



Parable of the Two Sons
Andrei Mironav (1975—)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

This week I have a variety of house keeping items. The first one would be, don't make plans for dinner next Sunday night October 8th and plan on attending our parish harvest dinner at 5:00pm. Sacred Heart is hosting the dinner in their parish hall, but the food preparation and all the little details is a combined group effort with Immaculate Conception. As I recall I think we are having turkey and ham with all the customary root and gourd dishes that one expects at such things. It will be good.

As many of you know the Sixteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops begins in Rome this coming Wednesday on October 4th. The Holy Father is asking for the prayers of the entire Church from across the globe so that this synod might be guided by the Holy Spirit working in the Church at prayer. Included in this week's bulletin is a letter sent out to all the world's bishops so that you can have a sense of what is taking place. This Sunday we will be using a special set of the "Prayers of the Faithful" that have been prepared for this synod and there will be a special blessing at the end of Mass. If possible, priests are being asked to offer Masses for a Church Synod taken from the Roman Missal during the week days when it is permissible to do so and I have chosen three dates, October 3rd, the 10th and the 24th. Special intercessions have also been prepared for these Masses. Also, please try to make an effort to keep the synod in your personal prayers such as the Rosary.

The third item is the Annual Catholic Campaign. October sure seems to come around really fast each year, doesn't it? The ACA officially begins on Sunday, October 15th and pledge weekend is set for the following Sunday, October 22nd. If you contributed to the ACA last year you will be getting a letter from me soon as well as the usual materials from the diocese. Anyhow, this is just a heads up and so please start thinking about what you might be willing to give this year. Please watch the bulletin and Flocknote for instructions as we approach pledge weekend so that we can wrap this up in one fell swoop. It sure is a good feeling, isn't it? That these past two years we met our goal within a week and were able to call it good. Thanks so much for your generosity and support of the ACA.

Finally, just a loose end that needs to be addressed that I had already brought up back in June: Communion under both Species. During this past year many of the liturgical practices that had been suspended during you-know-what have been lifted, however, I was not here to re-implement some of these things this past year and you know why. Suffice it to say that I have a lot of catching up to do

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Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 October 2023

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

Parish Office

PO Box 1477 Polson, MT 59860

Phone: 406-883-2506

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Website: www.lakecountyroamcatholic.org

This week's office hours:

Tues & Thurs 2:00-5:00 pm; Wed & Fri 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

Tuesday-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.

FIRST WEEKEND DEVOTIONS

Immaculate Conception Church

Friday (First Friday), October 6th

Confessions at 11:30 am
Mass at 12:10 pm—Votive Mass in Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday (First Saturday), October 7th

Our Lady of the Rosary

Confessions at 9:30 am
Mass at 10:00 am—Votive Mass in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (after Mass)

During a period of Eucharistic Adoration after the First Saturday Mass the 5 Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed, followed by a further 15 minutes of silent meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary as Our Lady had requested at Fatima.

All-Parish Harvest Dinner

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Where: Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Ronan
When: October 8th at 5:00 pm



The sign-up form for the Harvest Dinner may be found at the entrance of the church (Sacred Heart).

Many hands make light work!

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and doing catch up during vacation season simply does not work well nor is it practical. This Sunday, October 1st, Sacred Heart will have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion under both Species and continue to do so on the first Sunday of each month and on special solemnities, i.e., Christmas. At Immaculate Conception I am looking at Sunday, December 3rd, the First Sunday of Advent and then continue with each first Sunday and special solemnity. As I mentioned in June we have to start somewhere and from that somewhere we will see what organically develops in the parish.

I think that that is about all for now.
God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



PRAYER FOR RADICAL SOLIDARITY

O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own.

By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations. Ask your Son to give us unfailing determination to witness to the profound dignity of every person, at every stage and in every circumstance.

In that first Eucharistic procession, you carried Jesus to Elizabeth in her time of need. Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.

May our support help them to find hope and strength in the Lord. Amen.

