

Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020



St. Francis Xavier Church

151 Bridge St., Narrowsburg

Masses

Saturday	4:30pm
Sunday	8:30am
	11:00am
Daily (Tuesday-Friday)	8:30am
Holy Days of Obligation	As Announced

Confessions

By appointment ONLY

Our Lady of the Lake Church

Rt. 52, Lake Huntington

*Our Lady of the Lake Church
is closed for the winter season*

REV. DENNIS M. DINAN, PASTOR

ABBY RODDEN, PARISH SECRETARY

HOURS: TUESDAY-FRIDAY 10:00AM-3:00PM

Because of social distancing measures throughout New York State, the office will not be open for walk-ins until further notice.

Meetings over the phone with Fr. Dennis or Abby can be arranged in advance.

We can be reached by mail, email or phone during office hours.

TELEPHONE: (845) 252-6681

FAX: (845) 252-6519

WEB ADDRESSES: www.sfxnarrowsburg.com www.ollhuntington.com

EMAIL: sfxnarrowsburg@gmail.com

Dear Parish Family,

Have you heard of Jean-Pierre de Caussade? He was a French Jesuit priest and writer. He is especially known for the work ascribed to him published initially as *Abandonment to Divine Providence*. It was recently published with a new translation as *The Sacrament of the Present Moment*. I mention this for I am (slowly) reading *In the Grip of the Light: The Dark and Bright Journey of Christian Contemplation*, by Father Paul Murray, O.P., and de Caussade is quoted from the newer translation as he tells his readers:

Come, simple souls, without a trace of piety, talent or even the most elementary instruction or system, and with no understanding of spiritual matters, who are amazed and overwhelmed by the eloquence of the learned; come, I will show you how to outshine those clever scholars, and will set you so well on your way to perfection that you will always find it at your feet, over your head and all around you. I will unite you to God and you will be led by the hand if you do what I tell you. Come, not only to look at a map of the spiritual journey, but to possess it and walk in it without fear of losing your way. Come, not to study the history of God's divine action, but to be its object; not to learn what it has achieved throughout the centuries and still does, but simply to be the subject of its operation. There is no need to bother about what has been told to others; there are words for you alone.

I don't know what your first impression of that quote is, but what I heard de Caussade saying is that there are no fundamentals, no prerequisites, no amount of learning, no prior training, no experience in spirituality, no level of sanctity, no prior seeking of God necessary to find the Kingdom that Jesus claimed was "at hand," to enjoy the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus came to bring about eternal life and, to know that as Jesus says in today's gospel, "you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (Jn 14:20). De Caussade is claiming there is nothing standing in the way for anyone to live a Spiritual Life. This is like another way of saying what the Church stated in the Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium*, that there is a Universal Call to Holiness that excludes no one.

Some months ago, Pew Research Center released [a new study](#) explaining that 70% of U.S. Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. I wonder if a study looked at the effects of Baptism—specifically that we become members of the Body of Christ and that this originates the indwelling presence of God in the newly baptized—nothing different from what Jesus says above, what percentage would believe? Asking, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?" (1 Cor 6:19) is there any doubt what Saint Paul is asking? Or can his teaching that, "we hold this treasure in earthen vessels" (2 Cor: 4:7) mean anything else? What could be the difficulty in accepting this reality? I can see that it places an obligation on us to live out what we received. First, there would be the obligation to let Christ live and act in us for he says we are now "the light of the world ... [which] cannot be hidden" (Mt 5:14). The second would be an obligation to others: now being called *salt and light* such that this life we received "must shine before others, that they may see [our] good deeds and glorify [our] heavenly Father" (Mt 5:16) and of course be attracted to this life. Not so easy!

There is a passage in Saint Mark's Gospel (Saint Luke's too, cf. 9:23-26), just after Jesus rebukes Peter, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Mk 8:33), when Jesus called the crowd around him and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (8:34). Saint Luke adds, "daily," but either way, this becomes one of the essential aspects of discipleship. It is the "that without which" discipleship is impossible. Jesus is expecting a response from

us for realizing the treasure we have received. We hear him asking what Saint Francis Xavier was asked, "What could one give in exchange for his life?" (8:37). Like when I was returning to the Church I was to repeatedly hear these words of Jesus resound within me, "Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this faithless and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels" (Mk 8:38). I obviously knew there was a string attached

