



Sacred Heart of Jesus
Pompeo Batoni (1708-1787)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I am always very grateful to have the opportunity each year to get together with Bishop Vetter and my brother priests for week of study, prayer and fraternity during our annual convocation in Butte. It has been a terrific week.

As I mentioned last week Bishop Vetter invited Courage International to come and speak to us this year about issues of sexuality and gender identity and how we as a Church might welcome and accompany gay men and women and folks with gender identity issues back into full communion with the Church. The bishop told us that the motive for inviting Courage to come and speak to us originated in something that happened on the campus of MSU while he was visiting there two years ago. During a Q and A with some of the students a young man stood up and in front of all of his peers told the bishop that he was struggling with his sexual identity and that the Church was not doing anything to help him. The bishop mentioned that he has had other similar encounters with some of the youth in our diocese and that he was determined to help them.

I am not sure how many of you remember but shortly after I arrived in Polson I raised the question about what we might be able to do as a parish to be close to and of assistance to individuals who have a same sex attraction. In order to start the conversation, I provided a viewing of the documentary film *Desire of the Everlasting Hills*, a production of Courage International that documents the testimony of two men and a woman who left the gay lifestyle and returned to the practice of the Catholic faith and found the happiness that they were searching for. I recall that the film was well attended and well received and there was a good discussion afterwards, but nothing ever really developed from that evening.

I have known of the bishop's intentions for this year's priest convocation for over a year now and I have been deliberately not weighing in on or commenting on issues of homosexuality and the recent surge in transgenderism until I had an opportunity to attend this convocation and hear Bishop Vetter address all of us priests together and share his vision and pastoral approach that he wants to see in the diocese. Given the landscape of the

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Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 September 2023

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

Parish Office

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This week's office hours:

Tues & Thurs 2:00-5:00 pm; Wed 10 am-12 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

Immaculate Conception at 6:00 pm

Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Rosary is prayed at 5:30 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 9:00 am

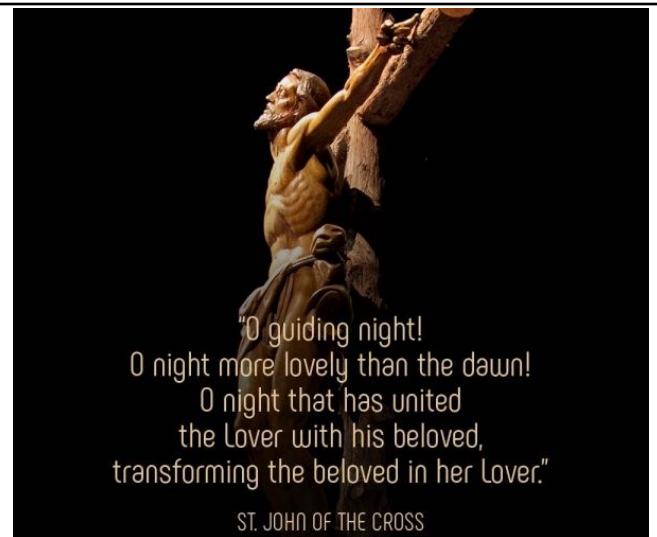
Immaculate Conception at 11:00 am

Rosary is prayed at 10:30 am

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm

Confessions are heard at 11:30 am and again after Wednesday Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.



DEMYSTIFYING THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL **The Spiritual Theology of St. John of the Cross**

Fr. Kevin will recap aspects of his previous course on the interior life and continue forward a teaching on prayer in the Carmelite tradition with an emphasis on the mystical theology of St. John of the Cross. In his own words St. John of the Cross intended his instruction to benefit both lay and religious alike. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings during Family Night, beginning 9/27.

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culture we live in today it is clearly time to reopen this conversation in the parish and discuss some kind of plan for caring for our brothers and sisters who struggle with their sexuality and gender identities and welcome them back onto a path toward full communion with the Church. In his address to the priests the bishop told us what he tells parents (in general) who have gay children, "I don't have all of the answers, but I do know two things for certain; one, you cannot disown your children, and two, you cannot compromise the teachings of the Church. Work within the tension of these two parameters."

And that is precisely where Courage International comes into play, teaching us how to live in that tension, drawing on their decades of experience working with gay men and women and walking with them on the road back to the Church. So, let's try this once again.

