

St Brigid & St Patrick

March 21, 2021

PO Box 280
Cavalier ND 58220
Phone: 701-265-8877

Understand Your Catholic Faith, or Lose It
(Understand Your Faith, or You Will Abandon It)



Our *principal focus* in this article is that: we **must understand** our Catholic faith, or risk the prospect of losing it. Recall the *parable of the sower* as described by Our Lord in the *Gospel of St. Matthew*. The sower went out to sow his seed. It was all good seed. But it was not all good ground on which the seed fell. When the disciples asked Jesus to explain the parable, He told them, “*When anyone hears the words of the Kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart.*”

There we have it! It is both that *simple and* that *tragic*. The revealed truth has been sown into our hearts at baptism. But that was only the *beginning*. We must do everything in our power to understand what we believe. Otherwise *the devil* will come along and **steal** the faith from our hearts. What do we mean by *understanding* the faith? We mean growing in **our grasp** of what we believe.

Never in the history of our nation has there been such a loss of Catholics leaving the Church as in our generation. A single large diocese in the *Midwest* reports a drop of *ninety percent* in attendance at Sunday Mass. Under God, *someone had better* diagnose this religious **epidemic**. The root cause is that so many once believing Catholics have given up their fidelity to the one true Church because they have not understood the precious treasure of their faith.

We could here begin not just another article, but a two-year *series of lectures* on the dissemination of *error* among professed Catholics. All that we have said so far stands. Countless once believing Catholics have abandoned their faith because they did **not** understand what they presumably believed. What we *dare not ignore* is the widespread dissemination of *untruth*, masked in Catholic vocabulary, which has penetrated our culture.

There is a second parable in the same chapter of *St. Matthew's Gospel* about the sowing of seed. It is worth quoting in full: “*The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men were asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. And when the blade sprang up and brought forth fruit, then the weeds appeared as well. And the servants of the householder came and said to him, “Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?” He said to them, “An enemy has done this.” And the servants said to him, “Will you have us go and gather them up?” “No,” he said, “lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will say to the reapers: Gather up the weeds first and bind them in bundles to burn; but gather the wheat into my barn” (Mt 13:24-30).*

No doubt the basic reason for the massive drainage in American Catholicism is that so many academically educated Catholics had not grown up in the understanding of their faith. But there is a parallel cause for this mass exodus of Catholics in our nation. It is the sowing of the *weeds of untruth* and the *cockle* of pseudo-Catholicism in our society.

This sowing of error is one of the principal themes of St. Pope John Paul's encyclical *Splendor of Truth*. He condemns those who are claiming that the Church can only set down certain moral intentions or generalities. They **deny** that divine revelation and the Church's teaching include specific moral imperatives. Such interpretation is incompatible with Catholic moral doctrine. The Pope asks, “*what are some professedly Catholic moralists saying about the Church's teaching on sexual and marital ethics.*” They are **claiming** that each person is to decide for himself what is right or wrong regarding: *contraception, sterilization, homosexuality, masturbation, pre-marital sexual relations, artificial insemination*. They are defending *abortion*. The result of this moral iconoclasm is to reject even the constant moral teaching of the Catholic Church since **apostolic times**.

Is it *any wonder* that so many Catholics have given up their faith? The wonder is that there are still Catholics who remain faithful to the teachings of Christ and the Church He founded. Our Holy Father speaks of countless consciences being blinded by the deluge of *error* that is flooding the modern world. The Vicar of Christ could not be more specific. He includes Catholic universities and seminaries among these sowers of error, with disastrous consequences in the lives of those who are supposed to be Catholics.

What is the **solution**? It is nothing less than an organized effort to re-educate people in understanding their faith. This faith, we know, is no abstraction. It is the *truth revealed by God* who became man and who identified himself as the *Truth*. Christ tells us, “*If you abide in my word, you shall be my disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (Jn 8:31-32). As we grow in the understanding of our faith, we grow in our understanding of Jesus Christ. As we grow in understanding Him, we grow in our freedom to love Him with all our hearts and enjoy Him, already here on earth, with something of the **happiness** that awaits us in eternity.

