



Saint Anthony Church

15 Church Street

White River Jct. Vermont 05001

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 29, 2019

Father Charles R. Danielson, Pastor

Deacon John P. Guarino

Bishop of Burlington: Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne

Parish Office

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Closed on Wednesday

Secretary: Ms. Joanne Collins

Telephone: 802-295-2225, ext. 3

Office e-mail: Info@SaintAnthonyChurchWRJ.org

Website: www.stanthonysvt.org

Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday 4:00 PM

Sunday 8:30 AM

Weekday: Monday & Friday 9:00 AM

Holy Days: Consult the parish bulletin

Rectory Chapel

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Religious Education

Coordinator: Mrs. Julie Hamilton, 295-3989, juliehamilton130@comcast.net

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday from 3:15 – 3:45 PM

Baptism: Parents must come to the rectory to get the necessary forms at least one month in advance.

Marriage: Couples must contact the parish at least six months in advance.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 28	4:00 P.M.	The People of Saint Anthony Parish
Sunday, September 29	8:30 A.M.	Charles & Carmen Milne by Dr. Michael Milne
Monday, September 30	9:00 A.M.	Deceased Members of the Esposito family by the estate
Friday, October 4	9:00 A.M.	Dick Philbin by Ginny
Saturday, October 5	4:00 P.M.	Pauline McCarthy by Herb & Pat Castellini
Sunday, October 6	8:30 A.M.	The People of Saint Anthony Parish



Sister Alice Vincent
Theresa Lund
Dianne Hopkins
Flossie Courtemanche
Liz Wheeler
Frank Klymn
Martha Brock
Patrick Kendall

Please also remember others who are in need of our prayers.

Names will be published in our bulletin for one month. If you would like to renew your prayer request after one month, please contact the parish office.

Sanctuary Lamps
will burn for:

Saint Anthony
Parishioners
& friends



Sacrificial Giving Report

To meet our expenses we need:	\$ 3,700.00
Offertory collection September 21-22:	\$ 4,687.50

**Thank You for Your Support
of Saint Anthony Church!**

Low Gluten Altar Bread: If you require a low gluten host for communion, come to the altar with the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The celebrant will give you the consecrated low gluten host from a separate paten.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Richard Woodward, Sr., a parishioner who died this week and whose funeral was held here on Thursday. May his family find solace in their faith and in the promise of eternal life with our heavenly Father.

Message from Fr. Rick:

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

= September 29th 2019 =

“Father Abraham, have pity on me ...!”

How ironic!

The rich man has no pity for Lazarus; poor, hungry and covered with sores at his doorstep yet he pleads for mercy for himself and his brothers.

The rich man, Jesus doesn't give him a name, Catholic tradition later gave him the name “Dives” (meaning, “Rich”), may indeed wear purple and linen and dine “sumptuously each day” all luxuries in first century Palestine, but spiritually speaking he is poorer than Lazarus. He suffers from “spiritual blindness.” He does not see, or even want “to see” Lazarus even though the poor man lies at his very doorstep. His bank account might be full but the spiritual wealth that Jesus commands us to acquire is sadly not there.

Ironically Dives is discovered to be poor indeed. Poor in faith and poor in love for the poor of this world. He ignored and despised Lazarus and, self-satisfied complacent and very comfortable and well fed never, ever saw the need all around him, much less responded to it with compassion and love.

Fr. Rick

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Do you know someone who may be interested in exploring the Catholic Faith, and perhaps becoming Catholic? Waiting for a great program to help that person find true Faith and God's love in Jesus? Well - wait no longer!



Starting this Monday September 30, Saint Anthony's Parish is again sponsoring a dynamic adult RCIA program using state of the art content and an experienced facilitator team to introduce and form the Catholic Faith in those adults called by grace to His Church. The program will meet weekly on Monday at 6 PM in the Religious Ed Center for 90 min, and culminate for those who discern a true calling to the Faith at the Easter Vigil on Saturday April 11, 2020, with Sacramental reception into the Catholic Church.

