



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

January 28, 2018 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

dear Padre

Every year, someone with a cold wants to shake my hand at the sign of peace, and sick people drink from the Communion cup. Can't parishes ban the cup and the sign of peace during flu season?

Many people share your concern. As a priest, I am hugged by an entire congregation throughout flu season. If I'm sick, I warn people as they approach, but some people want a hug anyway. For many, community fellowship wins out over prudence.

Of course it would be best if those who are sick don't drink from the cup containing the precious Blood. But even if they do, receiving the precious Blood is more important to me than the slight risk of illness.

However, if it bothers you that much, there's nothing wrong with electing not to receive the precious Blood. And instead of shaking hands and hugging at the sign of peace, try nodding and waving. If people don't understand and push for more, simply say, "Don't want to pass on the flu." That should stop them.

In today's society, far too many things keep us physically apart. I refuse to casually surrender anything that brings us together in love and fellowship except in dire circumstances, and for me, a normal flu season doesn't qualify.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

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Deacon, Mike Wiedemer

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CRE: RCIA, Marie Rose

CRE: 7-12, Gayle Poole

CRE: K-6, Kim Brumfield

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Janet Bland, Danny O'Reilly

Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,

Gera Jarboe, Gail Pollock

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School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne





Tell me more! That is always my reaction to readings such as today's gospel where we hear in Mark 1:21 "Jesus entered the synagogue and **taught.**" My immediate question is "What did HE say?" Now, we can find whole chunks of Jesus' teaching materials (like his sermon series) in the gospels at places like Matthew chapters 5-7, or all of Luke chapter 6, or in John chapters 14-17. For Mark's gospel (the one we read in this year B) the longest section of Jesus' straight teaching comes in chapter 4. But I can never avoid the reaction of 'wanting

more' whenever I hear one of the evangelists say "Jesus **taught** the crowds". However, I know that Jesus as God Incarnate, as the 'Word made Flesh' (John 1:14), He always embodies His teaching. So, simply witnessing His actions and behavior may teach me more than I can handle to begin with! And the evangelists are concerned to record for later believers not only Jesus' classroom outlines, but his interactions with people, his manner of living and all of his works and wonders! Whenever we hear someone say something like "Jesus never taught a word about the morality of "embryonic stem cell research" or "gender identity sexuality" or "genetically modified food", we have to keep the whole of all of Jesus' words and actions in mind to draw a conclusion. What I mean is that where Jesus may not have specially addressed a particular issue, his teaching as a whole viewed systematically can lead to a 'consistent overall position'. For example, consider abortion: while Jesus never used the word 'abortion' forbidding it, he certainly held a 'resolute' ethic of respecting the dignity of all human address life great or small, and constantly upheld the role of God alone as the author-creator-giver of human life and of championing the inviolable dignity of children's living (as found in Jesus' saying, "Let the children come to me" (Mark 10:14). So Jesus consistently pointed out the evil of destroying human life in the womb. Jesus' word and deed taken together provide a 'reliable body of teaching material'. Jesus' sermon notes and outlines provide the texts of his 'teaching'. I just want to add that even back when the evangelists were writing their gospels, they were aware of the **impossibility of writing down every movement Jesus made, and every word he uttered**, as when John 21:25 says, "There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written." (See the same idea expressed in John 20:30).