This frightened me! No, I was actually petrified, and not without reason! I was coming to understand that there was another essential aspect of discipleship, should we choose to accept it. Jesus was telling me that this was not to be a private affair. And, I had to respond to this personally, as if it was only meant for me. I was "of the world" at that time. These were my Wall Street years. I was working in a very prestigious company. I had status. I was well respected. I dressed as one of them. I mingled as one of them. Life was really OK! My attitude was basically, "Live and let live!" Now I was being asked to associate myself publicly with someone, the controversial Jesus, who could very easily upset all of that. I had been searching. I found what I was looking for. Jesus was the answer. I had no doubt! But, wasn't there a more painless, more subtle way of doing this? The only answer I ever received, was "If you are ashamed of Me ... I will be ashamed of you!" The problem was, "Yes, I was ashamed!" I knew it. It was very humbling for me to appear as a so called "sophisticated, blue pinned-stripe suit disciple." I was not being given any middle ground to work with. It was either take it or leave it. I could probably write a chapter of a book about the internal conflict this created in my heart and my mind for some time to come. I found it helpful to reflect on the Lord's words to Peter, "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Mk 8:33). Discipleship always means change. My task was: *Start thinking like God!*

Interestingly, thoughts of this came to mind during Pope Benedict's visit to New York in 2008. It's a clear reminder for me because last week I quoted the following part of his address to the U.S. Bishops,

In Christianity, there can be no room for purely private religion: Christ is the Savior of the world, and, as members of his Body and sharers in his prophetic, priestly and royal munera, we cannot separate our love for him from our commitment to the building up of the Church and the extension of his Kingdom. To the extent that religion becomes a purely private affair, it loses its very soul.

Sharing in Christ's *munera*, i.e. his mission, its functions and the call to continue it, by virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation, Pope Benedict told both Bishops and laity that we must engage our faith in the public square, they as leaders and the lay faithful to act as a "leaven" in society. He said that this was dependent on, "an integral, interior conversion to the law of Christ. [Otherwise] rather than being transformed and renewed in mind, Christians are easily tempted to conform themselves to the spirit of this age (cf. Rom 12:3)." This only results in Christians being like everybody else. This is unacceptable for a disciple of Christ.

I remember the Holy Father began his address to our young people at Saint Joseph's Seminary summoning them to "Proclaim the Lord Christ" and he continued with the words we find in our Second Reading from the *First Letter of Saint Peter*, "and always have your answer ready for people who ask the reason for the hope that is within you" (1 Pet 3:15). He ended his talk with the same sentiment, enveloped in a personal appeal to them,

What are you seeking? What is God whispering to you? The hope which never disappoints is Jesus Christ. The saints show us the selfless love of his way. As disciples of Christ, their extraordinary journeys unfolded within the

(Continued on last page of Bulletin)

SFX Weekly Sunday Collection

Our weekly collection for those attending Saint Francis Xavier Church is used for the day-to-day operation of the parish and its programs. You may set up a one-time or recurring donation to our parish.



[Make a Donation](#)

OLL Weekly Sunday Collection

Our weekly collection for those attending Our Lady of the Lake Church

[Make a Donation](#)

Repair & Maintenance

The Repair & Maintenance Collection is always the 2nd collection on the 1st Sunday of each month.



[Make a Donation](#)

Monthly Archdiocesan (Please Specify)

Archdiocesan Collection is always the 2nd collection on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

[Make a Donation](#)

Capital Improvements

The Capital Improvements Collection is always the 2nd collection on the 3rd Sunday of each month.



[Make a Donation](#)

Mass Intentions

The usual offerings for Mass Intentions called in or arranged with our Parish Office. These are generally \$15 for Masses in the archdiocese of New York.

[Make a Donation](#)

Mothers Day Novena

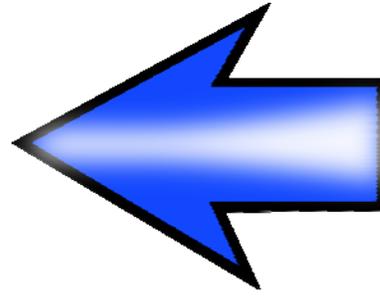
Usual free-will offering for Masses that will be said in the Month of May for our Mothers, living and deceased.



Fathers Day Novena

Usual free-will offering for Masses during the Month of June that will be said for our Fathers, living and deceased.

WeShare



We Share is now up and running so that you can make contributions to the church here at any time for the collections you've done in the past.