If you know someone who may be interested - invite them to participate! YOU may be the instrument the Holy Spirit has chosen to build the Church in the World with that invitation. For more information, contact Father Rick or Deacon John in Saint Anthony's Parish Office, (802) 295-2225.



Are You
Registered
With Us?

Parish Registration: Our parish registration appeal continues! We thank those who have responded and completed or updated their parish registration form.

We suspect there are many of you who have not. We are primarily interested in your name and the members of your household residing with you, as well as current contact information (telephone, residential and mailing address, and email.)

Simply take a Parish Registration form, fill it out and return it to us. You may mail it, bring it to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket. Registration forms are available in the parish office, or you may download the form from our website. Please note that we will *not* send offertory envelopes if you do not specifically request them.

Have you been attending Mass at Saint Anthony Church for years, and assume that you are registered? Perhaps you are not. We invite you to check with the parish office. There's no obligation. If you are registered with us but your phone number, address or other information has changed, simply print your name on the form, along with the updated information. We keep your information strictly confidential. E-mail us at Info@SaintAnthonyChurchWRJ.org or call the parish office at (802) 295-2225, ext. 3 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Unsure
if you are
registered?



Parish Dinner: On Saturday, October 12, 2019 a Roast Turkey Dinner will be held in Saint Anthony Parish Hall from 4:45-6:15 p.m. The cost is \$12.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children.

Dan Smith will be preparing the dinner to raise funds for Saint Anthony Parish. If you can help by making a pie or dessert, serve at the dinner, or help with cleanup, please call Dan at 802-356-3527. Come one, come all. Enjoy good company and a great meal while you support our parish. For take-out orders please call Dan.

Bishop's Annual Appeal: The Bishop's Annual Appeal continues. If you have not yet been able to respond, please consider a donation. As of September 23 Saint Anthony Parish has reached 59% of our pledge goal, with donations totalling \$21,792.00. For more information please visit bishopsappealvt.org. Envelopes are available at the parish office.

Canonization: You are cordially invited to celebrate the Canonization of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman on Sunday, October 13th from 4 - 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish in Essex Jct., VT. The evening will include Solemn Vespers, dinner and dessert, and three brief presentations on the life and thought of Cardinal Newman, featuring a guest speaker from St. Thomas More College, as well as Fr. Kevin Chalifoux and Fr. Matthew Rensch. RSVP to Vermontnewman@gmail.com **by October 6.** Price is \$10 per guest/\$15 for two/\$5 for each additional. Formal attire is requested.



Take A Look! St. Anthony and the other parishes in the Diocese of Burlington are in the process of transitioning to uniform websites. They will be similar in overall appearance, making them easier for visitors to navigate. More important, parishes will retain all local content and editing control.

St. Anthony Church was one of the first parishes to go 'live' with our new website. You may continue to access the site through our current web address, although that will be changing. We will keep you informed of progress. We hope you will like our new look and ease of navigation.

Rosary: The rosary will be offered this weekend, September 28-29 before Saturday and Sunday Mass. Please meet forty five minutes before each Mass in the pews nearest the tabernacle at the front of the church. Rosary will be prayed at 3:15 p.m. Saturday, September 28 and at 7:45 a.m. Sunday, September 29. We hope to end the Rosary so participants will have 15 minutes to reflect on the mysteries before Mass.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness in your life and marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekend is November 15-17, 2019 in Isle La Motte, VT. For more information, call John & Diane Forcier at 802-657-3083 or visit them at <https://www.mevtw.org/>.

Upper Valley Catholic Young Adults: Are you in your 20s or 30s and interested in gathering for a Bible study and other fun activities? We meet Friday evenings at 7 p.m. in Hanover, NH. If you would like to be put on the e-mail list for upcoming meetings/events, or if you have any questions please contact Lina Heinrichs at lina.j.heinrichs@gmail.com.

Support Life: "In a striking way, we see today a heightening of the tension between our nation's founding principles and political reality. We see this in diminishing respect for the inalienable right to life and in the elimination of legal protections for those who are most vulnerable. There can be no genuine justice in our society until the truths on which our nation was founded are more perfectly realized in our culture and law." United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics*

Prayer for Healing: *God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross. Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breathe wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith: Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Haven: The most needed items this week are macaroni and cheese, black beans, kidney beans, cereal and tuna. Non-perishable items may be left in the basket at the top of the stairs. Thank you!