Yet, what also jumps out to me from today's gospel is the uniqueness of Jesus' teaching, clearly noticed in his time! In two places (Mark 1:22, and 1:27) we hear about the outstanding 'authority' Jesus exercised in his teaching. Verse 22 describes Jesus teaching as being 'not like the scribes' and verse 27 calls his teaching authority "new", suggesting that no one had ever before taught with such command and comfort as Jesus. Mark gives the impression that the 'scribes' were disingenuous, hypocritical or into teaching only 'for themselves', and not for the sake of the 'transcendentals' known as *Truth, Beauty and the Good*. Such self-serving distortions and bad examples of otherwise lofty institutions' can occur everywhere. Just before Christmas, Pope Francis emphasized in a talk with the Roman Curia the need to be vigilant and on guard against 'abuse of authority' in Church leadership. He said the 'debased mindset of power plots and small cliques represent – for all their self-justification and good intentions – a cancer leading to a self-centeredness that can seep into ecclesiastical bodies, (there are) those who betray the trust put in them and profiteer from the Church's motherhood. Some may let themselves be corrupted by ambition or vainglory so, to achieve the aim of our work (salvation of souls), *it is necessary to practice discernment.*" (Address to Curia, 12-21-2017). So just as with the scribes of Jesus' time, we may encounter spiritual teachers today who 'teach only for their own benefit and what serves their own power over others."

But, most importantly I want to explore this 'new authority' Jesus introduces through His teaching and life witness. Jesus pointed out that the scribes of his time leaned upon the established authority of those safely hidden in the past. The scribes had little concern for their own faithful living and they just invoked the authority of 'ancients' to justify themselves. Jesus states this most concisely in Matthew 23:3 when he describes the Scribes and Pharisees as those who "**preach but do not practice.**...their works are only performed to be seen." The scribes & Pharisees had no personal credibility or no standing of their own on personal grounds of integrity to accord with their teaching. They worshipped the authority of the 'elders' and could not demonstrate the continuity of teaching with one's own living. Even in the words of their teaching alone, they could not master the inter-relation of consistent principles and practices. They could not connect the dots of their teaching with actual living. They simply and repeatedly, 'quoted the elders' and 'spit out laws'. Jesus confronted them about robotically quoting 'law' when he derisively referred to the inadequacy of '**their law**' in John 15:25 and of their personal shortcomings when he spoke to them about '**your law**' in John 8:17. The Scribes own slavish reliance on past authority, can be heard from their own mouths when they complain to Jesus in Matthew 15:2 "Why do your disciples break the **tradition of the elders?**" Elsewhere to justify themselves, they claim, "we are disciples of Moses (hiding behind Moses' authority-John 9:28). Among teachers, the custom was to invoke a predecessor to establish their own credentials. For example, often they would say "According to Rabbi Hillel", or "As Rabbi Shammai taught". We see such 'name-dropping' also in the New Testament as when we hear Peter say once in Acts 2:16, "as was spoken by the prophet Joel". The people using such references were sliding on the coattails of the earlier authority, yet Jesus introduces with bold authority a new, convincing demonstration of what he says. From Jesus' own lips, this is best seen in the Sermon on the Mount, as Matthew 5:21-22 records, "You have heard it, that "You shall not kill", yet **truly I say** whoever is angry with his brother is liable to judgment". Jesus is standing on his own **authorship**, and on his **authentic** living in accord with purely divine design for human fulfillment. Jesus knows, because He is one with the Father and Spirit of Life. As the Trinity, they 'authored' creation. Jesus knows how things work and what is meant to be, as He is 'in' on the creation of us, and of everything (Colossians 1:16)! Jesus authors us: His human example is our template of life! That is genuine authority! He is his own proof of authenticity! Of course, Jesus' every word (truth & wisdom itself) and his every work (miracle-signs of wonder) reveal His Eternal Authority! Once after healing a man suffering from both physical paralysis and sinfulness in his heart, Jesus publicly announced, "So that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth...., I say, 'Stand up and walk. Return to your home!' Something worthy of our prayer and reflection this week is to ask ourselves how we conduct our lives and work every day 'authorized' by Jesus? Or how does our behavior and actions give witness to our 'living with the authority of Jesus' as children of God 'having the anointing that comes from the Holy One' (1 John 2:20)? How do we handle 'control', living under God, over our own self or others? How do we exercise Christian 'authority'?