There are donation buttons for each weekend collection, Archdiocesan special collections, Mother's Day Intentions, and the Cardinal's Appeal, and more.

Fr. Dennis will be saying Mass for your Mother's Day intentions next weekend and throughout the month of May at available Masses. Please send them in via mail, email, or call the office.

To donate, please go to:

<https://sfxnarrowsburg.weshareonline.org/>

We realize these are difficult times for many, and we would like to thank those that are still able to support the church.



Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Narrowsburg, NY

With all public gatherings cancelled, I think you will agree how difficult it is, among other things, not to gather each weekend for Sunday Mass. Though we cannot gather in person, we are united with Christ in prayer. Know I am praying for you and your families.

In the meantime, as we face this health crisis together, I need to ask you for your continued, generous financial support for our parish. I encourage you to set up a recurring donation using our online giving platform as your donations are still needed. Will you make the commitment to support your parish during this unprecedented time through online giving today?

May God Protect and Bless You All,
God's Peace +

If you have already signed up to give a recurring gift online, thank you. If not, please sign up today. Your participation in supporting your parish is still needed!

- 1 Visit www.sfxnarrowsburg.com and click **Give Online**.
- 2 Select the collection of your choice.
- 3 Set up your donation amount, payment type, and frequency.

Once your account information is added, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

Please contact our office with questions at 845-252-6681.

Mass Intentions

Masses are NOT public at this time.

Saturday, May 16th

SFX 4:30pm - The Adams & Nolan Families
Requested by Christine Mary Faggione

Sunday, May 17th

SFX 8:30am - Our Parish Family
SFX 11:00am - All of My Friends & Family
Requested by A Friend

Monday, May 18th

NO MASS

Tuesday, May 19th

SFX 8:30am - Available or Mothers Day Intentions

Wednesday, May 20th

SFX 8:30am - Available or Mothers Day Intentions

Thursday, May 21st

Ascension of The Lord-Holyday of Obligation

SFX 8:30am - Theresa Soete Debelak
Requested by Helen Barr

Friday, May 22nd

SFX 8:30am - Available or Mothers Day Intentions

Saturday, May 23rd

SFX 4:30pm - Available or Mothers Day Intentions

Sunday, May 24th

SFX 8:30am - Available or Our Parish Family
SFX 11:00am - Barbara J. Walter
Requested by George Walter

Fr. Dennis will be saying Mass daily. Please mail, email, or call the office to request your Mass Intentions.



Please go to the following link and sign up for Flocknote! (Please use a cell number)

Flocknote allows parishioners to stay in touch and learn about important updates regarding the ongoing cancellations.

<https://signup.flocknote.com/>



Saint Francis Xavier, pray for us

READINGS



Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

Please Pray for our Parish Family

For the Sick: David Meyer, Ed Coates, Ella Dorothy Neidert, Dolly Marinelli, Elizabeth Stoddard

For the Deceased: Dorothy Schlegel, Peggy Lee Romano, Carmen T. Holstrom, Joseph Ramon Gonzalez, Andrew Kimmel, Grace Kimmel, Madeline LoBasso, Margaret Corkett, Joseph Barca, Emerson "Bucky" Misner, Maria Frangipane

For those Serving in the Military: Justin Warnick

community of hope, which is the Church. It is from within the Church that you too will find the courage and support to walk the way of the Lord. Nourished by personal prayer, prompted in silence, shaped by the Church's liturgy you will discover the particular vocation God has for you. Embrace it with joy. You are Christ's disciples today. Shine his light upon this great city and beyond. Show the world the reason for the hope that resonates within you. Tell others about the truth that sets you free. With these sentiments of great hope in you I bid you farewell, until we meet again....

Fortunately, the Legion of Mary played a significant role in my life. For thirteen years after the struggle mentioned above, I found myself called to overcome the repugnance of publicly witnessing my faith through the active apostolate engendered by the Legion of Mary. This was mainly through a Jehovah-Witness-style door-to-door evangelization, mixed with direct street-type evangelization in public places like the Staten Island Ferry and subway stations in New York and later on in Boston. Jesus did not wait for people to come to him. He sought them out. One of the goals of the Legion of Mary, through its focus on prayer, the spiritual life, and active apostolate is to stimulate a "zeal for souls." Rarely in the Church, for more than half a century it was at work then, has the "salvation of souls" been found at the heart of the any of the Church's organizations, as it has in the Legion of Mary.