St. Anthony Parish would like to welcome all those who are visiting with us this weekend.

Saint Anthony Church
15 Church Street
White River Junction, Vermont 05001

Telephone: 802-295-2225
Fax: 802-296-6008

E-Mail: info@saintanthonychurchwrj.org
Web: www.saintanthonyvt.org

September 29, 2019

Dear Parishioners of Saint Anthony Parish,

Included with this letter are the Parish Financial Report for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 and the Parish Budget for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

This information is published annually to keep you, the parishioners of St. Anthony Parish, informed of the financial health of our parish. It is only because of your ongoing generosity that we are able to meet our financial obligations and also provide additional resources for expected and unexpected future needs. Your faithful support is truly appreciated. As you can see from this report, we continue to do very well in this regard. Based on our weekly offertory income and the day to day operational expenses for the past fiscal year we had a net income of \$45,970.30. In addition to the regular income we received other one-time gifts and bequests totaling \$33,620.00 of which \$25,000.00 came from a single gift. We are very grateful to these donors both living and deceased for their contributions to support the current and future operation of our parish. This will allow us to provide for some needed repairs to the parish hall windows, the religious education building, and the repointing of the bricks on the exterior of the church. These additional donations will not require us to use any additional Capital Improvement funds. The Capital Improvement Fund earned \$3,258.48 of interest yielding a current balance of \$274,132.39.

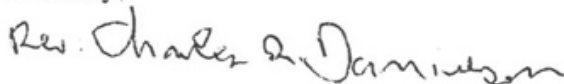
One of our challenges continues to be providing for the care and maintenance of our cemeteries. This year we had a deficit of \$3,425.85. This was after covering only the most necessary expenses leaving other maintenance issues unable to be completed. We are fortunate to be able to cover this shortfall with parish funds. Interest from perpetual care funds, income from the sale of burial rights, additional fees, and an annual allocation from the Town of Hartford are the sources of income used to fund the care of the cemeteries. Our annual allocation from the town for the past several years has been \$3,800.00. As a result of a vote at the last town meeting authorizing the expenditure of funds to assist organizations responsible for cemeteries in town, Mount Olivet and Saint Anthony Cemetery received an additional \$10,200.00 for fiscal year 2019-2020. This will allow us to do some needed tree maintenance in addition to mowing, and minimize the deficit in the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the parish Finance Committee for the important work they do. Rick Jaros, Evelyn Jaros, Carolyn Coker and Deacon John Guarino have devoted an abundance of their time and expertise over many years. They monitor the monthly finance reports, formulate the annual budget, and advise the pastor on numerous financial and related matters. Their contribution to the parish has been crucial.

I also thank Jackie Pierce and Nicole Curtis at A.M. Peisch. They handle our bookkeeping account. Their competence and willingness to help the committee is always appreciated. Additional thanks go to Joanne Collins, the administrative assistant in our parish office. She keeps the day-to-day operations of the parish running smoothly.

God has been good to us, and we are very fortunate to have many dedicated people offering so much of their time, talent and treasure to make this a great parish community. Thank you to everyone!

Sincerely,



Father Charles R. Danielson
Pastor

Saint Anthony Church

Parish Financial Report

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Income

Regular Income **\$219,652.40**

Weekly Offertory Collection
Holy Day Collections
Fuel Envelope
Building Repair Fund Envelope

Additional Sources of Income **\$25,731.56**

Mass Stipends
Funeral & Wedding Fees
Catholic Education Collection
Christmas Collection
Easter Collection
Christmas & Easter Flower Offerings
Assistance Fund Donations
Religious Education Fees
Vermont Catholic Magazine (Subscription Fees Collected)
Votive Candle Receipts (Sanctuary Lamp Memorial Donations)

