

*So if you [Philemon]
regard me as a partner,
welcome [Onesimus]
as you would me.*

PHILEMON 1:17



FIZKES / SHUTTERSTOCK

No Longer a Slave

Paul urges Philemon to treat a runaway slave, Onesimus, as a brother in Christ, not a slave. He didn't ask Philemon to free the man. Nor did he encourage him to work for the eradication of slavery. Why not? The letter doesn't tell us. Yet if we look deeply at this issue, we might discover that Paul was asking for something much more profound than a change in law.

The United States outlawed slavery more than 150 years ago. But that change did nothing to erase the political, economic, and social biases of many citizens. Some people still consider African Americans and other people of color as inferior, untrustworthy and dangerous. Laws cannot change thinking or prejudices.

Had Philemon simply freed Onesimus, would the slave's situation have been improved? In the ancient world, slaves were often branded, thus alerting

everyone to their servile position in society. Might this have prevented him from living a full life as a free man? Even if the law had changed, would ancient Rome have provided for former slaves any better than contemporary America has?

Paul pressed Philemon to go deeper into his heart, to change his perception of Onesimus' status in his household. Paul is probably not talking about a blood bond, but the bond that joins Christians to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. If we really treat each other in this way, discriminatory customs will crumble and there will no longer be any kind of slavery.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * *How do you regard people of different races? As sisters and brothers, or as dangerous?*
- * *How are nonwhites disadvantaged in your community? What might you do about this?*



St. Martin of Tours Catholic Community Fort Belvoir, VA

New to St Martin of Tours?

Please contact our Catholic Coordinator at FBCCInfo@gmail.com to register and get our email mailing list for the latest Catholic Community announcements!

Mass Schedule

Monday – Thursday, 1205 at Fairfax Chapel

Saturday, 1700 at Belvoir Chapel

Sunday, 0930 at Belvoir Chapel**
1100 at Fairfax Chapel

The Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed and can be viewed from this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

**Watchcare is available during this Mass for children ages 6months – 4years. Watchcare is located in the Religious Education Center next to Belvoir Chapel.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

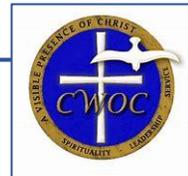
Saturday – 1600-1645 at Belvoir Chapel or by appointment. Contact Fr. Lindsay directly to schedule.

For More Information

CH(MAJ) Michael P. Lindsay, Catholic Chaplain
571-266.2086; michael.p.lindsay.mil@army.mil
Office located at: Religious Support Annex, Bldg 221, 10011 Middleton Rd, Ft Belvoir, near post office.

Sister Michael Bochnowski, Dir of Religious Education,
703-806-3418; smary.m.bochnowski.civ@army.mil
Office located at: Religious Education Center, next to Belvoir Chapel, 5950 12th Street, Fort Belvoir

Mrs. Louise Oliver, Catholic Pastoral Life Coordinator
703-806-5911; FBCCInfo@gmail.com;
louise.m.oliver.ctr@army.mil
Office located at: Religious Support Annex, Bldg 221, 10011 Middleton Rd, Ft Belvoir, near post office.



Catholic Women of the Chapel

Welcome Meeting

Wednesday, 21 September 2022
10 am at the REC

Join us at this meeting with refreshments to learn about this year's:

- * Leadership
- * Faith Study
- * Schedule
- * Activities

For more info, email CWOCBelvoir@yahoo.com

We are grateful for your generosity.

There are two ways to donate to our Catholic Community:

While a collection is not conducted during Mass, each Chapel has a collection box located near the back. Donations can be placed in the box before or after Mass. Checks must be made out to :

C.T.O.F. (Chapel Tithes and Offering Fund)

You can also make a donation to our Ft. Belvoir Catholic Community ONLINE!

To donate use this QR Code:



Or go to: www.ArmyCTOFDigitalGiving.com

Remember to choose:
Fort Belvoir, VA ; then Catholic – RCKA

SAVE THE DATE

All volunteers are invited to attend our **new:**
**Catholic Community
Integrated Liturgy Training**

**Saturday, 17 Sept 22
0900 at Belvoir Chapel**

Volunteers in the following ministries should try to attend: Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers, Music, and Mattheans.

This cross-training will walk all volunteers through a Mass discussing responsibilities of each ministry.

Catholic Community Volunteer Opportunity

*A kindly eye will earn a blessing, such
a person shares out food with the poor.*
Proverbs 22:9

Christ House provides meals
to the homeless in our area.

Once a month,
the Fort Belvoir Catholic Community
provides all parts of a meal.
Some volunteers prepare casseroles, others
donate other necessary items including:
rolls, fruit, cookies, water, etc.

Volunteers sign up to donate specific
items on a monthly basis.
Donations can be dropped off at the
Religious Education Center
near Belvoir Chapel
on designated weekends.

