



Saturday, February 5

5:30pm – *Pro populo*

Sunday, February 6

8:00am – Paddy Peters

by Stephen and Joan Monroe

10:00am – *Pro populo*

Monday, February 7

8:00am –

Tuesday, February 8

8:00am – The Health of Pamela Mary Woods

Wednesday, February 9

8:00am -

Thursday, February 10

8:0 am -

Friday, February 11

8:00am -

Saturday, February 12

5:30pm – Cathy Stiller by parents,

Harold and Kathleen Hogstrom

Sunday, February 13

8:00am – James Harniece

by Ray and Carolyn Smith

10:00am – Robin Kerstel by Latitia Sardino

Let us remember in prayer:

All the Sick, the Dying, those who care for them,
and those who mourn them.

Dear All,

Someone asked me the other day what I knew about discernment. If one asks, there must be more who could use the answer. So y'all get the fruits of this conversation.

Discernment is just a fancy word for the process of making a decision.

Thus, discernment is not the work of a slave who only takes orders; or of an addict who only feeds the monkey on his back; or of the person who lacks the use of reason.

At its simplest, discernment involves listing available options and, as much as possible, listing, also, the pros and cons of each option. Clearly, it takes rational ability to create the lists. But we are not just rational animals. A really smart person will list, not just the practical pros and cons, but the affective ones, as well: do I want to do this thing? That is the critical issue for the free person. Freedom always finds itself at the junction of reason (best) and desire (best for me). The longest possible list of pros will not move the person who does not like that option.

In the world of Christian freedom, things get a little more involved.

A Christian is never just an isolated individual confronted options involving his alone. A Christian knows himself to be a creature, dependent on a Creator, and, thus, not absolutely free. A Christian knows himself to be a follower of a Christ. Between them, these two truths set limits on the freedom of the Christian: suicide and sin – have not pros.

The oneness of the Creator and the oneness of Christ involve the Christian discerner in the human community of other creatures and the ecclesial community of other Christians in such a way that the merely animalistic /instinctual or the atheist/pragmatic have no pros.

Bottom line: the Christian discerner is free from his or her own self; Christian freedom is always the freedom of one who, whatever choices are demanded of him, lives and chooses and acts as a member of a vast community that both directs and supports a life free of mere self-reference.

This may seem to be a tremendous limitation of freedom; of the affective element we spoke of earlier. In fact, the non-Christian or immature Christian will be more apt to experience the lure of the affective and to heed its siren call than will the mature and committed one. If you have not noticed, we are talking about someone who has already made an affective choice to love God and his neighbor and has made that choice with such firmness that self-love has lost its luster as a choice – no pros there.

Let me point out one more freedom that belongs to the 'un-selfed' Christian: he or she is also free of self-condemnation. However great or small the wrongness of a wrong use of freedom, those human and ecclesial communities stand ready to encourage and support and implement the restoration of freedom that is known as forgiveness.

We will talk about the process of Christian discernment next time.

Really and truly and discernibly yours,
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Plan on attending ***Breakfast with the Knights of Columbus*** next Sunday, February 13th in the Parish Hall in Manchester! This monthly event is hosted by the Knights after both the 8:00am and 10:00am Masses. The extensive breakfast menu includes, eggs, bacon, sausages, pancakes, OJ, coffee, tea, and pastries. All of this is offered for \$10.00 for adults and children under 7 eat for free. Proceeds from these monthly breakfasts help the Knights support their on-going projects aimed at helping many needy individuals and families in the Northshire area.

Totus Tuus Summer Catholic Camp

SAVE THE DATE

Sacred Heart Saint Francis Church
Bennington, VT

Grades 1–8: June 20-24 - 6, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

High School: June 19-23, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Join us for a week of faith and fun! Totus Tuus is a high-energy dose of faith building led by four college - age young adults. Totus Tuus is Latin for "Totally Yours" and is a Catholic youth program dedicated to promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, evangelization, and Eucharistic worship. The goal of Totus Tuus is to help young people grow in their understanding of, and strengthen their faith in, Jesus Christ. The program strives to bring our faith to life. For more info, email shsftotustuus@gmail.com.

As an act of charity towards our fellow parishioners, Bishop Coyne has asked that masks be worn at all Masses during this flu season