Fund Raisers **\$31,395.89**

Spring Campaign
Christmas Bazaar

Interest Income (Includes Restricted Accounts) **\$3,960.86**

Total Income **\$280,740.71**

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits **\$71,764.65**

Priest
Salary
Car Allowance
Christmas Collection
Mass Stipends
Substitute Priest Expenses
Office Administrative Assistant
Religious Education Coordinator
Rectory Housekeeping
Church & Religious Education Center Cleaning & Maintenance
Payroll Taxes (FICA & Medicare)

Contributions and Assessments	\$34,709.23
Charitable Gifts	
Vermont Catholic Magazine Assessment	
Diocesan Assessment	
Catholic Schools Assessment	
Priest Benefit Fund Assessment	
Christmas Collection Assessment	
Services and Miscellaneous Fees	\$5,711.72
Advertising (Valley News for Holiday Mass Schedules & Bazaar)	
Rentals and Leasing (Office Copier Contract)	
Postage	
Professional Fees	\$12,812.64
Accounting & Bookkeeping Services	
Organist Fees	
Printing & Distribution (Parish Collection Envelopes)	
Diocesan Assessment for Priest & Deacon Retreats and Continuing Education	
Insurance	\$11,299.40
Property	
Workers Compensation	
Supplies	\$23,648.81
Food & Beverages (Parish Activities)	
Liturgical (Candles, Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Palms etc.)	
Bulletins & Missals for the Congregation	
Flowers & Decorations for the Church	
Janitorial & Office Supplies (Includes Fundraising Expenses)	
Religious Education (Books & Materials)	
Repairs and Maintenance	\$10,881.00
All Buildings (Includes Annual Fire Alarm & Lift Inspections & Maintenance)	
Lawn Care	
Snow Removal	
Computer & Office Equipment	
Utilities	\$46,197.82
Fire Alarm Monitoring	
Telephone & Internet	
Rubbish Removal	
Electric	
Oil & Propane	
Water & Sewer	
Cemetery	\$3,425.83
Cover cemetery losses	
Depreciation	\$14,319.31
Total Expense	\$234,770.41
<u>Net Operating Income/Expense</u>	<u>\$45,970.30</u>

Saint Anthony Church

Parish Budget

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Income

Regular Income	\$197,504.84
Weekly Offertory Collection	
Holy Day Collections	
Fuel Envelope	
Additional Sources of Income	\$19,400.00
Mass Stipends	
Funeral & Wedding Fees	
Catholic Education Collection	
Christmas Collection	
Easter Collection	
Christmas & Easter Flower Offerings	
Religious Education Fees	
Vermont Catholic Magazine (<i>Subscription Fees Collected</i>)	
Votive Candle Receipts (<i>Sanctuary Lamp Memorial Donations</i>)	
Fund Raisers	\$27,000.00
Spring Campaign	
Christmas Bazaar	
Interest Income (<i>Includes Restricted Accounts</i>)	\$7,242.85
Cemetery Income	\$20,800.00
Gifts and Bequests (<i>Includes Memorial Donations</i>)	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$272,947.69

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$78,274.82
Priest	
Salary	
Car Allowance	
Christmas Collection	
Mass Stipends	
Substitute Priest Expenses	
Office Administrative Assistant	
Religious Education Coordinator	
Rectory Housekeeping	
Church & Religious Education Center Cleaning & Maintenance	
Payroll Taxes (<i>FICA & Medicare</i>)	