To volunteer or for more information,
please email Debbie at:
debbiesupenor@yahoo.com

HOMILY NOTES

23rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

4 SEP 2022

"I am sending him (Onesimus), that is, my own heart, back to you." "...that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord." (Philemon 12, 15-17)

Paul challenges Philemon to a radical change in his relationship with Onesimus. Slaves had no rights or status under Roman law and were treated as non-persons and mere possessions of their masters. Paul asks Philemon, as a close friend and brother in Christ to now respect Onesimus as an equal in Christ and welcome him as he would welcome Paul.

"The extensive use of family language in this letter indicates that a new model of mutual relationships has already been established within the Christian community, a model of relationships that is in tension with the master/slave relationship accepted in Roman society."

Paul "...had said that he had a right 'to order you to do what is proper' but says here he wants the good Philemon will do, to be voluntary, a good deed on the part of Philemon in response to the grace of God." "He is asking that Philemon receive Onesimus back not only as a slave but also as a brother in the Lord. He is asking that he will receive Onesimus both as a man, that is, as a fellow Christian who is his slave, and in the Lord, that is, as a co-worker in the gospel. Most of all, Paul is asking Philemon receive Onesimus back just as warmly as he would welcome Paul." (The New Collegeville Bible Commentary, c 2017, pg. 1413-14)

Paul reflects the challenge of Jesus to put the love of God first, which then will radically transform our love and relationships with others. In today's Gospel, Luke uses the Greek verb, 'miseō', a term meaning 'detest' or 'abhor.' The strong language of this the lesson teaches that no earthly attachment to a person, place, or thing should keep us from first and fully loving and following God. This primary relationship with God then is the guiding and transformed love that radically changes our relationships with others. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30-31) This teaching of Jesus challenges each of us to go beyond natural human ties and allegiances for the sake of his kingdom. Doing so will not always be easy, but can truly transform our love and relationships with others.

Fr. Mike

Dear Padre,

It seems like the Church always asks for money. Why should I donate?

The Church is a global organization representing institutions with growing needs—parishes, schools, charities, and mission societies, for example. If it seems like they “always ask for money,” it’s because there is a constant need to maintain these services. Indeed, the Vatican donates substantial funds to many charities.

Financial support has always been part of Christian community life. Jesus instructed his apostles to rely on the generosity and hospitality of those to whom they preached (see Luke 10:7). Early Christians gave contributions to the apostles to be distributed among widows and orphans. In fact, the early

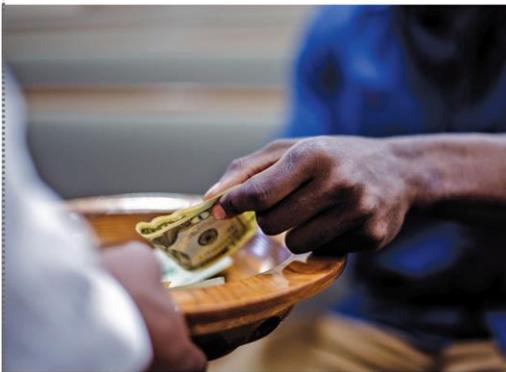
Church’s charitable activities were so extensive, it led to the formation of the diaconate, with deacons focusing on charitable work while the apostles preached (see Acts 6:1–6).

Some observe that the Church owns splendid churches and artwork. “Why doesn’t the Church sell these assets to fund their operations?” they ask. Indeed, as worshipers leave inner-city parishes for the suburbs,

dioceses have tried to sell decommissioned churches. They have discovered that few people can or want to buy a church. As for art treasures, they are part of the Church’s patrimony from previous generations that continues to inspire Catholics today and into the future.

Ultimately, we give in charity, recognizing that it’s Christ to whom we give when we give to the needy. Almsgiving is part of Christian life because of what it does for the recipient and for what giving does for the giver (see Acts 20:35).

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



WIRESTOCK CREATORS / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Charity is not a barren service nor a simple offering to be made in order to ease our conscience. What we must never forget is that charity has its origin and its essence in God himself; charity is God our Father’s embrace of every person, particularly of the least and the suffering.

ADDRESS TO CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS, MAY 27, 2019



Calendar

Monday
SEPTEMBER 5
Weekday
1 Cor 5:1–8
Lk 6:6–11

Tuesday
SEPTEMBER 6
Weekday
1 Cor 6:1–11
Lk 6:12–19

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 7
Weekday
1 Cor 7:25–31
Lk 6:20–26

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 8
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mi 5:1–4a
or Rom 8:28–30
Mt 1:1–16, 18–23
or 1:18–23

Friday
SEPTEMBER 9
St. Peter Claver, Priest
1 Cor 9:16–19, 22b–27
Lk 6:39–42

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 10
Weekday
1 Cor 10:14–22
Lk 6:43–49

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 11
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 32:7–11, 13–14
1 Tm 1:12–17
Lk 15:1–32
or 15:1–10

DAYbreaks

Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections & prayers for Advent and Lent.

Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at Liguori.org.