the conversation might take a deeper dive as well. Maybe they don’t know how to answer because they’ve been [struggling](#) with balancing work and home responsibilities, and that’s okay. The goal is to have a more meaningful conversation or at the very least give yourselves the opportunity for one.

How would you like today to end?

Maybe their day was so busy they didn’t have a spare moment to catch their breath, and now all they need is some quiet time to relax. Maybe it was a bad day and they just want to leave it all behind them and play games with the kids. Either way, it gives them an opportunity to tell you exactly what they need – and an opportunity for you to help make it happen.

What did you learn today?

Sure, this might sound more like something you’d ask your kids after school, but hey, we adults learn new things, too! Maybe it’s an interesting factoid from that new podcast they’re listening to. Or perhaps they learned they shouldn’t stay up so late reading (they were *dragging* today) or to always make sure the blender cover is on tight. Whatever it is, you can hopefully also learn something new about each other.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

St. Nicholas Church has a convenient way to make your regular offerings. With our electronic giving program, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule. It provides a much-needed consistency for our church. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, our church will continue to receive your contributions on an uninterrupted basis. To become an electronic giver, call or visit the church office or our website: stnickparish.org.

What’s Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 a.m., Mass: Cecil Mary Soller, Church

TUESDAY, September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 a.m., Mass: John A. Rock, anniversary, Church

WEDNESDAY, September 16, SS. Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop

9:00 a.m., School Mass: Gene Ehleiter, birthday, Church

THURSDAY, September 17, St. Robert Bellarmine

8:00 a.m., Mass: Celestial Tan, birthday, Church

FRIDAY, September 18

8:00 a.m., Mass: Clara Shumate, Church

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, September 19, St. St. Januarius of Mary

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church

5:15 p.m., Mass: June Shawger, Church

SUNDAY, September 20

8:15 a.m., Mass: Bertha Haren, Church

10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

Readings for Week of September 14

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Mon. | Nm 21:4b-9 | Jn 3:13-17 |
| Tues. | 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a | Jn 19:25-27 |
| Wed | 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 | Lk 7:31-35 |
| Thurs. | 1 Cor 15:1-11 | Lk 7:36-50 |
| Fri. | 1 Cor 15:12-20 | Lk 8:1-3 |
| Sat. | 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 | Lk 8:4-15 |
| Sun | Is 55:6-9 | Mt 20:1-16a |

Our thoughts and prayers remain with those serving our country currently and with their loved ones at home. We pray for a safe homecoming and that the world may one day be at peace.

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. NICHOLAS PARISH IN YOUR WILL. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 453-0597 FOR MORE DETAILS.

St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel is open to pray the Rosary on Monday at 2:00 p.m. for anyone who would like to participate.