Not having access to the Legion in two parishes since I was ordained, I was fortunate to have a group of men and women, desirous to work as Apostles, come together weekly for prayer and door-to-door evangelization. We called ourselves "Lumen Gentium" (the name of a Vatican II document) meaning "Light of the World." Although an apostolate seemingly forgotten about by many, we realized there was a foundation for our existence in the documents of the Second Vatican Council and several Popes. For instance, the *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity* showed this as something integral and vital to the Church:

The Church was founded to spread the kingdom of Christ over all the earth for the glory of God the Father, to make all of humanity partakers in redemption and salvation, and through them to establish the right relationship of the entire world to Christ. Every activity of the Mystical Body with this in view goes by the name of "apostolate"; the Church exercises it through all its members, though in various ways. In fact, the Christian vocation is, of its nature, a vocation to the apostolate as well. In the organism of a living body no member plays a purely passive part, sharing in the life of the body it shares at the same time in its activity. The same is true for the Body of Christ, the Church: "the whole Body achieves its full growth in dependence on the full functioning of each part" (*Eph 4:16*). Between the members of this body there exists, further, such a unity and solidarity (cf. *Eph 4:16*) that members who do not work at the growth of the body to the extent of their possibilities must be considered useless both to the Church and to themselves.

The *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* spelled out that,

Through Baptism and Confirmation all are appointed to this apostolate by the Lord himself. Moreover, by the sacraments, especially by the Eucharist, that love of God and neighbor which is the soul of the apostolate is communicated and nourished. The laity, however, are given this special vocation: to make the Church present and fruitful in those places and circumstances where it is only through them that she can become the salt of the earth. Thus, every lay person, through the gifts given to each of them, is at once the witness and the living instrument of the mission of the Church itself "according to the measure of Christ's bestowal" (*Eph 4:7*). ...All the laity, then, have the exalted duty of working for the ever greater spread of the divine plan of salvation to each person, of every epoch and all over the earth. Therefore may the way be clear for them to share diligently in the salvific work of the Church according to their ability and the needs of the times.

Later, Saint Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People*, reaffirmed this.

The lay faithful ought to be ever more convinced of the special meaning that their commitment to the apostolate takes on in their parish. Once again the Council authoritatively places it in relief: "The parish offers an outstanding example of the apostolate on the community level inasmuch as it brings together the many human differences found within its boundaries, and draws them into the universality of the Church. The lay faithful should accustom themselves to working in the parish in close union with their priests.... As far as possible the lay faithful ought to collaborate in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by their own ecclesial family."

In the present circumstances the lay faithful have the ability ... and ... ought to do very much towards the growth of ... their parishes in order to reawaken missionary zeal towards non-believers and believers themselves who have abandoned the faith or grown lax in the Christian life.

He also said that the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of such groups will be verified in the actual fruits (or lack of) which they show in their organizational life and in the works that they perform. He gave the following examples:

The renewed appreciation for prayer, contemplation, liturgical and sacramental life; the reawakening of vocations to Christian marriage, the ministerial priesthood and the consecrated life; a readiness to participate in programs and Church activities at the local, national and international levels; a commitment to catechesis and a capacity for teaching and forming Christians; a desire to be present as Christians in various settings of social life and the creation and awakening of charitable, cultural and spiritual works; the spirit of detachment and evangelical poverty leading to a greater generosity in charity towards all; conversion to the Christian life or the return to Church communion of those baptized members who have fallen away from the faith.

Saint Pope John Paul II could say this, not only as our teacher, but also from the knowledge that the mission of the Church works, if we work it correctly as dedicated apostles.

Still, it is hard to admit. We can easily find ourselves ashamed to put ourselves out for Christ and the Church. Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion of Mary, touched on this very simply and directly, stating that the problem is that we are afraid of losing human respect—afraid of what others will think or say about us. True! And, true! No doubt, Pope Benedict knew something about this. He must have been in the hot-seat for his faith many times, for he said, "To fulfill the mission that Jesus has given us, we mustn't be either lazy or cowardly." He was repeating the first Pope's call, in today's Second Reading to people with the same fears as ours, "*Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence...*" (1 Pet 3:14-16). He doesn't say it will be easy, but we must reach out to one and all, like Jean-Pierre de Caussade. And we are not left alone to do this. As the Gospel shows, Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit, a helper, a Com-forter meaning "with"—"strength!" "*For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord ... but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God*" (2 Tim 1:7-8).

God's Peace: ✝
