

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

One of my favorite spiritual writers is Romano Guardini. Msgr. Guardini was a German priest who lived in the first half of the twentieth century. The following excerpt is from a book called *The Living God*. It was compiled from a series of talks Msgr. Romano Guardini gave to his own congregation. Although it was published sixty years ago, it deals with timeless truths and it still has much to say to us today. I hope you find Msgr. Guardini's reflections helpful to your own spiritual life.

With my prayers,

Fr. Conley

**“Providence” from *the Living God*
by Msgr. Romano Guardini**

The idea of Providence constantly recurs in the New Testament and expresses the essence of what Christ brought to man. A number of Christ's sayings refer to it: the one about the sparrow not falling from the roof without the Father's knowledge; about the birds He feeds and the flowers He clothes. We are exhorted not to worry about food and drink; to pray for bread today and tomorrow, entrusting the future to the Father's hands. Again and again the mystery of Providence is expressed in the words “Your Father in heaven, . . .”

These sayings all imply that man's whole life and existence and everything that belongs to him is surrounded by an infinite goodness. Nothing that happens is purely accidental; the whole course of things is guided by a loving concern for man's welfare. We must not accept this too glibly. When we look around the world it does not seem that things really work out quite like that. Events go on their relentless way – and how often they ignore the individual and his happiness! Good men pine away and are unable to exert their influence to the full: they might have done so much good with their life-giving hands. Creative men die before they have borne their fruit; others prosper seemingly unjustly. The defenseless are violated. Pure thoughts can find no scope for expression; precious things are destroyed, but inferior, mediocre, vulgar things thrive and flourish.

The world sometimes appears to be governed by senseless despotism and destructive chance. Sometimes it is as though a malicious spirit were at work destroying a thing of beauty just when it is on the point of blossoming, or a rare destiny the moment it is about to be fulfilled.

“Providence” means, however, that there is a seeing Mind behind everything that happens and that I am the object of its seeing. It means that provision is being made for what is good for me. It means that there are

eyes in the world which see everything, from which nothing is hidden that may injure or benefit me. It means that “not a hair of my head shall fall” without being noticed and assessed with regard to my welfare and salvation. It means that there is significance in everything that happens in the world, and a heart, a concern, and a power stronger than all the powers of the world which is able to fulfill the purposes of its care for man.

The idea of Providence is grounded on the whole audacity of a living faith. **To believe in Providence, means to transform one's whole conception of the world.** It ceases to be the world of natural science. Providence means that everything in the world retains its own nature and reality but serves a supreme purpose which transcends the world: the loving purpose of God.

But this love of God for His creatures, who He has made His children, is alive like that of a human being for his dear ones. The love of a father for his child pursues him in all its developments, in all its fortunes, in all its ever-changing activities and decisions. So too the love of God for man is alive and ever new. And the whole world is drawn into the orbit of God's constant care for man. It embraces the whole world, past and present, in every passing moment of its existence and activity.

And so the world is renewed in every moment of time. Every moment has only one existence. It has not existed before and it will not come again. It springs from the eternity of God's love and takes all Being and all that is and all that happens into itself for the sake of God's children. **Everything that happens comes to me from God, from His love.** It calls me. It challenges me. It is His will that I should live and act and grow in it and become the person that is His will that I should be. And the world is to be perfected into that which it can become only through man – that is, through me.

But isn't all this just a beautiful story? Or is it something I can only “believe” in that desperate sense of the word, without ever having a chance to experience it? No, it is a reality, and it is possible to have personal experience of it.

The mystery of Providence will not come alive so long as we only think of it intellectually. It will become a reality when we act upon it. Then we shall become aware of the meaning of “The Living God.” Then we shall realize: This moment of time is new. This situation never existed before. It does not exist in a vacuum of the imagination but within the whole structure of reality. Now you must act as you ought to act. But in freedom It is God who acts. It is you who act – if I may put it like this with all the due humility of the creature – in agreement with Him. No – take it back. He acts alone. And yet, when God alone is acting, then only are we really ourselves.....And that is Providence.

CATHOLIC QUOTES

“Christianity is not just a book of culture or an ideology, nor is it merely a system of values... Christianity is a person, a presence, a face: Jesus, who gives meaning and fullness to human life.”

Pope John Paul II

FOR NOW, NO MORE SATURDAY 9AM MASS & 8:30AM CONFESSIONS. We are making this change because we now have two evening Masses on Saturdays and priests are not supposed to offer more than two Masses a day unless it is truly necessary for the benefit of the community. We regret any inconvenience. The priests at St. Peter’s offer an 8am Mass on Saturdays.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM - We will meet from 7 to 8:30 PM on Tuesdays to study the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. This important letter details the challenges faced by the first followers of our Lord Jesus and offers inspiration for our own times. There is no cost. All you need is your Bible. This week we will be discussing chapters 7-9. For more information contact Fr. Conley at frconley@comcast.net

WEDNESDAY - JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY PRAYERS via phone or internet using Zoom. We pray the Psalms on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. In addition, we have praise and worship each Thursday at 6:30 PM. Don’t isolate yourselves spiritually! Join your fellow parishioners in prayer.

THURSDAY PRAISE & WORSHIP IN THE HALL 7-8:30PM We will social distance & wear masks. Come praise the Lord & let the Spirit lift your spirits as we give God the glory.

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY BY PHONE OR ZOOM The volunteers who are in our healing prayer ministry will be happy to pray with people by phone or on Zoom. If you would like a prayer team to pray with you, please send me your email address and I will forward to it them. They will then contact you. You can request prayer by phone or by Zoom which would allow you to see each other.

*Please support our advertising sponsors. This week we recognize
Hancock Refrigeration
Heating & Air Conditioning*

2020 ANNUAL JUBILARIAN MASS

The annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, and 51 + years will be held on Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 2:00 PM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please fill out the form in the back of church to register, and return the form to the rectory office: **Attention Mary, no later than Monday, September 28, 2020.**

RETRouvaille MARRIAGE PROGRAM

4 Stages of Marriage – The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stages of Awakening. Don’t give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery, please contact Retrouvaille. All calls are confidential. To register or obtain more information visit our website at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 443-400-7017.

KNOW OF PARISHIONERS WHO ARE

HOMEBOUND? Please contact Fr. Conley or Sister Theresa at the rectory so we can minister to their spiritual needs.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am James (Smash) & Thomas Stewart, 10am Eric Orr, 12N Rev. Bernard Ihrle, **MON:** 8am Lucy Krugle, **TUES:** 8am Deacon Joseph McGuinness, **WED:** 8am Catherine Kreft, **THURS:** 8am Lucy Krugle **FRI:** 9:30am James (Smash) Stewart, **SAT:** 9am **NO MASS** 4pm Caroline Doering, **No 6pm on Fourth of July.**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Eunice Amey, Mary Bowes, Deacon Gene & Anne Burroughs, Quint Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Dottie Chick, Joe Cross, Kendall Farrell, Arlene Gandolfi, Lee Gardiner, James Gibson, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, A. Matthews, John Nichols, Johnny Norman, John Reeves, Mary Reeves, Melissa Rollins, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Beth Weise, Billie Whittington, Michael Whittington, Jr., Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:

\$9,031.00. \$2,445 .00 of that was received from people who contribute through online banking. The unidentified donations totaled \$288.00.