

## **From the Pastor—October 11, 2020**

**Looking to the Church** A Gospel passage from daily Mass this week caught my attention. It is from Luke, and it is where Our Lord speaks of a strong man who guards his possessions. But then a stronger man comes and plunders his possessions. The stronger man is none other than Jesus himself. He comes, in the context of the passage, to push the strong man, the Evil One or the Devil, out of the way. Jesus comes to save us and gives to us the strength of the strongest man of all, himself. I think this passage speaks to our time of how we need to focus upon Jesus as truly being in control. The grave uncertainties that we face must be faced with the help of Christ Our Lord. I just wanted to jot this to you as a help to your journey. \*\*\* Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. Stay well, stay strong, in Christ!

**Spiritually Starving—No. 16** Here are paragraphs 1349 to 1352 from the Catechism: *The Liturgy of the Word includes "the writings of the prophets," that is, the Old Testament, and "the memoirs of the apostles" (their letters and the Gospels). After the homily, which is an exhortation to accept this Word as what it truly is, the Word of God, and to put it into practice, come the intercessions for all men, according to the Apostle's words: "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings, and all who are in high positions."*

*At the presentation of the offerings (the Offertory), sometimes in procession, the bread and wine are brought to the altar; they will be offered by the priest in the name of Christ in the Eucharistic sacrifice in which they will become his body and blood. It is the very action of Christ at the Last Supper - "taking the bread and a cup." "The Church alone offers this pure oblation to the Creator, when she offers what comes forth from his creation with thanksgiving." The presentation of the offerings at the altar takes up the gesture of Melchizedek and commits the Creator's gifts into the hands of Christ who, in his sacrifice, brings to perfection all human attempts to offer sacrifices.*

*From the very beginning Christians have brought, along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist, gifts to share with those in need. This custom of the collection, ever appropriate, is inspired by the example of Christ who became poor to make us rich: "Those who are well off, and who are also willing, give as each chooses. What is gathered is given to him who presides to assist orphans and widows, those whom illness or any other cause has deprived of resources, prisoners, immigrants and, in a word, all who are in need."*

The description this week of the Liturgy of the Word and of the Offertory are truly beautiful. We see that the Word of God has been a part of the Mass since ancient times. The readings we now know as being biblical were at first referred to as the "memoirs of the apostles". That makes sense, doesn't it? The memories of the apostles about all that Jesus said and did and taught is what we rely upon to this day to know Our Lord better.

The Offertory is perhaps an under-appreciated part of the Mass. I remember my family as a child being kind of shy about taking up the gifts; we felt uncomfortable with all looking at us. But I think we would have understood the action better if we had had this Catechism paragraph to teach us. I hope that your family, when we are able to again, is willing to bring forward the gifts.

Finally, the Church has always had an offering for the poor as a part of our tradition. This is truly a beautiful way, to this day, that we can help those who are less fortunate than

ourselves.

I hope to continue these Catechism paragraphs and commentary into the future. My commentary is in regular print, while the precise text of the Catechism is italicized.

**Parish Social** We were blessed with a great day to gather for a St. Mary's parish social last Sunday at the home of Keith and Julie Wasem. Many members of our congregation joined for several hours of community. I want to thank all who helped in the planning and operation of this event.

**Pro-Life** Our Hamilton County Life Chain gathered last Sunday at 13<sup>th</sup> and Q Streets in Aurora. We had about 20 participants. Thank you if you united with us in prayer from your home. One of our parishioners noted the count of positive and negative feedback from the passersby. By his count, 55 passing cars gave us a thumbs-up or a friendly wave compared to only 2 who showed non-support. I think this shows that most people in our part of the State realize that abortion is intrinsically always wrong. Hopefully, through prayer and our public witness, some hearts were softened toward the little ones in the wombs of their mothers, to love them and bring them to birth so that the world may love these children. We love their mothers and fathers, too, if they would allow us to accompany them through the sometimes-difficult work of parenthood.

**5 Million Rosaries** "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace." **Our Lady of Fatima, July 13th, 1917.** The World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, in union with its international member nations, welcomes you to Our Lady of Fatima's spiritual bouquet – World Rosary 2020. This spiritual bouquet of prayers and sacrifices is being offered for families, for life, for the Church and for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart. It is easy to join in. Just go to <https://www.bluearmy.com/worldrosary2020/> and fill out the form to enter your prayers and penances. Father Carlos Cabecinaas, rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, offered our first spiritual bouquet to Our Lady in the Chapel of Apparitions on May 13. The second spiritual bouquet will be offered October 13 in a solemn and beautiful ceremony. These will be offered at our Oct. 13 Mary-thon of Prayer from the National Blue Army Shrine during the Mass, and also at the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal, together with the offerings from all of our member nations and other organizations throughout the world. Please continue to log your offerings through October 13, 2020. *Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!*

**Spending the Lord's Day With You** Could I visit with St. Mary's or St. Joseph's parishioners for a one-hour visit? This could be at your home or in our parish hall. Please call, text, or e-mail me for the Sunday that works for you. Here are the dates/times to choose from:

October 11	5:00 p.m.
October 18	5:00 p.m.
October 25	5:00 p.m.

**God Bless You!!!**

**Father Grell**