- Here are some daily questions to consider in our prayer time!
- Sunday:** What was God's message to me today at Mass? How can I share the Good Word with someone this week?
 - Monday:** Do I exercise healthy and useful authority over others? Do I exercise authority over myself? Am I disciplined?
 - Tuesday:** Do I give time enough to know the 'teaching of Jesus'? Do I read and study the Bible and the Catechism?
 - Wednesday:** Am I a good example of teaching with authority? How can I improve my Christian witness and authenticity?
 - Thursday:** What current social issues or popular positions in society are without or reject the guidance of Jesus' teaching?
 - Friday:** Perform a good work and helpful service to another person today, without any recognition or reward.
 - Saturday:** For what am I especially thankful for from this week? Be sure to offer thanks to God for such goodness given you.

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



Are you or someone you know interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or considering becoming a Catholic???

If yes, please contact Fr. Brian, Deacon Mike, Deacon Tony or Marie Rose at 756-2356 anytime throughout the year!

Youth Mark your Calendars:
Youth 2000 Conference March 9-11,
2008 Brescia University Campus



Eucharistic Adoration
First Friday 24-hour Adoration:

Following the 9:00 am Mass on February 2nd we begin the 24 hour adoration until Saturday morning mass at 8:00 am. We are blessed with dedicated adorers for each hour, but can use extra people for some hours. Please call Minnie Nimmo 270-617-0297 or Patsy Whitfill 270-617-2557 to volunteer spending an hour in prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Anointing of the Sick-First Wednesdays of

Month: Father Brian will offer the sacrament of the sick, 'Anointing for Healing' at the Wednesday evening mass (5:00pm) on February 7th. The Catechism specifies that those who can be anointed include 'anyone in danger of death from sickness or old age' yet also includes anyone 'prior to a serious operation', or 'for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced' (Catechism #1514-1515).

Celebration

BIRTHDAY: Jim Tate, February 2nd.

A Lenten Journey: Journey with Dr. Lawrence V. McCrobie, Catholic Liturgist and Religious Educator as he leads us on a journey through Bishop Robert Barron's program in exploration of the lasting influences of these *Pivotal Players*. CATHOLICISM: *The Pivotal Players* showcases a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shape the life of the Church but changed the course of western civilization. Our parish journey begins on Tuesday, February 13th at 10:00 am and at 6:00 pm, and for the next five Tuesdays during Lent. No charge for this 6 week program, you must fill out a registration form. For more information please contact Rosa Hockenberry at 270-863-0117 or stop by the parish office for registration forms. All forms must be turned in no later than Monday, February 5th to ensure ordering of materials. Thank you!

Parish Council & Finance Committee Reports:

At their last meeting, parish council discussed how best to communicate with the parish matters that are discussed at meetings. Please find multiple copies of their meeting minutes in addition to the detailed monthly financial reports posted on the bulletin boards. They will be always be available there or just take a copy with you.

St Romuald Church, Thank You! Dear followers in Christ, How can we ever begin to tell you how wonderful, great and generous your gifts for the jail inmates were this year? To prepare gift bags for over 200 people is a big project, not something we could do on our own. Without your help this would have been a complete failure. We are so thankful that God with His wonderful mercy impresses upon on you, His People, the importance of caring for all, even those who have made bad choices and mistakes. Matt 25:36 reminds us "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you visited me" and verse 40 adds, "the King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" Thank you and may the Lord bless you and keep you. Sincerely, Sherry Payne, Chaplain Breckinridge County Jail

If you have a family member or friend in the hospital who would like Holy Communion brought to them, please call the office at 270-756-2356.

