

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
St Brigid & St Patrick
September 12, 2021

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Combatting The Seven Capital Sins

(A Series on: The Seven Sinful Tendencies)

Last week, we started to look at each individual capital sin, and how to combat it. We started with the capital sin of *pride*. Next up, in *part III of this series*, is the capital sin of **lust**.

The clearest teaching of our faith on the necessity of chastity for attaining *eternal life* is in Christ's sermon on the mount. He is telling his followers that the *Old Testament* prohibition of adultery is **not** enough. If we wish to reach heaven we must not only control our bodies, we must *master even our minds*. In order to gain eternal life, therefore, we must practice **chastity**, including *custody of the eyes* and modesty of our sense of touch. **Either** we practice chastity here on earth **or** we shall not reach heaven in the life to come.



We define **lust** as the inordinate desire for sexual pleasure. Let's make sure we know that the sin is the *inordinate* desire in sexual pleasure, **not** in the desire for sexual pleasure itself. As with *pride*, so with *lust*, the sin is in the inordinacy. Order is *the right means being taken to achieve a good end*. In the mind of God, does sexual pleasure have a good end? Indeed. Later on, we discuss gluttony. Gluttony is the *inordinate* desire for food and drink. Is it a sin to eat or drink? No. Now does eating and drinking have a good end? **Yes**, otherwise we wouldn't be here if we hadn't eaten for say, the last two weeks. So that just as with the preservation of the individual person, God has given us a desire for the preservation of the human race. So, the **right** use of sexual pleasure is a gift from God. What's the end? The reproduction of the human race. Is that the only end? No. There is also the fostering of the mutual love between husband and wife. But you **better add**: between husband and wife. So, the *inordinacy* is what determines lust. And, we are living as we know in the most sex-saturated society in human history. No question about it.

We had better be aware of the prevailing **heresy** of our age, and fight against it. Here is the heresy: "*We can do whatever we want in the area of sexuality, whether it's adultery, birth control, homosexuality, masturbation, fornication or premarital intercourse, sterilization, artificial insemination, or abortion; that any form of sex (hetero, homo, or auto) is good or evil depending on whether love is fully served.*"

Don't let the devil and our modern society **deceive** you. The truth is: without chastity there is no heavenly eternity. Christ tells us that we are His followers if we carry our daily **cross**. "*Enter by the narrow gate. For **wide** is the gate and **easy** is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter that way. How **narrow** the gate and **hard** the way that leads to life! And few there are who find it.*" (Matthew 7:13-14).

The *price of eternal life* is high. And the reason is because our fallen human nature is so naturally prone to **lust**. In order to master this tendency of our fallen humanity we must be ready to make any sacrifice which God demands of us. What makes it so difficult to preserve our **chastity** is that the world in which we live no longer believes that sexual pleasure, outside of marriage, is morally wrong. In fact it believes just the opposite.

Unless you believe that our behavior on earth is a condition for our happiness in eternity, why should anyone be concerned about sexual restraint or the practice of **chastity**? *St. Alphonsus Liguori* has written that, in his judgment, **most of the souls** in hell are there because of unrepentant sins against chastity. As we are speaking on the price of eternal life, it is worth reminding ourselves that the **alternative** is eternal death.

In our *sex-intoxicated culture*, the price of maintaining one's chastity is nothing less than a living martyrdom. Nothing less than **heroic** chastity is necessary, and the price of heroism is a deep faith, even at the **sacrifice** of one's life, in Christ's teaching that only the *pure of heart* shall see God.

Before we conclude, one thing should be made clear. Eternal life is not only heavenly beatitude with God. It is *fullness of life* which the believer possesses already **here and now** through participation in the life of God. If there is one thing that our Lord stresses in the Gospels: it is the joy that we are to experience, not only in heaven but also here on earth. Christ assured the happiness here and now, and not only in heaven later on, to all who **believe** in Him strongly enough *to take Him at His word*.

