

October/November  
2020

(Ordinary  
Time/Advent)



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# The Memorare

Volume 1, Issue 4

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The bi-monthly newsletter of the Parishes of  
St. Bernard of Clairvaux and  
St. Mary of the Assumption – Akron, Ohio  
*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never  
was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession, was  
left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly to you,  
O virgin of virgins, our Mother. To you do we come,  
before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of  
the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in  
your mercy, hear and answer us.*  
(attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux)



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## A Word from Father Chris

**SO, WHAT DO I ACTUALLY DO WITH MY VOTES?** We are getting into crunch time and in my experience, there are four categories that we all fall into at this point in the elections season. Here are my pastoral pointers for what to do about the place that you are in with any of your votes, especially your presidential one.

Category 1: I knew who I was going to vote for months ago. For some of us, the choice has never really been puzzling. We knew which candidate to vote for as soon as candidates announced their candidacy. It is a good time to pray about that choice and make sure it is the right one. Ask God to confirm it. It is also a good time to look into the other parties and see what all the choices really are and make sure that there isn't another option to take in this or in future elections. It is a time to be compassionate and understanding about those of us who are undecided with our votes.

Category 2: I believe in most of this candidates' positions, but I find him to be against Life! Believe it or not, regarding the two major candidates for USA President, I have heard this from a number of you and from folks on all sides and even in the middle of the political spectrum! One candidate may be in favor of "Pro-Life" judges and policies of a similar nature but treats people in a very negative, disrespectful and anti-life way. Another candidate may make a solemn vow to "make Roe V. Wade the law of the land," but also has policies aimed at helping people living in the middle of birth and natural death. Franciscan Father Jack Clark Robinson, OFM, points out in his September 20, 2020 article on this topic: 1) A well-formed Catholic conscience must take into account all of these things: *Respecting Human Life* including opposition to abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty, as a "preeminent priority," *Promoting Peace Marriage and Family Life, Religious Freedom, Preferential Option for the Poor, Economic Justice* putting people before profits; *Health Care, Migration* which includes welcoming the stranger; *Catholic Education* not alone of children, but recognizing the responsibility of leaders to educate by actions in accord with Catholic values; *Promoting Justice and Countering Violence, Combating Unjust Discrimination, Care for our Common Home* meaning that we are all responsible for the environment; *Communications, Media, and Culture* indicating that all those in leadership must help maintain civil discourse and uplift others by what they do and say, and *Global Solidarity* so as to recall that we are called to cooperate with those struggling for the good all around the world and not be focused on ourselves alone. 2) (Probably) no one party, no one candidate will ever be in complete accord with Catholic social and moral teaching 3) Pope Benedict XVI's statement when he was the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: "*When a Catholic does not share a candidate's stand*

*in favor of abortion and/or euthanasia but votes for that candidate for other reasons, it is considered remote material cooperation, which can be permitted in the presence of proportionate reasons.”* In other words, abortion, which is an unspeakable evil in that it is the taking of the most innocent of human lives, must always be considered a most serious sin, (and primary among the issues) but the mere fact that a candidate would permit the laws allowing abortion to remain cannot be considered alone...”

Category 3: Abortion or one issue alone is how I am going to decide: We have to be aware of all of the stakes and all of the issues and the bishops encourage us not to be one-issue voters, but for some of us it really just boils down to one important thing. If after investigating all of the arguments of the candidates, looking into the signs of the times, discussing with the Lord Jesus and Mother Mary the difficulty of this whole moment and political situation, you find one issue to be the tipping point for you in your discernment, then perhaps that is where God and your conscience are guiding you. We need to respect this about each other and the difficulty we are faced with when casting our votes.

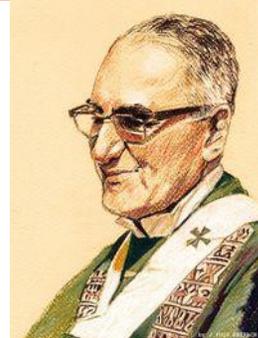
Category 4: I am Undecided, don't like either of the two major tickets and I am not sure how to decide. Read the “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” document online, published by the bishops of our country. Really look into the policies and promises each candidate is making and how they have kept their promises in the past. Ask yourself how each candidate will respond in the future to factors and situations unknown to all of us. Pretend you go before God's judgment of you today based on this choice; what did you choose and feel okay with? Pretend you are counseling someone who is just like you; what would you tell them? Ask for God to show you not just the person to vote for, but how to see your vote as a force to make a difference in the world. How can all of us use this power of influence in voting even if we do not much personally agree with the style or other qualities of the candidates we have the chance to vote for? It is possible that casting a vote even for a non-major party candidate could be the way to make this statement and difference. It could be that choosing a major candidate that we don't totally agree with could be the way to move the country, city, etc. in the directions that we do agree with.

