

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Perhaps it is only when we are in the next life that children will learn how much their parents prayed and sacrificed for them. One mother who prayed a great deal for one of her children is St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine. She lived in Tagaste in North Africa which is called Algeria today. Monica and her husband Patricius had three children, Augustine, Navigius and Perpetua. Navigius was always a good son, and Perpetua became a nun and abbess. But Augustine was different. As a teenager he was influenced by the loose living of his companions. When studying in Carthage he decided to take a mistress. Augustine was, as we would say now, such a brat that he even once said to Monica his mother that there would be no problems between them if she gave up her faith! After that Monica was so desperate that she went to a bishop who advised her to be patient. He told her it would be impossible that a son over whom she had shed so many tears would perish and that he would soon return to the faith. From then on she stayed as close as possible to Augustine and she prayed and fasted for his conversion. When Augustine was 29 he moved to Rome to teach rhetoric and then he moved to Milan where he received a position teaching rhetoric. Monica moved to Milan after him. Augustine often heard Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, preaching and this is probably what sowed the seed of faith in his heart. All the prayers of his mother Monica for his conversion were now beginning to be heard after many years of seemingly being unheard. Augustine began to study the New Testament and especially Paul. He was close to being baptized but could not take a decisive step. His soul was crying out for conversion but his body said "no." "Lord make me chaste but not yet" describes Augustine at this stage.

The turning point came when one day Augustine read a passage from Rom 13:13-14 "put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires." Augustine described in his *Confessions* telling his mother that his struggle was over. She leaped for joy and understood that God had given Augustine more than she had begged. Augustine was baptized by Bishop Ambrose of Milan and he and Monica decided to return to North Africa. While waiting in Ostia, the port of Rome, to catch a boat back home, Monica said to Augustine, "I have no further delight in anything in this life...There was one thing for which I desired to linger a little while in this life, that I should see you a Catholic Christian before I died...Why am I still here?" Five days later Monica caught a fever and went into a coma and died after nine days. Augustine devotes many passages of his *Confessions* to his mother and all he owed her. Augustine went on to become a priest at the age of 36 and a bishop at the age of 41 and was Bishop of Hippo in North Africa

for 35 years. One example of the influence Augustine has on the Church is that in the Catechism of the Catholic Church there are more quotations from Augustine than from any other writer. And all of this due to the persistent prayer of his mother St. Monica. In the second reading (Rom 11:29-32) Paul writes about changing from disobedience to obedience and we can certainly see this in the life of St. Augustine.

The Canaanite woman in our Gospel today (Matt 15:21-28) reminds you of St. Monica. The woman was refused three times by Jesus before he granted her her request. The first time Jesus didn't answer her. The second refusal was when Jesus refused his disciples' request on her behalf. The third refusal was when Jesus said the children's food shouldn't be thrown to the dogs. By that Jesus meant it was not correct to give her, who was not a Jew, what was meant for the Jews. "Dogs" was a frequent description of Gentiles (non-Jews) at the time of Jesus. Finally, the fourth time, her plea was answered. Jesus said, "Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted." (Matt 15:28) And from that moment her daughter was well again. Like Monica who had received many refusals during almost twenty years of praying for Augustine's conversion, the Canaanite woman persisted in prayer before God. And her [persistent prayer](#) was answered.

We might well ask, "Why did Jesus not answer her prayer sooner? Why leave her in her agony for so long?" We don't have the answer to that question. Human [suffering](#) is a mystery and we don't have the full answer to it, only bits and pieces of the answer. However, maybe the following are some of the bits and pieces of the answer. Peter in his first letter tells us that our faith is proved through trials (1 Pet 1:6-7). Think of how Monica strengthened and matured during her nearly twenty years of prayer. If her prayer had been answered on the first day I am quite sure she would not have turned out to be nearly as fine a person as she eventually did. Another bit and piece of the answer is that we believe that for someone of faith all things eventually work together for the better. Paul in Rom 8:28 writes, "by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him."

As we endure trials let us have faith like the Canaanite woman and St. Monica. Let us not lose hope or give up but let us persist in prayer so that we too may hear the same words of Jesus, "You have great faith, let your wish be granted." (Matt 15:28)

St. Benedict the Moor Church



Our Mission

St. Benedict the Moor is a Catholic Christian Community that celebrates its African-American heritage and welcomes cultural diversity. Join us at the Table of the Eucharist as sisters and brothers in the Lord. We are committed to grow and diversify the Church through the new evangelization, family, catechesis, young adult ministry and outreach to the poor. In the spirit of the prophet Joshua, we can say:

"As for me and my household; we will serve the Lord."

August 16, 2020

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"O God, let all nations praise you!"

St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
Daily Masses: Mon.-Fri. 12:00 noon
Saturday: 8 am
Holy Days of Obligation:
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 pm
(Exceptions will be posted)
Sacrament of Penance: Divine Mercy
Room Saturday 8:30-9:30am
or by Appointment

Emergencies:
call Fr.Noel: 410-818-8149
Office: 706- 323-8300

Communications
Address: St. Benedict the Moor
2935 9th Street
Columbus, Georgia 31906

Pastor

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410-818-8149

Staff

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Director of Outreach
Beverly Casimier

Music Ministry
Mary Beth Kozee/Joe Saulsbury

Office Hours:

Pastor: Monday-Friday 10-11:30 am
1:00-3:00 pm

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Website

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Church

2930 Thomas Street
Columbus, GA 31906

Community Hall/Office

2935 9th St.
Columbus GA 31906

Altar Flowers

Flowers were donated in honor of
Deborah Thompson
and
Fr. Noel Danielewicz

by
Beverly Casimier



With prayers for a Happy Birthday!