Only chaste people are happy people, no one else is. Our spiritual joy depends on our **chastity**. Of course this requires **sacrifice**. We may have to sacrifice friendships that are a danger to our virtue. We may have to give up many things that the world offers us as a substitute for the joy that only God can give. (excerpts from *The Real Presence Association*)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)

Stacey Rinde, Jack Peterson, Mason Palmiseno, Judy Hultin, Jim Dunnigan, Patty Durand, Lori Hill, 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, Susie Dimsha, Sherry McDonald, Shelbie Goodoien, Oliver Goodoien, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O'Toole, Ruth Rieger, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Carol Smith, Mary Louise, Bernard & Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Brett & Rick Letzring, Jane Grazadzieleski, Rick Kilichowski, Donald Denault, Gary Olson, Fr. Finnestad, Joan Kerian.

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. **Sep Church Cleaners:** Dianne, Ashley, Sean & Blanca. **Collection:** Sherry & Kari (Sep 12); Al & Scott (Sep 19). **Reader:** Nick Wild (Sep). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Lawrence O'Toole (Sep 12); Lawrence O'Toole (Sep 19). **Sacristan:** Duane (Sep 12); Scott (Sep 19). **Rosary:** Mary T (Sep 12); Mary S (Sep 19). **Breakfast:** Dianne, Reg & Leona (Oct 3); Kaci, Maynard & Lucy (Oct 17)

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. **Sep Church cleaners:** L-R. **Collection:** Michael & Val (Sep 12); Allan & Randy (Sep 19). **Readers** (Sep): Sat-Kevin; Sun-Trevor. **Rosary:** Larry C (Sep). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Larry Puppe (Sep 12); Mary Sandison (Sep 19).

Bishop Folda requests that we contact our federal legislators and urge them to keep the Hyde Amendment intact. The Hyde Amendment is a pro-life amendment which prevents the use of federal funds to pay for abortion. It has saved 60,000 lives per year. You can also visit this website: <https://www.notaxpayerabortion.com/>

Year of St. Joseph Prayer: "Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen"

St. Brigid Fall Dinner Is Back! Mark your calendars for *Sunday, Sep 26th* from *11:30 am to 2:00 pm* (take-out and delivery only this year). We have another great menu this year. Please **sign-up** to help!

Family Faith Formation begins on *Wednesday, Sep 29th!* If you did not receive an e-mail from Fr. Charles, please e-mail him!

For a program to help *Heal from Grief* after the loss of a spouse, call **Patty McMillan** at *265-8279* (program starts this Wednesday!).

To Honor Them: After the Saturday morning Mass at St. Patrick on September 18th, Fr. Charles and the Knights of Columbus will have a formal blessing of the St. Bernard Cemetery. In addition, we will erect a sign there which will establish that land as the "St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery." Join us if you can.



This week on "Formed"
Learn about **The Exaltation of the Cross** (feast Sep 14) & **St. John of Cupertino** (feast Sep 18)!
Sign-up at **formed.org**



Mon	St John Chrysostom	Sept 13	5:15 pm	St Brigid	Brian Sondeland
Tues	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Sept 14	8:00 am	St Patrick	JR Williams Family
Wed	Our Lady of Sorrows	Sept 15	Noon	St Brigid	+Duane Indridson
Thur	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	Sept 16	8:00 am	St Patrick	King Thaelke Family
Fri	St Robert Bellarmine	Sept 17	Noon	St Brigid	Everett DeMars
Sat		Sept 18	9:00 am	St Patrick	St Brigid & St Patrick Parishes
			5:00 pm	St Brigid	Holm & Salwei Families
Sun	Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sept 19	8:30 am	St Patrick	+George & Anna Chaput
			10:30 pm	St Brigid	St Brigid & St Patrick Parishes

Stewardship (as of 9-5-21)	St Brigid	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
<i>Adult Envelope</i>	2090.00	1160.00	<i>St Patrick's Care Collection Sept</i>		60.00
<i>Plate</i>	106.00	36.00	Cemetery	4,415.00	4,931.69
<i>Weekly Total</i>	2196.00	1196.00	St Anthony Cemetery \$1605.00		
<i>Yearly Actual Total</i>	83,890.26	32,234.46	St Brigid Gods Gift Goal: \$23,485.48	12,943.00	
<i>Monthly Envelope Building Fund</i>	2,407.00	3005.00	St Patrick Gods Gift Goal: \$9,103.15		6,204.00
<i>Assumption</i>	285.00	65.00	St Helen Cemetery \$2575.00		
St Patrick Sidewalk Final Cost: \$18,000	Collected so far	\$14,000	St Bernard Cemetery \$262.00		