LIFE CHAIN



Please plan on attending the Life Chain in Polson on Saturday, October 14th at 12:45 p.m. We will meet at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and march to Highway 93 for one hour of prayer and public witness to end abortion in Montana.

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 October

For the Synod: We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

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.

respect life month

OCTOBER 2023



Update regarding the *Our Lady of Life* Mary sculpture:

Unfortunately, the foundry constructing the Mary sculpture has run into delays.

Consequently, the Mary sculpture's delivery date is now looking to be the end of October.

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.

The Food Pantry also utilizes plastic grocery bags!

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 30th

Vigil of the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of Fr. Ed Hislop, rb Rita Rehbein

Sunday, October 1st

The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of Fr. Bart Stevens, rb Rita Rehbein/

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, October 3rd

Intentions of the Holy Father & A Synod of Bishops

Wednesday, October 4th

St. Francis of Assisi

Repose of the Soul of Sr. Michael, rb Teri Daigneault

Thursday, October 5th

St. Faustina Kowalska; Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos

Repose of the Soul of Shirley Sheridan, rb Sheila Marquardt

Friday, October 6th

St. Bruno; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher

First Friday of the Month

Intentions of Peyton Devlin, rb Katie Devlin

Saturday, October 7th

Our Lady of the Rosary

Intentions of Fr. Kevin Christofferson, rb Rita Rehbein





United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
June 16, 2011

To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide

To live in a manner worthy of our human dignity, and to spend our final days on this earth in peace and comfort, surrounded by loved ones—that is the hope of each of us. In particular, Christian hope sees these final days as a time to prepare for our eternal destiny.

Today, however, many people fear the dying process. They are afraid of being kept alive past life's natural limits by burdensome medical technology. They fear experiencing intolerable pain and suffering, losing control over bodily functions, or lingering with severe dementia. They worry about being abandoned or becoming a burden on others.

Our society can be judged by how we respond to these fears. A caring community devotes more attention, not less, to members facing the most vulnerable times in their lives. When people are tempted to see their own lives as diminished in value or meaning, they most need the love and assistance of others to assure them of their inherent worth.

The healing art of medicine is an important part of this assistance. Even when a cure is not possible, medicine plays a critical role in providing "palliative care"—alleviating pain and other symptoms and meeting basic needs. Such care should combine medical skill with attention to the emotional as well as spiritual needs of those facing the end of life.

A Renewed Threat to Human Dignity

Today there is a campaign to respond to these fears and needs in a radically different way. It uses terms like "death with dignity" to describe a self-inflicted death, generally using a drug overdose prescribed by a doctor for the purpose of suicide.

This campaign to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide has been rejected by most policymakers in our society. Although Oregon passed a law in 1994 allowing physicians to prescribe deadly drugs for some patients, similar proposals were rejected by legislatures and voters in all other states for many years. The claim of a constitutional right to assisted suicide was firmly rejected in 1997 by the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld state laws against the practice as legitimate safeguards for innocent human life and the ethical integrity of medicine.

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ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital
Chapel

Friday at 9:00 am

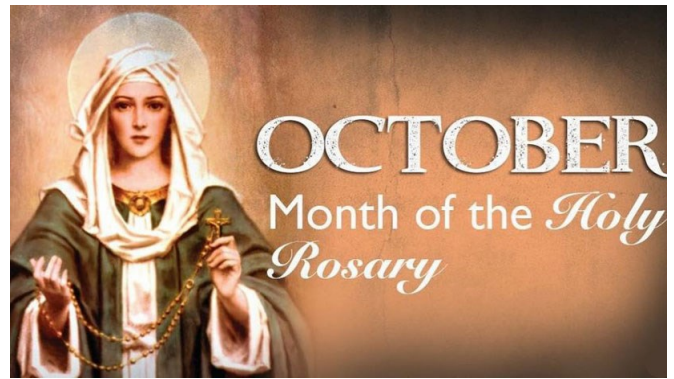
DIVINE MERCY RADIO

90.7 FM

DMR is a locally
owned, listener
supported non-



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



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance:

