



Christ Carrying the Cross
El Greco (1541-1614)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. -Psalm 19:1

Each Sunday as we come together to celebrate the Holy Eucharist we acknowledge and confess our faith as it has been handed on to us from the Apostles. The Creed does not contain the entire content of what God has revealed to us in the person of His Son, but it does hit certain major points and gives us at least a point of departure for the discussion of many other aspects of our faith. The first article of the faith that we confess is that God is one and that this God, the Father Almighty, is the creator and maker of all things both visible and invisible. In the Catechism we read: *Our profession of faith begins with God, for God is the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of everything. The Credo begins with God the Father, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity; our Creed begins with the creation of heaven and earth, for creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works (CCC #198).* Creation is the beginning and foundation of all God's works.

The Church has never feared the "Book of Nature," that is our knowledge of God that can be acquired through the rigors of the scientific method of inquiry into the nature of things. In fact, the "scientific method" was developed within the Church herself and by individuals of deep Catholic faith.

However, as we trace the history and development of the sciences we see a kind of divorce taking place where faith in God, which was a powerful motive for wanting to understand His creation, was gradually and in some instances abruptly replaced by an ideology of pure materialism, an error that teaches that there only exists that which is material and can be seen and that there is nothing else, no God, no spirits, no human souls, nada. Out of this ideology arose, not a better scientific method of study into the nature of things but rather a fruitless quest to use science to try to prove that all things that are have a purely material cause (one case in point would be Darwinian evolution).

It is pretty near impossible to escape the odor of materialism because it more or less pervades all of the air that we breathe whenever there is any kind of discussion that involves the sciences, biology, physics, astronomy and so on and so forth. And what I would argue is that what really muddies the waters is that there is no real distinction made between actual "hard science" and the ideology of materialism. The confusion is understandable because you might see a scientist on TV or social media explaining the

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Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 June 2023

Sacred Heart, Ronan
Immaculate Conception, Polson
St. Joseph Mission, Charlo

Parish Office

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This week's office hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 2-5 pm; Wednesday & Friday 10 am-12 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

Immaculate Conception at 6:00 pm
Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 9:00 am
Immaculate Conception at 11:00 am

Wednesday

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm
Confessions are heard at 11:30 am and again after Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.

Annual Parish Picnic

Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission
Boettcher Park, Polson
June 25th

Following the 11:00 am Mass

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus

Please bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to share!

Readings for 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

FIRST READING: Jer 20:10-13

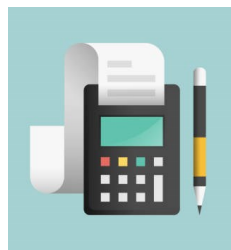
RESPONSORIAL: Ps. 69:8-10,14,17,33-35;

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-15

ALLELUIA: *The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord, and you will also testify.* - Jn 15:26b,27a

GOSPEL: Matt 10:26-33



Building Fund Progress July 2022 - Today

Our Lady of Life Sculpture
\$12,405 raised (103% of goal)

New VPL/HVAC System/Misc.
\$4,755 of \$20,000 (24% of goal)

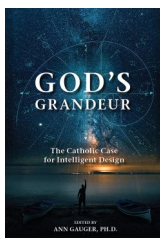
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"nature of things" and because they sound super smart, we don't recognize the sleight of hand that is taking place and that is the replacement of theories based on materialism with actual scientific fact. The net result is that we are fed a steady diet of materialism under the guise of science.

Not a few Catholics have fallen prey to the confusion that is created when an ideology is presented as fact, and in an effort to show that Catholics are "cool" and not anti-science they engage in all kinds of mental gymnastics in an attempt to reconcile our divinely revealed faith with an error. There are even attempts to subtly tweak the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas and the teachings and public addresses of the more recent popes. This only adds to the confusion.

Where am I going with all of this? Well, for one, I am not really trying to convince you of anything apart from pointing out the lay of the land, and secondly, I have no felt need to attempt a reconciliation between faith and science since one is not necessary. Do you get that last point? Folks who think a reconciliation is necessary do not understand the relationship between the two, and when such an attempt is made it is not "science" that is at issue but rather its counterfeit. Truth and error cannot be reconciled.

All of this was just to get to the main point of these remarks and that is a summer reading recommendation, because I have good news! Science is alive and well and there are many men and women who are studying nature with an intense method of scientific rigor matched only by the intensity of their Christian faith, and compromise neither of them. One such person is Dr. Ann Gauger.



Dr. Ann Gauger has just recently published a book titled *God's Grandeur: The Catholic Case for Intelligent Design*, which is a collection of essays that treat of the most recent discoveries of science and how they reveal what we have always known, believed and confessed in our Creed, that God the Father Almighty created the heavens and the earth. The essays do not require any background in science even though they do treat of matters of science but in a way that a layman can relate to and understand. I realize that reading may not be on your summertime to do list, but maybe a podcast is, and if that is the case you can visit The Discovery Institute's YouTube channel and look for discussions on topics that interest you. But I still think that reading books is better.

I have some other summer reading recommendations which I will share over the week's and hope that this one provides a good start. Have a great weekend.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Michael Conrad, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Kate Shrider Olsen, Bill Nash, Donna Jacobs, Derrie Edge, Madge Vert, Bob Mahon, Heather Stocki, Betty Bjork, Vicki Weiss, Jason Avison, Floyd Smith, Nash Niemeyer, Richard Call, Bud Cheff, Jr, Donna Radtke, Bill Rueth, Frank Delgado, Jan Irwin, Monte Jenkins.

Please help to keep the list current by contacting the Parish Office. Also, out of respect for a person's privacy, please make sure that all individuals wish to be publicly identified.

Grace be to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for you all; Making a remembrance of you in our prayers without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

The Holy Father's prayer intention for June

For the abolition of torture: We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.



Please pray for our seminarians!

Dillon Armstrong, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, John Cooney, Riley Helgoe, Alex Olmes, Brett Rotz, Jamie Severson, Deacon Kyle Tannehill, Carter Anderson, Matt Keck, Anthony Olmes, Jack Peed, James Semling, and Kaleb Mitchell.

COUNTRY STORE NEEDS

The Country Store thrift shop currently rents the building from the American Legion. They have decided to sell the building and have offered to sell it to the Country Store for \$225,000 before putting it on the market. A final meeting will be held at 9:00 am on June 29 at the Senior Center. Any ideas will be welcome, especially if you know of an available rental.



From the proceeds of this nonprofit shop, ten churches (including Immaculate Conception) benefit four times a year, along with seven local charities monthly. It is definitely a blessing to so many in our community.

Please pray for a solution on how we can continue our Country Store!

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 24th

Vigil of the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repose of the Soul of Deacon Wes Vert, rb Tami Avison

Sunday, June 25th

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repose of the Soul of Gene Henry, rb Rita Rehbein/

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, June 28st

St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

Repose of the Soul of Annika Corrigan, rb Teri Daigneault

ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital
Chapel

Monday at 6:00 pm
Friday at 9:00 am

DIVINE MERCY RADIO

90.7 FM

*DMR is a locally
owned, listener
supported non-
profit 501(c)3*



All homilies are
available on YouTube
and can be found by
searching the full name
Fr. Kevin Christofferson.

Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception

\$180,970 of \$175,000 (103%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph

\$37,062 of \$44,500 (83%)

Thank you for your generosity!