All of Us: **YOUR VOTE MATTERS! EACH OF US NEEDS TO DO OUR RESEARCH! EACH OF US NEEDS TO PRAY OUR DILIGENT PRAYERS AND SEE THIS AS A TIME TO EFFECT CHANGE IN OUR WORLD! WE MUST VOTE!!!** Through the intercession of all the saints who have made difficult choices, may God lead us to a correct and peaceful resolution and decision. In the words of our new Bishop Malesic, “Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide your decision, having before all else the desire to secure the common good for our nation and to do God's will in all things.” God bless us, save us, and guide our voting!!! – Father Chris

### Catholic Quote

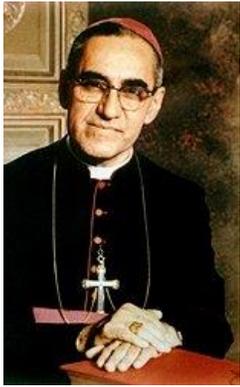
***“When we struggle for human rights, for freedom, for dignity, when we feel that it is a ministry of the church to concern itself for those who are hungry, for those who have no schools, for those who are deprived, we are not departing from God's promise. He comes to free us from sin, and the church knows that sin's consequences are all such injustices and abuses. The church knows it is saving the world when it undertakes to speak also of such things.”***

**Saint Oscar Romero, Saint Who Made Many Difficult Choices**



### Shrine to St. Óscar Romero – by Simon Monsour, St. Bernard

Hello! My name is Simon Monsour. Along with my parents, Dave and Marie, and my nine brothers and sisters (my oldest brother, James, has entered the Benedictine monastery in Oklahoma), I attend St. Bernard Parish and am an altar server. I am also an Eagle Scout candidate.



For these past few years, I had been seeking ways in which I can use my required Eagle Scout Service Project to benefit St. Bernard. After speaking with our pastor, Father Chris, and with certain members of Parish Council, I decided to create an outdoor Shrine to St. Óscar Romero.

I made this choice for a number of reasons, the most important of which is to provide a focus of devotion for the Hispanic community of St. Bernard.

The Shrine will be located in the area around the Peace Pole (to your right as you drive into the parish parking lot). It will include a central image of St. Óscar Romero, and an abundance of new flowers, ground cover, mulch, and stepping stones.

St. Óscar Romero was himself a Salvadoran and a defender of Human Rights. He was the Catholic Archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Salvador, El Salvador, and spoke out against poverty, social injustice, political assassinations and other Human Rights violations within the nation's anti-Catholic government. He also gave a great amount of attention and help to the poor and marginalized members of his community at the expense of his own reputation with the powerful. Archbishop Romero was assassinated while delivering a homily admonishing the Salvadoran soldiers to stop carrying out the government's repression and violations of basic Human Rights.

Today, St. Óscar is remembered as a courageous champion of Hispanic people, and beyond that, as a shining beacon of living out Catholic ideals for all of us. His bravery in standing against the El Salvadoran government was admired worldwide for years to come, even so much as to warrant an official apology from the government of El Salvador itself 30 years later. St. Óscar was canonized on October 14, 2018. Truly, St. Óscar's martyrdom is a prime example of the self-sacrificial virtue and fortitude that all Catholics, and indeed, all Christians, ought to strive for.

St. Óscar Romero, pray for us!

