

From the Pastor—November 15, 2020

Cemetery Records Caretaker Our parish of St. Joseph's is grieved by the unexpected death of Patrick Ormond. We pray for his soul. Patrick and his family have served for many years as caretakers of the records of plots and burials at St. Joseph Cemetery, i.e. the Giltner Catholic Cemetery. This includes going out in all kinds of weather to mark the graves for the gravediggers when a plot is needed for a burial. *** I foresee that some one person, or preferably a couple of people, are needed to volunteer for this honorable job of marking the graves. Perhaps another one or two persons could keep the records. Finally, having an electronic copy of records in the rectory here in Aurora is needed, as well as keeping in the St. Joseph Church a current map of the plots already purchased and the current burials. These tasks come under the **corporal and spiritual works of mercy to bury the dead and pray for the dead.** Those who volunteer would ideally make up a cemetery board of 3 to 4 people, who would meet occasionally with me and determine best practices and policies for our Catholic cemetery. In this month of November, when the universal Church bids us to consider the needs of prayer for the faithful departed, your volunteering and/or prayer for our Giltner cemetery's needs are greatly appreciated.

Two Plenary Indulgences

November offers plenary indulgences one can gain for a deceased family member or friend or the Poor Souls. A plenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted each and every day of November to those who devoutly visit a cemetery and there pray, if only mentally, for the departed. A plenary indulgence is granted the faithful who, on All Souls' Day or any day of November, devoutly visits a church or an oratory and recites an Our Father and the Creed. Requirements for obtaining a plenary indulgence include doing the work while in a state of grace, receiving sacramental confession within 20 days of the work (several plenary indulgences may be earned per reception), receiving Eucharistic communion (one plenary indulgence may be earned per reception), praying for the pope's intentions (Our Father and Hail Mary, or other appropriate prayer, is sufficient), having no attachment to sin (even venial) – i.e., it is sufficient that the Christian makes an act of the will to love God and despise sin. If the requirements are not fully fulfilled, the work becomes a partial indulgence. **Modified for Covid** These indulgences have been modified during Covid-19 pandemic to be effective throughout the entire month of November. The Plenary Indulgence for those who visit a cemetery and pray for the deceased, even if only mentally, normally established only on the individual days from 1 to 8 November, may be transferred to other days of the same month, until its end. These days, freely chosen by the individual believers, may also be separate from each other; the Plenary Indulgence of 2 November, established on the occasion of the Commemoration of all the deceased faithful for those who piously visit a church or oratory and recite the "Our Father" and the "Creed" there, may be transferred not only to the Sunday before or after or on the day of the Solemnity of All Saints, but also to another day of the month of November, freely chosen by the individual faithful.

For those who are homebound or restricted The elderly, the sick and all those who for serious reasons cannot leave their homes, for example because of restrictions imposed by the competent authority in this time of the pandemic, in order to prevent numerous faithful from crowding into the holy places, will be able to obtain the Plenary Indulgence as long as they join spiritually with all the other faithful, completely detached from sin and with the intention of complying as soon as possible with the three usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), before an image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary, recite pious prayers for the deceased, for example, Lauds and Vespers of the Office of the Dead, the Marian Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, other prayers for the deceased dearest to the faithful, or occupy themselves in considered reading of one of the Gospel passages proposed by the liturgy of the deceased, or perform a work of mercy by offering to God the sorrows and hardships of their own lives.

A Birthday Reflection From the Book of Tobit: *"Do to no one what you yourself dislike. Give to the hungry some of your bread, and to the naked some of your clothing. Seek counsel from every wise man. At all times bless the Lord God, and ask him to make all your paths straight and to grant success to all your endeavors and plans."*

On Wednesday, November 18, the Church celebrates the Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. Rose Philippine Duchesne! It is also my 52nd birthday! The reading above from Tobit is from the Liturgy of the Hours for Wednesday; here is how I can apply it to my birthday.

Our conscience is that power which helps us to make moral choices. Each of us has it within our ability to make a right judgment that is in accordance with reason and the divine law, or to depart from God's law and reason by making an erroneous judgment.

On Wednesday, as I complete my 52nd revolution around the Sun, I can think of times I have made good moral choices...and made erroneous ones. And, while I hope to have more of the former in however many more times my life intersects with the Earth's orbit passing the calendar date of November 18, I will probably have plenty of errors in judgment, too.

The Catechism says that the Holy Spirit and his gifts help us to discern the will of God expressed in divine law. We also can exercise the virtue of prudence and seek the advice of competent people, people who are proven to be striving for holiness. If this short reflection into moral theology is over your head, Tobit gives me a birthday message in plain language: "Do to no one what you yourself dislike." I will aim to live this out, as I thank God for the gift of life from my parents.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. Stay well, stay strong, in Christ!

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell