



Parable of the Sower

Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c. 1525-1569)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

...It is undeniable that God's kingdom can only be sought when it is sought first; the person who does not seek God's kingdom first does not seek it at all. Furthermore, this is because the ability to seek includes in itself a possibility of being able to seek something else, and therefore, the gospel—which of course for the time being is external to a person, who is thus capable of seeking something else—says, "You shall first seek God's kingdom." And finally, it is because the gospel gently and lovingly condescends to the human being, persuading him bit by bit in order to entice him to the good. Were the gospel immediately to say, "You shall simply and solely seek God's kingdom," it would surely seem that too much was required of a person. Half in impatience, half in fear and anxiety, he would shrink back. But now the gospel accommodates itself to him a little. There stands the human being, viewing the many things he wants to seek—then the gospel addresses him and says, "Seek first God's kingdom." Then the human being thinks, "Well, then, if afterward I am permitted to seek other things, let me begin by seeking God's kingdom." If he then actually begins by doing this, the gospel knows well what will come next, that he will in fact be so satisfied and sated by this search that he will simply forget to seek anything else—indeed, that there is nothing he wants to do less than seek something else—so that it now becomes true that he simply and solely seeks God's kingdom. That is how the gospel goes about it...The most important thing for the gospel is not to reprimand and scold; what is most important for the gospel is to get human beings to follow its guidance. That is why it says, "Seek first." In so doing, it muzzles, so to speak, all of a person's objections, brings him to silence, and gets him actually to begin first this seeking. And then this seeking satisfies a human being in such a way that it now becomes true that he simply and solely seeks God's kingdom. -The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air (Three Godly Discourses) by Soren Kierkegaard

This week I am continuing with some good book recommendations for your summer reading given that our spirit needs to be re-created as much as our bodies do during these months of sun and fair weather.

Normally I would not recommend an author like Soren Kierkegaard because at times he can be very difficult to read. His prose is awfully dense (there's clearly a lot on his mind) and because he has so much that he wants to communicate he more often than not expresses his thought in very lengthy compound-complex sentences (remember those from your grammar lessons?). It is not possible to "breeze" through his books. However, there is one feature of

(Continued on page 2)

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 16 July 2023

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

Parish Office

PO Box 1477 Polson, MT 59860

Phone: 406-883-2506

Cell: 406-594-0474

Email: lakecountyromancatholic@gmail.com

Website: www.lakecountyromancatholic.org

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.

Sacred Heart Parish Breakfast

Sunday, July 16th following 9:00 am Mass in Ronan.
Breakfast casserole will be served. All are welcome!

Save the Date

Bishop Vetter's Annual Pastoral Visit

- ◆ Visitation of St. Joseph Mission in Charlo, Friday, July 28th at 2:00 pm
- ◆ Followed by Mass at Sacred Heart in Ronan at 3:00 pm
- ◆ Mass at Immaculate Conception in Polson, Sunday, August 6th at 11:00 am, followed by a luncheon

Food Pantry Necessities

Peanut butter and cereal are a constant need; as well as oats, flour and rice. Clients tend to prefer healthy options for food that are not so loaded with sugar. The Food Pantry will also accept money donations as well. Charitable donations may be left in the basket at the entrance of the church.



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

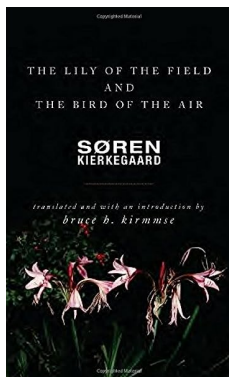


All homilies are available on YouTube and can be found by searching the full name Fr. Kevin Christofferson.

(Continued from page 1)

his writing that I really do appreciate, he does not write as an academic who wants to be studied but rather, he writes in a more conversational style as though he were engaging you personally. His books are written as though they were written just for you.

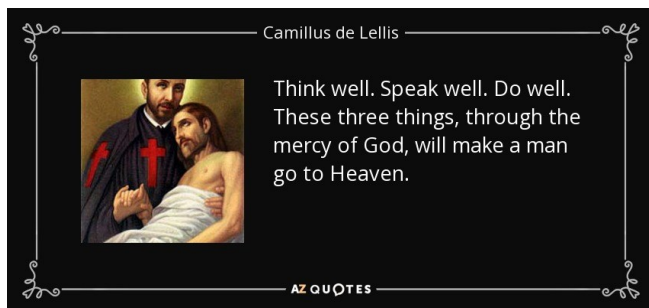
Kierkegaard is an interesting fellow, even though he is thought of as a philosopher and the father of existential philosophical thinking, he does something most other philosophers do not do, he is very open about and does not try to hide his Christian faith. Even though some folks try to “weed out” his faith from his works, it is really impossible to do so, and the result would be a complete failure to understand his thought in its proper context, his uncompromising Christian faith. He is *not* secular by any stretch of the imagination.



Knowing that Kierkegaard can be a challenge, still I feel fairly confident in recommending his book *The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air – Three Godly Discourses*. True, you will not “breeze” through this 90-page book, but then again Kierkegaard would not want you to. It is a book to be “chewed” upon and thoughtfully pondered. Each discourse can be read in an hour or less and they address the themes of silence (prayer), surrender, and joy. At the top I included just a sample of his writing in order to entice you perhaps into a deeper dive with our Danish friend.

I appreciate hearing the feed back I get from some of my recommendations, and the truth be told if I watched lots of movies, I would probably recommend some of those as well...but I don't. However, having said that I am hearing lots of great things about *Sound of Freedom* with Jim Caviezel based on a true story about the sickening reality of child trafficking. Caviezel is one of the “good guys” and would not make a movie that did not have a positive message and was worth watching. That's all for now!

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Readings:

FIRST READING: Is 55:10-11

RESPONSORIAL: Ps. 65:10,11,12-13,14;

R. *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-23

ALLELUIA: *The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will have life forever.*

GOSPEL: Mt 13:1-23

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Jesus asks for childlike abandonment to the providence of our heavenly Father who takes care of his children's smallest needs: "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?'... Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." (CCC 305)

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 15th

Vigil of the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repose of the Soul of Wes MacDonald rb Teri Daigneault

Sunday, July 16th

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repose of the Soul of Clara Baker, rb Rita Rehbein/

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, July 19th

Repose of the Souls of the Forgotten Priests in Purgatory, rb Teri Daigneault

Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception

\$7,478 of \$175,000 (4%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph

\$1,623 of \$44,500 (4%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:

\$300 of \$20,000 (2%)



Thank you for your generosity!

Humbly asking for your prayers

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, 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, Brady Hout.

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 July

For a Eucharistic life: We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.



Please pray for our seminarians!

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