Contributions and Assessments	\$35,006.69
Charitable Gifts	
Vermont Catholic Magazine Assessment	
Diocesan Assessment	
Catholic Schools Assessment	
Priest Benefit Fund Assessment	
Christmas Collection Assessment	
Services and Miscellaneous Fees	\$7,114.00
Advertising (<i>Valley News for Holiday Mass Schedules & Bazaar</i>)	
Rentals and Leasing (<i>Office Copier Contract</i>)	
Postage	
Professional Fees	\$15,125.00
Accounting & Bookkeeping Services	
Organist Fees	
Printing & Distribution (<i>Parish Collection Envelopes</i>)	
Diocesan Assessment for Priest & Deacon Retreats and Continuing Education	
Insurance	\$11,702.18
Property	
Workers Compensation	
Supplies	\$24,625.00
Food & Beverages (<i>Parish Activities</i>)	
Liturgical (<i>Candles, Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Palms etc.</i>)	
Bulletins & Missals for the Congregation	
Flowers & Decorations for the Church	
Janitorial & Office Supplies (<i>Includes Fundraising Expenses</i>)	
Religious Education (<i>Books & Materials</i>)	
Repairs and Maintenance	\$46,000.00
All Buildings (<i>Includes Annual Fire Alarm & Lift Inspections & Maintenance</i>)	
Lawn Care	
Snow Removal	
Computer & Office Equipment	
Utilities	\$55,100.00
Fire Alarm Monitoring	
Telephone & Internet	
Rubbish Removal	
Electric	
Oil & Propane	
Water & Sewer	
Total Expense	\$272,947.69
<u>Net Income/Expense</u>	\$0.00

NEWS FROM The Inland See

September 28 – October 4, 2019

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

“Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. ... God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. ... God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.”

The biblical story of creation found in the Book of Genesis is one with which we are very familiar. Among the many truths found in this story is that God created the world and all it contains as well as humankind and “found it very good.” God also set man and woman within the world to fill it and to care for it as a ruler has “dominion” over lands, not just to use the land, but to tend it and preserve it. Creation is a gift from God.

In the New Testament, this truth of creation is linked very clearly to Christ himself. In John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15, we read that all things were made through Christ. As both true God and true man, Christ is able to disclose the creative love of God. As one author puts it, “In one sense, God made the universe as a gift for his Son who, along with the Spirit, worked with the Father in this great work of creation. But perhaps we can also say that God made the universe as an act of love. God who is love created a world on which he could lavish his love and kindness. He created the world that it might enjoy his love and that all creation might respond to his love, glorify him and give delight to him” (Peter Misselbrook, “Musings”).

My friends, we can spend lots of time arguing about the causes of climate change and whether or not it is caused by

humans or just part of the regular cycle of planetary warming that the Earth has known over the course of millennia, but we cannot ignore the fact that it is happening, and at a very accelerated rate. I urge you all to seriously read and ponder the work of the Catholic Climate Covenant, an organization formed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to help guide the U.S. Church’s response to climate change. By educating, giving public

witness and offering resources, the Catholic Climate Covenant inspires and equips people and institutions to care for creation and to care for the poor.

Pope Francis in his encyclical “*Laudato Si*” spoke eloquently and strongly against a “throw-away” culture that does not see the Earth as a place to be cultivated and sustained as the sphere in which we come to know God’s love, but instead sees the Earth and its resources as something only to be used and discarded when no longer useful. He warns against the pollution of our seas with discarded plastic, the destruction of diverse earthly habitats for humanity’s enrichment only, the scarcity of water that arises from unbridled industrialization, and the tragic reality of seeing other human beings as disposable

when they are not useful or when they hinder personal choices. Pope Francis’ voice is one we must listen to if we are going to help our world survive.

We will soon celebrate the feast day of the pope’s namesake, St. Francis of Assisi. This great saint’s affinity and love for creation is one that we should emulate every day of our lives. Each day is a reminder of the great first act of creation in which God said, “Let there be light.” May the dawn from on high break upon us in the glory of creation and the hope of salvation in Christ.

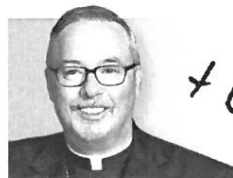


Bishop Coyne's message for the Season of Creation



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar:
vermontcatholic.org/events



Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Christopher J. Coyne

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

Sunday, Sep 29, 2019

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Try a little tenderness

We hear folks wish out loud for more patience. In church circles, many voice the ambition to be more devout, loving, or kind. Cultivating a spirit of gentleness, however, is rare on the wish list. Why the oversight? Gentleness makes it onto a lot of Saint Paul's checklists, including his nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. Paul was sensitive to this virtue, perhaps because he could be pretty rough on fellow Christians who disappointed him! What would happen if you spent one day choosing the softer look, the more careful word, the gentler touch? Try it and find out.