### Did You Know?

Father Chris recently expanded the Confession, Adoration, and Mass schedules:

<b>Masses</b>	Monday-Friday, 12:10 PM	St. Bernard
	Legal Holidays, 9:30 AM	TBA; check bulletin
	Saturday, 4:30 PM	St. Bernard
	Sunday, 9 AM	St. Mary
	Sunday, 10 AM	St. Bernard
	Sunday, 12 PM	St. Bernard (español)
	Sunday, 8 PM	St. Bernard
	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 9 PM	St. Bernard (Bilingual)
	Sunday, 10 AM and 12 PM, broadcast on the parishes' Facebook pages	<a href="http://www.stbernardakron.org">www.stbernardakron.org</a> <a href="http://www.stmaryakron.org">www.stmaryakron.org</a>
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturday, 3 PM to 4 PM	St. Bernard
	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	St. Bernard
	By Appointment	Call 330-253-5161
<b>Adoration/Confession</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday, 7 PM to 8 PM (Adoro Te Devote)	St. Bernard

**Don't put off the opportunity to be reconciled with God, or to experience the grace of Mass! No one \*ever\* regrets being forgiven and absolved in Confession, spending time with Christ in Adoration, or wishes they hadn't attended Mass! And bring a friend – don't keep Jesus to yourself!**

We also recently have added Seminarian Connor Hetzel, Deacon Candidate Mike Costantini and long-time parishioner of both parishes Claire Lushbaugh onto our Parish Staff. See next week's bulletin to learn more about them!

### ***Serve the Lord with Gladness! (Bishop Malesic's Motto)***

***"Listen to your heart,  
the place where God speaks to you; listen carefully,  
because he is calling each of you by name.***

***God has a plan for you.***

***You are on this planet at this time for a reason.  
Don't stop searching until you find God's will for you.  
He is calling you to a life of holiness, to discipleship,  
to service and to do something special for him.  
Follow Jesus. He will show you the way."***



***– Bishop Edward Malesic, from his homily at his installation  
as 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Cleveland, September 14, 2020.***

### ***The Crusaders Corner – by Kristan Heller, Distance Learning Director and Computer Teacher, St. Mary School***

I have had quite the year to begin at St. Mary School. I have been busy since July working with the technology team at St. Mary School to ready the faculty, students, and parents for this 2020-2021 school year. This year thus far, we are offering a hybrid educational environment. Families were able to choose to learn in person or remotely from home. Approximately 30% of our families have chosen to learn remotely. Dr. Nugent and I have applied for several grants to enable to school to purchase new devices to make it easier for our students to learn online. Presently, grades 6-8 students are using Chromebooks, 5th grade is using laptops and grades K-4 are using iPads to connect with their classes. We are hoping additional grant monies will be awarded to enable St. Mary School to provide the very best technology available for all of our students K-8.



The teachers have learned so many new skills in order to enable the hybrid educational environment. They have become Google Classroom experts, camera operators, video editors, not to mention experts in numerous virtual learning websites. Teachers are working two full-time jobs as they teach the St. Mary School community both in-person on campus and off-campus remote students during the day. Then teachers continue to meet with students and parents in the evening hours to connect with remote students and families to meet their needs. Teachers, students, and parents are all working together to make sure the very best possible educational environment is available in these challenging times.

We look forward to the days where teachers and all students are reunited inside the walls of our school. Until then, the faculty of St. Mary School is dedicating all of their hearts to make sure the students are receiving the best possible education St. Mary School can offer. ***Please pray for our teachers and students at St. Mary School!***

## **Love & Responsibility – Discovering God’s Plan for Identity & Selfless Love** **By Emma Jo Powers, Newman Center**

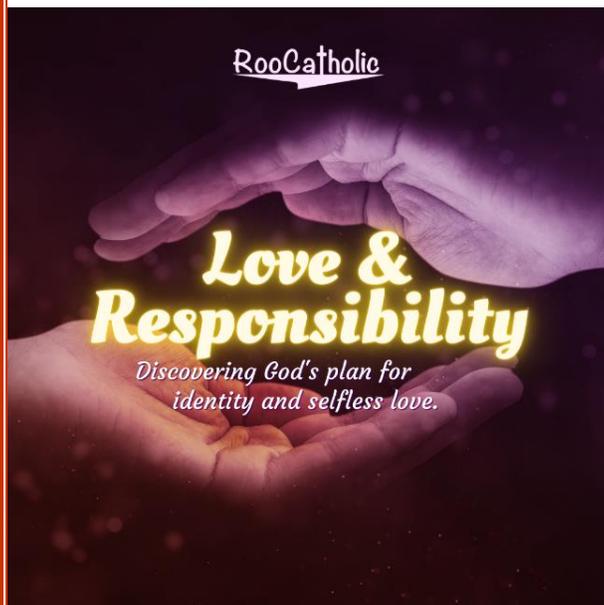
Hi, my name is Emma Jo Powers and I’m studying Early Childhood Education and Spanish at the University of Akron. My home parish is St. Francis de Sales in Akron. Over the summer, I had a lot of time for reading and self-reflection. My parents are devout Catholics and have an extensive collection of Catholic literature, so I simply picked one off the bookshelf and started to read. Little did I know at the time that this one book would radically change my life. The book was *Men, Women, and the Mystery of Love: Practical Insights from John Paul II’s Love and Responsibility*.