*All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgment,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.*

Collect:

*O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.
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: Ezk 18:25-28

Responsorial: Ps. 25:4-5,6-7,8-9

R. *Remember your mercies, O Lord.*

Second Reading: Phil 2:1-11 or Phil 2:1-5

Alleluia: *My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.* - Jn 10:27

Gospel: Mt. 21:28-32

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Before we make our own this first exclamation of the Lord's Prayer, we must humbly cleanse our hearts of certain false images drawn "from this world." Humility makes us recognize that "no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him," that is, "to little children." The purification of our hearts has to do with paternal or maternal images, stemming from our personal and cultural history, and influencing our relationship with God. God our Father transcends the categories of the created world. To impose our own ideas in this area "upon him" would be to fabricate idols to adore or pull down. To pray to the Father is to enter into his mystery as he is and as the Son has revealed him to us.

The expression God the Father had never been revealed to anyone. When Moses himself asked God who he was, he heard another name. The Father's name has been revealed to us in the Son, for the name "Son" implies the new name "Father." (CCC 2779)

Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception

\$49,282 of \$175,000 (28%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph

\$9,523 of \$44,500 (21%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:

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



Thank you for your generosity!

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But after fourteen years of defeats, the assisted suicide campaign advanced its agenda when Washington state passed a law like Oregon's in 2008. The following year, Montana's highest court suggested that physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients is not always against public policy. With expanded funding from wealthy donors, assisted suicide proponents have renewed their aggressive nationwide campaign through legislation, litigation, and public advertising, targeting states they see as most susceptible to their message.*

If they succeed, society will undergo a radical change. Jewish and Christian moral traditions have long rejected the idea of assisting in another's suicide. Catholic teaching views suicide as a grave offense against love of self, one that also breaks the bonds of love and solidarity with family, friends, and God (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], no. 2281). To assist another's suicide is to take part in "an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested" (John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 66). Most people, regardless of religious affiliation, know that suicide is a terrible tragedy, one that a compassionate society should work to prevent. They realize that allowing doctors to prescribe the means for their patients to kill themselves is a corruption of the healing art. It even violates the Hippocratic Oath that has guided physicians for millennia: "I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked, nor will I advise such a plan."

Proponents know these facts, so they avoid terms such as "assisting suicide" and instead use euphemisms such as "aid in dying." The organization leading this campaign has even concealed its agenda by changing its name. The Hemlock Society, whose very name reminded people of the harsh reality of death by poison, has become "Compassion and Choices."

Plain speaking is needed to strip away this veneer and uncover what is at stake, for this agenda promotes neither free choice nor compassion.

To read the complete letter, visit www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/assisted-suicide/to-live-each-day/upload/to-live-each-day-with-dignity-hyperlinked.pdf

***Update:** U.S. States where assisted suicide is currently legal: California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, and District of Columbia. The supreme court of Montana ruled in 2009 that the practice could be allowed under certain circumstances, but has not yet officially legalized assisted suicide.



St. Thérèse of Lisieux **(Feast Day October 1st)** *on suffering well...*

"Sufferings gladly borne for others convert more people than sermons."

"Much later, when I understood what perfection was, I realized that to become a saint one must suffer a great deal, always seek what is best, and forget oneself. I understood that there were many kinds of sanctity and that each soul was free to respond to the approaches of Our Lord and to do little or much for Him—in other words, to make a choice among the sacrifices He demands."

"Suffering is the very best gift He has to give us. He gives it only to His chosen friends."

"True charity consists in putting up with all one's neighbors fault's; never being surprised by his weakness, and being inspired by the least of his virtues."

"I prefer to be accused unjustly, for then I have nothing to reproach myself with, and joyfully offer this to the good Lord. Then I humble myself at the thought that I am indeed capable of doing the thing of which I have been accused."

I do not shrink
from a long life:
I do not refuse
the battle.
The Lord is
the rock upon
which I stand.

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux