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31 (138). "*Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.*"

Monday, Sep 30, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Consider the source

When you make a photocopy of a photocopy, the original becomes harder to see, read, and understand. Saint Jerome, the great linguist, experienced this with the Septuagint, a Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament. As the use of Latin spread with the Holy Roman Empire—edging out the Greek used by early Christians—the church began to rely on Latin translations of the Septuagint. Jerome thought we could do better. He went back to the original Hebrew, mining the texts as Jesus and other Jews knew them. Not everyone agreed with Jerome. Saint Augustine preferred the Greek. Arguments ensued; a compromise evolved. A strength of church teaching that benefits us today: Differences of opinion can birth a better outcome.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50 (455). "*An argument arose among the disciples.*"

Tuesday, Oct 01, 2019

MEMORIAL OF THERÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Sailing toward the eternal shore

How would you describe your life's journey? Thérèse of Lisieux—Carmelite nun, saint, and doctor of the church—imagined her life journey as sailing the sea. Reflecting one evening on the sun setting across the sea at Trouville, she wrote of how the sun left a "luminous trail." "It was to me the image of God's grace shedding its light across the path the little white-sailed vessel had to travel." She committed herself to following Jesus "in order to travel peacefully towards the eternal shore." What image would you use? And how do you experience God with you along the way?

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). "*I too will go to seek the Lord.*"

Wednesday, Oct 02, 2019

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Stand by me

Today the church gives a shout-out to guardian angels. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him [or her] to life," is how the Catholic catechism puts it. Whether you picture a comforting winged angel at your shoulder, or see your guardian angel as more of a metaphor for God's loving care, great comfort can be found by relaxing into this protection.

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 2:1-8 (457); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650). "*See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.*"

Thursday, Oct 03, 2019

MEMORIAL OF THEODORE GUERIN, RELIGIOUS (SAINT THEODORA)

Discipleship with backbone

"Sisters, let's pack our bags," Mother Guerin's community responded when a clueless bishop locked her up and tried to excommunicate her for challenging his need to control. Guerin inspired loyalty; the first sisters bonded after landing on the raw Indiana frontier, speaking only French. As if hunger, overturned stagecoaches, financial hardships, and terrible health weren't trials enough, the bishop believed he owned them. After epic battles, Guerin finally triumphed. A simple frame shed eventually became Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the country's oldest Catholic liberal arts college for women. Learn how Guerin's college empowers students at the website: smwc.edu.

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458). "*The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.*"

Friday, Oct 04, 2019

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI, RELIGIOUS

Faithful to the end

Saint Francis of Assisi gave us two kinds of crosses. One is the San Damiano Cross, depicting the Crucifixion and its witnesses. It replicates the cross Francis prayed to when God said, "Rebuild my church." The other is the simple T-shaped tau cross, made of wood—reminding us to be flexible and humble—which is the final letter of the old Hebrew alphabet (as omega is in Greek, when we say Christ is "Alpha and Omega"). Francis loved the tau and used it as his seal. The prophet Ezekiel said that those faithful to God at the end would be marked with a tau. Remember this Beatitude: Those who are last will be first with God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459). "*Will you be exalted to heaven?*"

Saturday, Oct 05, 2019

MEMORIAL OF BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST

Good medicine

Born in Bavaria, Francis Xavier Seelos joined the Redemptorists to serve as a missionary to German immigrants in the United States. By all accounts he flourished in ministry—and did so with a kind and cheerful attitude. After being stationed in New Orleans, however, he contracted yellow fever caring for the ill and died at the age of 48 in 1867. Imagine the suffering that could have been avoided if the yellow fever vaccine had been available then. So it is disconcerting today to see the anti-vaccine movement grow so strong. The World Health Organization identifies this movement as one of the top 10 global health threats of 2019, all the more troubling given the overwhelming scientific consensus about the safety and efficacy of vaccines. God gave us intelligence so that we might use it to alleviate suffering in the world. Get the facts and talk to those who have been swayed by baseless claims.

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460). "*Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.*"

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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