In this book, Dr. Edward Sri sheds light on the dynamics between men and women, including friendship, attraction, the role of emotions, relationships, love, sexuality, chastity, and ultimately *why* and *how* God created us for love. Especially as a young person living in a culture characterized by self-centeredness and broken relationships, it can be very challenging to find the truth amidst the lies. For me, this book had all the answers to my toughest questions regarding friendships and romantic relationships! I wish I’d known about it sooner!

After reading *Men, Women, and the Mystery of Love*, the Lord put it on my heart that this was something I needed to share with other young people, so I presented the book to the rest of the RooCatholic leadership team. They too felt that this information must be shared! We designated two of our Wednesday Night Gatherings to the topic of Love & Responsibility and Theology of the Body. My friend Philip Mernagh – a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Nursing student from St. Mary Parish, (*and St. Mary Organist*) and fellow leadership team member – felt

that a topic of this magnitude deserved further discussion, so together we created an 8-week study hosted by RooCatholic which we named *Love & Responsibility: Discovering God’s plan for identity and selfless love*. Starting Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, we’ll meet each week to explore a new chapter of Dr. Sri’s book, learning more about our vocation to love, whether that be through the single life, married life, religious life, or the priesthood.

All college-age individuals are welcome to join us on Tuesdays from 6:45 PM to 7:45 PM, whether in person in the Newman Center or virtually through Google Meet at the following link: <https://meet.google.com/wfd-xoco-dac>. If you have any questions about the study or would like to learn more about RooCatholic, please email us at [akron@roocatholic.com](mailto:akron@roocatholic.com). Thanks!



## **Moving Forward in Faith – by Jack Kearns, John Kearns & Associates, Inc.**

By the time you receive *The Memorare*, you will have seen or heard about the St. Bernard Moving Forward in Faith Capital Campaign. The objective of our capital campaign is to help fund the restoration of our historic church. Making the necessary improvements and updates to our church will allow us to continue the work started here so many years ago, while also building on the foundation laid by those good and faithful parishioners, who have now gone before us. From generation to generation, St. Bernard parishioners have responded to the challenges of their time with generosity, humility, and passion.

The capital campaign for St. Bernard's is based on the fundamental belief that the act of giving of one's personal financial resources is an act of gratitude and of faith in God. It is an act of gratitude for the many gifts God continually bestows upon our lives. It is an act of faith, because it involves becoming vulnerable when we trust that God will continue to sustain us when we give a portion of our material gifts away.

We have already started the process of reaching out to the St. Bernard Parish family, and many activities are already scheduled for the month of October. Our drive is being conducted through a **Phased Approach**, and campaign meetings are limited to a set number of people. This will allow us to follow proper social distancing recommendations and ensure the implementation of additional health and safety measures.



**All parishioners can participate in this campaign through the following:**

**PRAYER** – Through our prayerful voices, we ask God for His guidance going forward with our individual sacrifices to be made, and vision to accept the blessings that come. Please pray for the success of our campaign.

**VOLUNTEER** – When you are asked to help, please do so if you can. We will have several teams working on many specific projects that need your helping hand. This campaign is for the benefit of everyone and we will not succeed if we don't all work together.

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING** – Everyone can give equally to God, not in actual dollars, but in equal sacrifice. Please prayerfully consider your financial pledge after receiving your informational packet and please remember that we will be asking for **equal sacrifice, not equal giving**.

### **Grounds Stewardship – by Fred Kramer, St. Bernard**

The Knights of Columbus have been caring for the grounds at St. Bernard for a number of years. At first glance, there doesn't seem to be much green space with which to work. But if you think about it, there are flower beds on the State Street, Broadway, University Avenue, and High Street sides surrounding the church – in fact, the entire outline of the church block. It is a particular challenge, since the University Avenue and State Street sides are very steep. It really creates a workout for those of us with crunchy knees and ankles!