(from *The Real Presence Association*)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)

Millie Laxdal, John Christianson, Pauline Dusek, Patricia Rodvold, Jane Zidon, Marla Zidon, Rex Grill, Heidi Gustafson, Adriane Wellman, Isabelle Copeland, Tracy Letzring, Kelly Morrison, Jody Deibert, Allison Bleick, Dale Hultin, Bob McCartney, Lonnie Guderjahn, Susie Dimsha, Sherry McDonald, Shelbie Goodoien, Oliver Goodoien, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O'Toole, Ruth Rieger, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Mae Jackson, Carol Smith, Mary Louise, Bernard & Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Brett & Rick Letzring, Jane Grazadzieleski, Rick Kilichowski, Donald Denault, Gary Olson, Fr. Finnestad, Joan Kerian

*(Please call the office (701-265-8877) or Deacon Keith (701-460-1051) if someone needs a visit and/or Holy Communion)

Family Faith Formation: We meet Wed, Mar 24th for final formal class of the year! High School is at St. Patrick.

ST PATRICK ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pray the Rosary: Sun at 8:00 AM. **Adoration with Confessions**: Sat at 8:00 AM. **More Confessions** : Sun 8:00 AM. **March Church Cleaners**: FRED & MARY T, AL & CHRISTL D, KARI PHELPS FAMILY. **Collection**: Clay & Jim (Mar 21); Dianne & Melissa (Mar 28). **Reader**: Jim (Mar). **Sanctuary Lamp**: Jim Cameron (Mar 21); Michael Dumas (Mar 28). **Sacristan**: Mary T (Mar 21); Duane (Mar 28). **Rosary**: Melissa (Mar 21); Mary T (Mar 28).

ST BRIGID ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray the Rosary: Sun at 10:00 AM. **Adoration with Confessions**: Wed & Fri at 11:00 AM; **More Confessions**: SAT. 4-5:00 PM, MON 5-5:15 PM. **March Church cleaners**: A-F. **Collection**: Kevin & Mitch (Mar 21); Michael & Val (Mar 28). **Readers** (Mar): Sat-Mike; Sun.-John-Francis. **Sanctuary Lamp**: Andy Wehseler (Mar 21); *Vacant* (Mar 28).

Stations of the Cross: every **Friday** during Lent at both churches at 5:30 pm (Deacon and Father will alternate)

Prayer for Our Country: every **Friday** at 6:00 pm at St. Brigid

Lenten regulations: All *Fridays* in Lent are obligatory days of complete abstinence (from meat) for all who have reached their 14th year.

St. Brigid Annual Fish Fry is back! March 26th, 4:30 pm—7:00 pm @ St. Brigid (take out only); Spread the word!

Annual Diocesan **God's Gift Appeal**: Letters from the diocese should have been mailed to you.

The **Knights of Columbus** invites your family to come to our *Good Friday Liturgy of The Lord's Passion* at 5:30 pm at *St. Brigid*. After the service, the **Knights** will serve a *simple soup supper* in the basement.

Preview of Holy Week Schedule: *Holy Thursday*: Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 5:30 pm @ St Brigid; *Good Friday*: Stations of the Cross and Confessions @ Noon @ St. Patrick; The Lord's Passion @ 5:30 pm @ St Brigid; *Holy Saturday*: Easter Vigil @ 8:30 pm @ St Brigid; *Easter Sunday*: 8:30 am @ St. Patrick; 10:30 am @ St. Brigid

Many blessings on **Amelia Seng** and **Isaac Nordstrom** for receiving the great Sacraments of *Confirmation* and first *Holy Communion* on *March 20th!*

Mon		Mar 22	5:15 pm	St Brigid	+David Volk
Tues		Mar 23	8:00 am	St Patrick	Christine O'Toole
Wed		Mar 24	Noon	St Brigid	+Janzen Peterson
Thur	<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	Mar 25	8:00 am	St Patrick	Landon Alex
Fri		Mar 26	Noon	St Brigid	Roger Maldonado
Sat		Mar 27	9:00 am	St Patrick	St Brigid & St Patrick Parish Members
			5:00 pm	St Brigid	+Duane Indridson
Sun	Palm Sunday	Mar 28	8:30 am	St Patrick	St Brigid & St Patrick Parish Members
			10:30 am	St Brigid	Miranda Miller

Stewardship (as of 3-14-21)	St Brigid	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
Adult Envelope	2050.00	245.00	<i>St Patrick's Care Collection March</i>		255.00
Plate	72.50	10.00	Cemetery		340.00
Weekly Total	2132.50	255.00	St Anthony Cemetery \$200.00		
Yearly Actual Total	23,204.50	9860.00	St Brigid Gods Gift Goal: \$23,485.48	1,825.00	
Monthly Envelope Building Fund	935.00	1,950.00	St Patrick Gods Gift Goal: \$9,103.15		740.00