



The Harvesters

Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c. 1525-1569)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Freedom, I think, will always be one of those things that is the most difficult to understand and even more difficult to put into practice; yes, practice. Let's put it this way, freedom is not an abstract ideal, nor is it merely a permission to do this or that granted by a civil authority. Freedom, at the end of the day, is related to reason and will which makes it a power to choose that which is authentically good, ordering the choice of those goods to our Supreme Good, God.

Oftentimes freedom is simply reduced to a matter of choosing between good and evil, and yes, freedom does include the possibility of choosing evil, whether knowingly or unknowingly, but that is not the essence of freedom. To reiterate, freedom does include the possibility of choice, but freedom is not a matter of choice per se. It is the power to know (reason) and to choose (will) the authentic good. Given this understanding, freedom is intrinsic to us as persons and necessary for our mature development as human beings. And this is an important point, freedom is intrinsic to us as persons, and therefore something utterly interior.

When we are able to understand that freedom lies within us on account of our use of reason and will we discover a very basic and fundamental truth about the essence of freedom, that regardless of our circumstances, no matter how dire, we always carry within ourselves the choice to love rather than not to love. This is where things usually go off the rails, meaning our reactions to perceived threats to our exterior liberties and desires to do as we please. We do not need to belabor this point right now but can save it for another time.

When we examine the true nature of freedom it becomes easier to see how it is closely related to peace and our desire for it. But what is peace? Again, peace is not an ideal, nor is it merely an absence of conflict or an agreement to simply get along and coexist. Peace is something much more tangible and experiential and can be simply expressed as harmony and good order. Peace then originates within us as a gift of God when we begin to experience the well ordering of our interior faculties, including our passions, governing our lives in harmony with the Gospel which is an indication of our reconciliation with God and His gift.

In the 1970's we all sang with misty eyes, *Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me...* and yes, this song, despite being a bit sentimental, did touch on a central truth that God is the Father of all making us brothers and sisters of one another and living that truth with sincerity and in *freedom*. This song, by the way, was not merely a pious sentiment of the

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Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
6 July 2025

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

Fr. Kevin Christofferson, Pastor
Fr. Robert Brooks, Pastoral Associate
Nate McNeil, Director of Faith Formation

Parish Office

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This week's office hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 am—12:00 pm

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at 6:00 pm

Confessions are available at 5:00 pm
Rosary is prayed at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 11:00 am

Rosary is prayed at 10:30 am

Wednesday at 12:10 pm

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

SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:00 am

Friday at 9:00 am, followed by a Holy Hour

Mass is offered at St. Joseph Mission in Charlo the **third Saturday** of each month at 4:00 pm.

Fiscal Year July 2024—June 2025 Financial Recap

Thank you for a record breaking year! Your generosity made it possible.

Immaculate Conception Offertory Total:

\$192,611 of \$193,773 (99%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph Offertory Total:

\$45,833 of \$48,393 (95%)

I.C. Building Fund Total:

\$1,667 of \$12,000 (14%)

S.H. Building Fund Total:

\$2,230 of \$5,000 (45%)



New to the parish? Just here for the summer season? Let us get to know you better! Please register with the parish office to we can keep in touch with you.

Find our website and contact information at the top of the page!

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time, but was penned by Jill Jackson in 1955 after an experience of God's mercy in the midst of a very trying time in her life. Without reading too much into it I do want to make the point that such an experience of God's mercy can awaken us to use our freedom to love rather than live in sorrow and bitterness.

This weekend we celebrate the 249th anniversary of the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*, which placed the American colonies and the founders of our nation on a certain trajectory towards forming a self-governing republic, and so let's conclude with a little nostalgia and recall the words of those who sought this ambitious project on our behalf:

Here are some quotes illustrating this point:

- **James Madison:** "To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is a chimerical idea."
- **Benjamin Franklin:** "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."
- **George Washington:** "Virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government," and, "Human rights can only be assured among a virtuous people".
- **John Adams:** "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Strictly speaking, they were not wrong. Freedom is a choice, but it is a well-ordered decision arising from the interior harmony of a soul reconciled with God and an experience of His mercy.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



Feast Day of St. Benedict | July 11 The Medal of Saint Benedict

This medal is a popular devotional object honoring St. Benedict. One side typically depicts St. Benedict holding a cross and the Holy Rule, with a cup and a raven, and the inscription "Crux Sancti Patris Benedicti" (Cross of the Holy Father Benedict). The reverse features a cross with initial letters

representing phrases like "Crux Sacra Sit Mihi Lux" (The Holy Cross be my light) and "Non Draco Sit Mihi Dux" (Let not the dragon be my guide). Around the margin are initials for "Vade Retro Satana, Nunquam Suade Mihi Vana — Sunt Mala Quae Libas, Ipse Venena Bibas" (Begone, Satan, do not suggest to me thy vanities — evil are the things thou profferest, drink thou thy own poison). Medals, like other devotional objects, are blessed by the Church and are intended to remind the faithful of God's love and to increase trust in the saints, but they are never to be regarded as talismans.

Humbly asking for your prayers

Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Michael Conrad, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Bill Nash, Donna Jacobs, Derrie Edge, Heather Stocki, Betty Bjork, Jason Avison, Nash Niemeyer, Richard Call, Bud Cheff, Jr, Bill Rueth, Monte Jenkins, Chris Skinner, Ryan Johnson, Vicki Whalen, Laurel Cheff, Zane Kelly, Kathy Collicot, Rod Clairmont, David Jenkins, Bruce Simpson, Debbie Tschida, Doug Morigeau, Diane Monahan.

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 formation in discernment: Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

Please pray for our seminarians!

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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

*Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.*

Readings:

First Reading: Is 66:10-14c

Responsorial: Ps. 66:1-3,4-5,6-7,16,20

R. *Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

Second Reading: Gal 6:14-18

Alleluia Verse: Col 3:15a, 16a: *Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;*

let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12,17-20

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Before Pilate, Christ proclaims that he "has come into the world, to bear witness to the truth." The Christian is not to "be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord." In situations that require witness to the faith, the Christian must profess it without equivocation, after the example of St. Paul before his judges. We must keep "a clear conscience toward God and toward men." (CCC 2471)

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, July 6th Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of the Sick and Shut-Ins of the Parish

Friday, July 11th

Repose of the Soul of Marvin Rehbein

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, July 5th Vigil of 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repose of the Soul of Craig Matelich, rb Semmens Family

Sunday, July 6th Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, July 9th

Intentions of Peyton Devlin, rb Katie Devlin