Twice yearly, the Knights get together for general landscaping and clean up of these beds, in Spring and in the Fall. The Knights purchase flowers, mulch, and whatever else is called for to keep the outside of the church and rectory as beautiful as the inside. Our hope is that our work creates a welcoming atmosphere that will please visitors and our own parishioners and priests – and that it contributes to the glory of God.

If you are interested in helping, Don Zehner is in charge of the project in his office as community director for the Knights. We appreciate any helping hands or landscaping donations. Our next gardening day is planned for November 7, and the time (usually starting at 9 AM) will be announced in the bulletin.

And as always, any practicing Catholic man at least 18 years of age of St. Mary or St. Bernard Parishes who is interested in joining the Knights may contact Dave Klein or any Knight of our Council for more information. We welcome you, and you will have the satisfaction of serving and supporting our Church and St. Mary and St. Bernard parishes with other faithful men in a practical and spiritual way, as well as having the opportunity for insurance benefits through the Order. **Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, who will be beatified October 31, pray for us!**

**Forward in Faith – Important Dates to Save**  
**ALL MEETINGS WILL OBSERVE PROPER SAFETY PROTOCOLS!**

<b>October</b>	October 5	Beginning of Public Phase of St. Bernard <b>“Forward in Faith”</b> campaign to raise money for our restoration and building
	October 8 – 7 PM	Adult Faith Formation – <b>St. Bernard Parish Hall</b>
	October 10/11	First In-Pew & Online Appeal for <b>Forward in Faith</b> – <b>St. Bernard Church</b>
	October 16 – 7 PM	First of <b>Forward in Faith</b> Music Recitals in person and online – <b>St. Bernard Church</b>
	October 18	St. Mary Council & Campaign Meeting - <b>St. Mary Church after 9 AM Mass</b>
	October 18 – After 9 AM Mass-1 PM	Our Lady of Fatima Procession, Rosary, and Mini-Festival – <b>St. Mary Church</b>
	October 20 – 7 PM	Bible Study – <b>St. Bernard History Room</b>
	October 22 – 7 PM	Adult Faith Formation – <b>St. Bernard Parish Hall</b>
	October 23 – 7 PM	Movie Showing <b>“Sister: The Story of Sr. Catherine Walsh”</b> – <b>St. Bernard Parish Hall – Sponsored by St. Mary Church</b>
	October 24 & 25	<b>Welcome October:</b> Open Invitations to Each Parish’s Groups & Committees
<b>November</b>	<b>All Month</b>	<b>Moving Forward in Faith Live Concerts! See bulletin and website</b>
	November 5 – 7 PM	Adult Faith Formation – <b>St. Bernard Parish Hall</b>
	November 7	Gardening Day at St. Bernard ( <i>Time TBA</i> )
	November 9 – 7 PM	Bible Study – <b>St. Bernard History Room</b>
	November 14 & 15	<b>Moving Forward in Faith</b> In-Pew Appeals at St. Bernard
	November 19 – 7 PM	Adult Faith Formation – <b>St. Bernard Parish Hall</b>
	November 23 – 7 pm	Bible Study – <b>St. Bernard History Room</b>
	November 26 – 9:30 AM	Thanksgiving Day Mass – <b>St. Bernard Church</b>
	November 29	First Sunday of Advent



**“I die the King’s good servant, and God’s first.”**

– *final words of St. Thomas More (1478-1535), Third Order Franciscan, devout Catholic, and patron saint of politicians, lawyers, judges, civil servants, and ethical politics. St. Thomas served his king and country as a lawyer, social philosopher, author, statesman, and noted Renaissance humanist. He was also a devoted family man, and ensured his daughters, in addition to his sons, received an excellent education, which was not the practice of the time. He was named Lord High Chancellor of England by King Henry VIII from 1529 to 1532. He was imprisoned as a result of his refusal to recognize King Henry’s divorce of Queen Catherine of Aragon, and the king’s subsequent marriage to Anne Boleyn, as well as Henry’s naming himself as head of the Church of England in defiance of the Pope. St. Thomas was beheaded by King Henry VIII of England for his defense of the Church, the Pope, and Sacramental Catholic marriage.*