This Week at St. Romuald

Sun/Sat		Catholic Schools Week
Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	5:00 pm	Altar Society Meeting
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
Sun	8:30 am	K-6 Religious Ed Classes
Upcoming		
Feb 9	4:00 pm	SRIS Fish Fry Begins

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

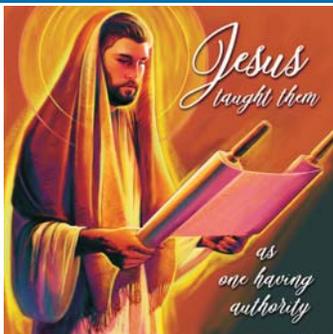
A Word from Pope Francis:

"I began our meeting by speaking of Christmas as the Feast of Faith. I would like to conclude, though, by pointing out that Christmas reminds us that a faith that does not trouble us is a troubled faith. A faith that does not make us grow is a faith that needs to grow. A faith that does not raise questions is a faith that has to be questioned. A faith that does not rouse us is a faith that needs to be roused. A faith that does not shake us is a faith that needs to be shaken. Indeed, a faith which is only intellectual or lukewarm is only an idea or notion. It becomes real only once it touches our heart, our soul, our spirit and our whole being; Once we allow God to be born and reborn in the manger of our heart; Once we let the star of Bethlehem guide us to the place where the Son of God lies, not among Kings and riches, but among the poor and humble. (Christmas Message to Curia 12-21-17)

Called by Name Program: Every young Catholic man should consider all vocations, including whether or not God is calling him to priesthood. However, if not invited or encouraged to think about priesthood, it may never be considered. Many young men may have the burning question within of God calling them to priesthood, but they may be waiting for a confirmation from someone else, to nudge them into seriously pursuing God's priestly call for them. Do you know a faithful young man who may have a vocation to the priesthood? We believe that our future priests will come from our own parishes and schools, but we need your help to identify them. We're looking for high school students and older. Any man you recommend will receive good information from the Vocation Office about discerning his vocation, as well as invitations to discernment retreats and other events. Tell Fr Brian, Deacon Mike or Deacon Tony, to approach them or to invite the vocation director to reach out to them.

Pray to end abortion: Join other Catholics and those from other faiths that gather each Saturday at 2nd and Market in Louisville from 7:00-8:00 am (EST) to pray for families entering the abortion clinic. Many children have been saved and mothers spared future grief by this prayer action and support. With God, all things are possible! Archbishop Kurtz is known to show up and pray with everyone too!

Abortion Update: Last week 63 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**



Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

New Missalettes With Mass Prayers in Front Cover: Please note that the missalettes now contain on the inside front cover the longer prayers we offer at Mass, similar to the old Mass cards that were in the pew holders. The company beginning to offer those prayers in a more accessible place conveniently replaces now those older cards that were showing so much wear and tear. But like a good Rosary, Bible or Prayer Book that shows tattered edges and wearing, it is a good sign of them being used so much! More Prayer, More Grace, More Good!

Knights of Columbus News

Basketball Slam Sweepstake Tickets:

Parishioners: the Knights of Columbus are selling Basketball Slam Sweepstake tickets. They are \$10.00 each (buy two and get the third one free). By purchasing two tickets you get a FREE ticket online! Go to www.basketball.com/free to redeem. Free tickets will be emailed to you. TEAMS: There are 24 teams, the ticket holder scratches off the box on front of the ticket to reveal their four teams for the entire tournament. Team codes are listed on back of the ticket. If any team(s) do not make it into the tournament, alternate teams will be assigned and posted on www.basketballsweeps.com by March 15, 2018. PRIZES; \$2600 Total Cash Prizes will be awarded. Prizes are based on the total cumulative score of each 4-team combination. HIGHEST and LOWEST 4-Team totals win prizes! In case of ties, prizes are combined and split. WINNERS are posted after the tournament and prizes are mailed out to the winners. It makes no difference on how many games your 4-teams play, or whether teams win or lose. Go to the website to check results starting April 4th. Ticket sale monies support the Knights of Columbus Disaster Relief Program. Deadline for ticket sales are **Mar 1st**. Contact me at 1-270-617-0754 for ticket purchases and more info. Pat O'Reilly, Grand Knight

