

The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saturday, August 29
5:30pm – Mary Field by Ellen Toole

Sunday, August 30
8:00am – *Pro Populo*
10:00am - Diana Centinaro
by Barry and Carol Patterson

Monday, August 31
8:00am –Olchowik Bamly
by Ewa Bielawska

Tuesday, September 1
8:00am – Healing for Pamula Mary Woods
by Mark Templeton

Wednesday, September 2
8:00am - Greg McGinty
by Art McKenna

Thursday, September 3
8:00am – Veterans and Wounded Warriors
by Knights of Columbus

Friday, September 4
8:00am – Joe Gawlik by wife, Helen

Saturday, September 5
5:30pm – Joanne Keough
by Sodality of Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, September 6
8:00am – Julie Michaels
By husband Tom and Family
10:00am - Dorothy Leubert by Margaret Hughes

Let us remember in prayer:
Rest in peace. . . Julia Dyett has been called home to the Father. Let us pray for her peaceful repose and for her mother, Ellie Dyett who mourn her passing.
For the sick, the dying and those who care for them.

Dear All,

In case you missed it last week, I am pretty strongly opposed to cultural and/or scientific movements to reduce human beings to some lesser common denominator. Last week I took on, pretty viciously, economic reductionism. In that school of thought, a discovered scarcity of resources makes humans a luxury that cannot be afforded. This reductionism allows those who have responsibility for the financial well-being of the relevant community – family, nation, world – to advocate and implement measures that will reduce the number of consumers in order to maximize the amount of money available for the fewer wealthy. But this is not the only form of reductionism to which *homo sapiens* (HS hereafter) is subject.

One that is particularly galling is what I call biological reductionism. There is no doubt that HS has a whole host of biological functions in common with other species of animals – everything from amoebae to zebras. In company with evolutionary thinkers, biological reductionists maintain that these similarities are all there is to know about HS. Any noticeable differences are attributed to differences in evolutionary tracks.

Two conclusions flow from this: every human behavior must have a biological explanation and a biological explanation only. Everything from societal life to prayer is to understood and explained, not as an advance of HS over some other life form, but just a mutation in the genome (genetic) or the environment (epigenetic). Second humans have no more control of or responsibility for their behavior than have cows or chimps. To maintain otherwise would be a form of *species-ism* akin to and fully as reprehensible as *racism*. The ultimate expression of this reduction is the proscription of any human activity that results in or depends on the death of any other life form – life is life, biology is biology.

The fallacy of this biological reductionism is clear; only humans, for no discernible biological reason, are actually able to choose to live non-competitively with each other and with only measured violence to the environment or its other denizens. We call this responsibility; and our treatment of the irresponsible we call justice or mercy – the latter is a reaction hardly visceral.

Against biological reductionism, Christianity proposes a unique *spiritual* dimension in HS that actually gives rise to a similarity between HS and a species, logically *post-human*, of beings who are neither determined nor limited

by biological factors. Those ‘post-humans’ (I have borrowed that term from the evolutionists) might be ‘angels’; but they are certainly beings who more and

more closely (how many phyla of angels can fit in a chapter of metaphysics?) resemble the ‘absolute Spirit’ who is God.

We will look at other reductionisms as we go along and finally arrive at a truly Christian understanding of HS (we are still doing anthropology). But even if I were not a preacher, I would still owe it to you to point out the presuppositions on which the persuader class of our world rely.

Really and truly and irreducibly yours,
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Bishop’s Annual Appeal

Thank you for supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal in the past and in this 2020 Campaign! As of August 25, you have contributed **\$ 39,233.** toward a total goal of **\$ 65,958.**

If you have not yet made a gift to the appeal or would like to make an additional gift online, visit <https://vermontcatholic.org/giveonline> or call, 802-658-6110 or mail to : Bishop’s Appeal, Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, PO Box 1358, Williston, VT 05495-1358.

Catholic Daughters, Court St. Rita

Please support The Catholic Daughters raffle to raise funds to support the neediest among us. Raffle tickets are at the exit near the Parish Bulletins. Ticket stubs and monies marked CDA may be put in the collection basket or mailed to CDA Court St. Rita, PO Box 35, Manchester Center, VT 05255. Thank you for your always generous help. Drawing will be September 6th.
Chances are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Thank You!

Great News - Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a virtual marriage experience called ***Restore – Rekindle – Renew***. This Enrichment Experience will meet via Zoom for seven sessions on Monday evenings September 14 to October 26 from 7-9:30 PM. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God’s plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to

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apply, call John & Diane Forcier at 802-657-3083 or visit them at <https://www.mevtw.org/>.

Christ Our Hope Campaign
Building a Vibrant Church

“Perhaps You Were Born for Such a Time as This.”
- Esther 4:14

The situation and circumstances we face today, in the culture and the Church, call for us to move from maintenance to mission. At every Catholic parish in Vermont, we are called to respond in faith – in new ways, with a new vigor.

Many of you have received the *Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church* campaign packets in the mail that included a case statement for the campaign with an insert that describes how our parish plans to use the 60% of funds raised. Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift that will renew our parishes and move our church from maintenance to mission.

Bishop Coyne is hosting coffee hours to answer questions. Click the link to register:
<https://www.christourhopevt.org/events>
August 31 @ 7 p.m.
September 1 @ 7 p.m.
September 9 @ 3p.m.

To learn more about the campaign visit:
www.christourhopevt.org

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
we place our hope in You
to guide the Catholic Church in Vermont
to renew our parishes,
and engage our youth;
to form lay leaders,
and serve the most vulnerable among us.

In the power of the Holy Spirit,
help us build a vibrant church
in this time and place
and for generations to come.

Seeking the intercession of our
first bishop, Louis deGoesbriand,
we pray this through Christ Our Lord,
Amen.