Update



Fr. Noel was transferred to Piedmont North for rehabilitation. He needs physical and occupational therapy. His condition is still serious, there is still pneumonia in the lungs and cognitive skills have not completely returned to normal. Keep praying for continued improvement and total recovery.

Sunday Mass

Mass at St. Benedict will resume on Sunday, August 16, 2020. Priests from St. Anne will be celebrating Sunday Mass at the regular time of 10:30am each Sunday until Fr. Noel's return.

Back to School

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of education in every form. As our children start a new year, may confidence be their foundation, may grace be their guide and may hope be their compass toward a bright future. May they face each day with positivity knowing that no matter what comes their way, they do not have to face it alone.

Loving God, whose peace passes all our understanding, as we face this present pandemic, and experience fear and anxiety, may we hear your voice, bringing calm to the storms of our time, especially to our students and teachers. Amen

August Saints ~St. Pius X

Pope Pius X, born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto; 2 June 1835 - 20 August 1914) was head of the Catholic Church from August 1903 to his death in 1914. Pius X is known for vigorously opposing modernist interpretations of Catholic doctrine, promoting liturgical reforms and orthodox theology. He directed the production of the 1917 Code of Canon Law, the first comprehensive and systemic work of its kind. He is venerated as a saint in the Catholic Church, having been canonized May 29, 1954

Pius X promoted daily communion for all Catholics, a practice that was criticized for introducing irreverence. He placed a renewed **liturgical** emphasis on the **Eucharist**, saying, "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to Heaven." Pius X's devotion to the Eucharist would eventually earn him the honorific of "Pope of the Blessed Sacrament", by which he is still known among his devotees.

In 1910, he issued the decree *Quam singulari*, which changed the age at which communion could be received from 12 to 7 years old, the **age of discretion**.

Pope Pius X also declared tango dancing as immoral and off-limits to Catholics.

Thank You!

Thank you to Junius Julien for purchasing and planting the rose garden, etc. at the entrance of the Church. Thank you also to Sylvester Casimier for assisting. We appreciate your effort to help beautify and maintain the grounds of St. Benedict.

Website

Check out our new website at stbenedictthemoor.org thanks to Mik Cole and Fr. Noel. If you would like to post pictures or articles of Church activities (when we are once again able to schedule events) contact Mik Cole.

Stewardship Report

Week of Aug. 9, 2020	
Offertory envelopes	\$2610.00
On-line	2250.00
Utilities	90.00
On-line	150.00
Kitchen Renovation	225.00
Building Fund	65.00
Church Repair	80.00
On-line	200.00
Friars in Formation	50.00
Assumption	40.00
Repast	15.00
Poor Box	100.00

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READING 1 Is 56:1, 6-7

Thus says the LORD:
Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed.
The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
ministering to him,
loving the name of the LORD,
and becoming his servants—
all who keep the sabbath free from profanation
and hold to my covenant,
them I will bring to my holy mountain
and make joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar,
for my house shall be called
a house of prayer for all peoples.

READING Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

Brothers and sisters:
I am speaking to you Gentiles.
Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles,
I glory in my ministry in order to make my race
jealous and thus save some of them.
For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the
world, what will their acceptance be but life from the
dead?
For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.
Just as you once disobeyed God but have now
received mercy because of their disobedience,
so they have now disobeyed in order that,
by virtue of the mercy shown to you,
they too may now receive mercy.
For God delivered all to disobedience,
that he might have mercy upon all.

GOSPEL Mt 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

Food Distribution

Distribution of food for our community will continue every Thursday at 9:30am. We will be receiving food from "**Feeding the Valley.**" If you know someone in need, please get the word out. If you would like to volunteer, please call the office and let us know of your availability. Help us at St. Benedict to make a difference!

Special Collection

This week's special collection is for **Friars in Formation**. Please be generous in support of our Friars, who are in formation and education, as they are preparing for lives as professed religious men in the Church and for others who will also be ordained to the priesthood.

Their education and formation generally includes four years of college with a minor in philosophy. The Novitiate year which is like a "**religious boot camp,**" and a year of supervised ministry. For priesthood candidates attend four years of Theology which is equivalent to graduate school. Please support this collection in Fr. Noel's honor. Write **Friars in Formation** on the memo line of your check. May the Lord bless your generosity a hundred-fold.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our sick list is for parishioners, family and friends in need of prayer. Please keep our list current by calling the office to add or remove a name.

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Mittie Lewis
Sr. Agnes, fsma	Sr. Maximiliana, PC
Sr. Delores Anne, cssf	Fr. Jeremiah McCarthy
Helen Bell	Delores McLeod
Amanda Cole	Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
Mik Cole	Denvey Nelson
Robert Cole	Sr. Norberta, fsma
Robert Dozier	Cordell Parker
Bertha Gibbs	Gwendolyn Parker
Yvonne Gilberti	Debra Pough
Elizabeth Grey	Evelyn Pough
Ginnette Hughes	Marcus Ransom
Clarence Johnson	Lydia Sliva
Donald Julien	Madeline Smith
Paul Julien	Dorothy Stewart
Elvia King	Friar Jude Winkler
Michael King	
Lenny Korona	
Ida Ruth Lane	