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gilbert Abel, Don Alexander, Paula Anthony, Baby Barr, Gene Bennett, Roy Bennett, **Pat Bland**, Becky Brown, Mary Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Anna Carrico, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Kayla Christian, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Rick Dale, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Lottie Eauer, **Glenda Fareris**, Tessa Farris, Carroll Ferguson, Ginny Flood, Cindy Getz, Dorothy Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Kay Harris, Dale Henning, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Patricia Miller Henning, Tommy Henning, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Johnny Howard, Lori Howard, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Robert Jackey, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Linda Justice & Family, Brenda Kelly, Louise Kennedy, Angie Lawrence, Jewell Lawson, Parker Leslie, Annette Lucas, Junior Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Bill Mattingly, Walter Manning, Bevan Michael Miller, Elaine Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Sharon Morgan, Emma Nottingham, Don O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Patsy Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Stella Prewitt, Jack Purcell, Tracy Ralston, Mary Jo Rankin, Kay Ray, Melvin Roach, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Haley Sloan, Beth Smith, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Phillip Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Rufus Tivitt, Calla Stiith, Tessa Wadsworth, Fallon Wen, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Judy Wheatley, Jimmy Whitworth, **Leona Whitworth**, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Robert D. Wilson, Anne Wolfe, Sandra Zanone.

Serving in the Armed Forces: Mandie Adams, Kevin Arnold, Fred Barham, Austin Brown, Timothy Cashen, Ryan Critchelow, Cody Garst, Parker Findlay, James Hanor, Christian Hansen, Jack Hayes, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, **Lane D. Taul**, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



Sympathy: Please pray for the eternal rest and peace for Lorena Bland, who passed away. Please keep all of the family in your prayers, too, for their comfort

and strength.



**Catholic Schools Week
January 28th—February 3rd.**

AROUND AND ABOUT

Prayer List: Beginning with the 2nd Sunday of February we will be starting a new list. If you would like a name left on the prayer list please call the office by February 2nd.

Please take note of the new arrival of different titles on the CD rack. Check them out and listen to the great topics on apologetics, prayer and spirituality.

February Men's Conference: Mark your calendars- February 17th at RiverPark Center, Owensboro 8:30-4:30. Speakers will be national catholic evangelists Christopher West and Doug Barry, to order tickets visit www.kycatholic.com or email msullivan@smsmlaw.com

Al-Anon Meeting: Mondays 7:00 pm St Romuald Parish Hall. Come find support and understanding to recover a sense of serenity in your life.

St Vincent DePaul December Report: St Vincent DePaul conducts works of mercy for our community. The Society is thankful for the generosity of parishioners who contribute monthly to their outreach ministry. In December, a total of 37 families amounting to 130 persons (of which were 70 children), were assisted. Aid totaling \$3,853.76 was given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.

AUCTION FOR SEC TOURNAMENT TICKETS: St. Paul School in Leitchfield, KY is hosting a raffle to give away 2 tickets to the entire SEC tournament, which takes place on March 7-11 at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis, MO. These are lower level tickets that are good for every single game of the tournament. Come and watch UK, or whoever your favorite team may be, as they advance through this tournament. These tickets, worth roughly \$1500 each, are hard to get at any price. Raffle tickets are \$10 each, and can be purchased by calling St. Paul School at 270-242-7483, or by emailing stpaulgrayon@windstream.net. The drawing will be on Friday, March 9.

DRF Update for St. Romuald, Hardinsburg:
Thank you for your generosity toward our parish goal target: as of **1/22/2018**
St Romuald Parish Target Amount: \$12,069.67
Pledged for year: \$9,467
Paid Contributions so far: \$6,497



Sunday, Jan 28, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deliver us from every evil

Even the best of us harbor within ourselves an unclean spirit or two. "Unclean" simply means not compatible with the holiness of God. This isn't a condition any of us can afford to be in! Consider the garden variety of dirty spirits that routinely

board with us: self-absorption, unforgiveness, envy, judgment, arrogance, hard-heartedness, cynicism. Identify your familiar demons, practice their counterpoint virtues, and fill your interior house with grace.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28 (71).* "Jesus rebuked [the unclean spirit] and said, 'Quiet! Come out of him!'"