What I propose is to have another viewing of *Desire of the Everlasting Hills* with a discussion afterwards, or some other video presentation produced by Courage International, and let's follow that up with some sound catechesis and potential pastoral approaches that we might use in the parish. This fall I am doing a course during Family Night on the mystical theology of St. John of the Cross and perhaps after the Christmas break we can take up this topic and carry it through the rest of the year. In addition to this proposal I would especially like to hear from you, either by letter, email or an in person meeting, because the issue is not only about gay men and women and gender identity but also and just as importantly there are parents, grand-parents and family and friends who grapple with these issues as well and they too need our support and willingness to walk with them.

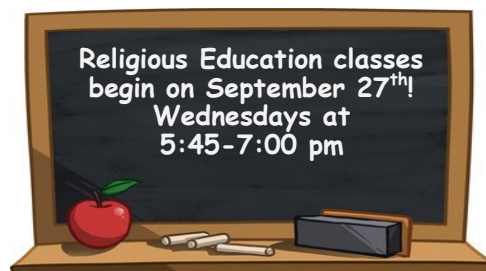
Anyway, put some thought to this and let me know what you are thinking because we honestly need to have some kind of pastoral strategy in place given that these issues are not simply just going to go away on their own. We must be prepared to give convincing witness that first and foremost and above all else that we are children of God and there are a lot of hurting folks out there who have never been told that and are waiting to be introduced to the love of God the Father.

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



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.



Saints Cosmas & Damian

Feast Day September 26th



Cosmas and Damian were two Arab physicians and early Christian martyrs. They practised their profession in the seaport of Aegeae, then in the Roman province of Syria. Cosmas and Damian were third century Arabian-born twin brothers who embraced Christianity and practised medicine and surgery without a fee.

Reference: "Saints Cosmas and Damian." Wikipedia. Retrieved 9/22/23.

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 23rd

Vigil of the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of Veronica Marquardt, rb Sheila Marquardt

Sunday, September 24th

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of Fr. Francisco Flores/

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, September 27th

St. Vincent de Paul, Priest

Repose of the Soul of Shirley Sheridan, rb Sheila Marquardt

Thursday, September 28th

Repose of the Soul of James Kelly, rb Teri Daigneault

Friday, September 29th

St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael, Archangels

Intentions of Martina Marquardt, rb Sheila Marquardt

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, Monte Jenkins, Brady Hout, Mauri Morin, Chris Skinner.

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 September

For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Please pray for our seminarians!

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



Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels September 29th



⁷Now war arose in heaven, **Michael and his angels** fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.
(Revelation 12:7-8, RSV-CE)



²⁶In the sixth month **the angel Gabriel** was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph,

of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"
(Luke 1:26-28, RSV-CE)

¹⁷And **Raph'ael** was sent to heal the two of them: to scale away the white films of Tobit's eyes; to give Sarah the daughter of Rag'uel in marriage to Tobit's son, and to bind Asmode'us the evil demon, because Tobit's son was entitled to possess her.
(Tobit 3:17, RSV-CE)

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.

St. Vincent de Paul

Patron of charitable societies

Feast Day September 27th

*Humility is nothing but truth, and
pride is nothing but lying. You will
find out that Charity is a heavy
burden to carry, heavier than the
kettle of soup and the full basket.
But you will keep your gentleness
and your smile.*



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance:

*I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.*

Collect:

*O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law
upon love of you and of our neighbor,
grant that, by keeping your precepts,
we may merit to attain eternal life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever*

Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Responsorial: Ps. 145:2-3,8-9,17-18;

R. *The Lord is near to all who call upon him.*

Second Reading: Phil 1:20c-24,27a

Alleluia: *Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of
your Son.*

Gospel: Mt. 20:1-16a

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

*The economy of law and grace turns men's hearts away
from avarice and envy. It initiates them into desire for the
Sovereign Good; it instructs them in the desires of the Holy
Spirit who satisfies man's heart. The God of the promises
always warned man against seduction by what from the
beginning has seemed "good for food . . . a delight to the
eyes . . . to be desired to make one wise." (CCC 2541)*

Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception

\$46,606 of \$175,000 (27%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph

\$8,898 of \$44,500 (20%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:

\$3,436 of \$20,000 (18%)



Thank you for your generosity!