Monday, Jan 29, 2018

Use your freedom well

The story of Legion in Mark's gospel is quite sad. Doctors today might diagnose him with multiple personality disorder. To him, it was only apparent that he lived with his demons in torment. He caused such harm to himself and others that he couldn't live in town but was forced to stay in the cemetery, a man buried alive by his pain. Once Jesus delivered him, his natural desire was to stay with Jesus. But Jesus told him to take his freedom home with him to his family and community. Every person made whole becomes a living, breathing gospel.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20 (323).* "Jesus asked, 'What is your name?' The man replied, 'My name is Legion, for we are many.'"

Tuesday, Jan 30, 2018

Have faith

How can a woman be healed from her hemorrhaging by only touching the cloak of Christ? He tells her that the sincerity of her faith had saved her. The church confirms the power of faith through its place as one of the three "theological virtues," along with hope and charity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that faith is when "a person freely commits his entire self to God," and by which he or she can accept everything given by God. But unlike the "cardinal virtues," faith is truly not of our own accord; rather, it is a grace both from God and toward God. How often do we stop to ask for faith?

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3; Mark 5:21-43 (324).* "Jesus said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.'"

Wednesday, Jan 31, 2018

MEMORIAL OF JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST

Good is the best teacher

With some notable exceptions, throughout much of history the default position for disciplining children was punishing them harshly when they were bad. One of the notable exceptions was the 19th-century Italian priest John Bosco. As a young priest in Turin, he encountered masses of boys the industrial conditions of the city had left out in the cold. In response, he established youth clubs, hostels, and boarding schools. What was especially unique was his "preventive system" of dealing with the boys, which was based on reason, religion, and kindness. It appealed to their intelligence and their desire for God and the good. Saint John Bosco also founded religious orders for men and women, the Salesians, to expand and continue this work. You can try to force the bad out of a person, or you can appeal to the good in them.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6 (325).*

"Where did this man get all this? Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary?"

Thursday, Feb 01, 2018

Do the math

Teachers who have students work in pairs see many benefits to this strategy: The students take more responsibility for their learning; they mentor and encourage their partners and engage in creative problem-solving techniques, such as brainstorming; and they are less likely to become isolated and disillusioned. Surely Jesus was mindful of these benefits when he sent the 12 apostles out two by two to preach the Good News—and when he promised his presence wherever two or more are gathered in his name. Today's lesson: Work together to multiply the good.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13 (326).* "He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two."

Friday, Feb 02, 2018

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

You are dismissed

Simeon recognizes the infant Jesus as the promised savior and calls him a "light for revelation." Simeon joyfully exclaims that he is now free to go to his death in peace. His beautiful prayer, commonly called the Canticle of Simeon, is sung in monasteries and religious communities around the world as part of Night Prayer. Like Simeon, we, too, are the servants of God who, upon recognizing the light of Christ in the people we meet, may ask to be dismissed at the end of each day to go in peace—freed, at least for a time, from our responsibilities and anxieties.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524).* "My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples."

Saturday, Feb 03, 2018

MEMORIAL OF BLAISE, BISHOP, MARTYR

A full-throated blessing

In the 14th century when the plague was devastating Europe, people desperate for a cure or to be spared the disease called upon the Fourteen Holy Helpers, a special group of saints whom they believed protected them from symptoms of this dreaded disease, like fevers, headaches, the deaths of animals, and in Saint Blaise's case, throat ailments. If you go to church today, chances are there will be a blessing of throats through the intercession of Blaise. While we need all the help we can get in cold and flu season, the crossed candles and the words of the blessing are more symbols of our faith in God to protect us from whatever ails us. Take advantage of this unique once-a-year custom.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34 (328).* "As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them."

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