

St. Cornelius Parish

SUNDAY BULLETIN

June 18, 2023

Pray that Christian witness in the face of attacks on our churches will convert hearts to faith in Jesus Christ, and that people of all faiths would be free to gather in sacred spaces without fear.

Religious Freedom Week • June 22 - 29

160 Ridge Rd
Chadds Ford, PA 19317
Phone: (610) 459-2502
Fax: (610) 459-3942

Web: www.saintcornelius.org

Email: stcorn1@comcast.net • Facebook: Like us on Facebook

Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor • Richard Wirth (Ret.)

Parish Council Members

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Michael Brisgone

Anslem Cooray
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Pastoral & Administrative Assistant: Marie McGuigan

Office Manager: Douglas Kitson

Parish Religious Education Program: Julie Sullivan

Director of Music: Margie Melchiorre

St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Abbie McCusker, Director

Phone: (610) 459-8663

Website: www.scornelius.org

St. Cornelius Parish Summer Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Friday 8:00 pm to 12:00 pm Noon

closed for Lunch 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Saturday: Confessions 2:30 - 3:30 Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 4:00 pm

Weekday Mass: 7:30 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: will return after Labor Day

LiveStream www.livestream.com/saintcornelius

Thoughts from the Second Floor Front

XI Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 18, 2023

With this week's celebrations we once again pick up on what the Liturgical Calendar refers to as "Ordinary Time." The liturgical cycle identifies the Extra-ordinary times as well: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. But for now we are to settle into the regular, common celebrations of the mysteries of our faith. Is there really anything ordinary in the life of a committed disciple? Reflect on the opening verse of today's gospel proclamation: *At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.* In English it takes four words to express the sense of what Jesus experienced when He saw the crowd: was *moved with pity*. In the original language, Greek, it was only one word: *splandidzomai*. It is a funny word and it is fun to say. However, it carries within it a unique connotation. Jesus was often moved with pity. This is not a tongue clicking pity as in – *There, there, isn't that shame. Or too bad for them.* The connotation is that the person experiencing this is moved to action, moved to do something because of what he or she is seeing.

In response to what it was He saw in the suffering of the people who *were troubled and abandoned*, Jesus commissioned the disciples and they became apostles. The word apostle means one who is sent. Jesus identifies the Twelve and sends them on mission. He commissioned and empowered them to do what He did. Although we cannot be counted among the Twelve, like them we are called to action on behalf of those who are troubled and abandoned. We, too, have been empowered and commissioned. At our Baptism we received the gift of the Holy Spirit. At a later date, that gift was confirmed and we were empowered and received the commission to action.

Now the point is do we respond to who and what we see in the same manner that Jesus and His original band of Apostles did? In this passage we have the clearest distinction between John the Baptist's preaching and Jesus' preaching. John said: Repent! The Kingdom of God is coming. Jesus said: The Kingdom of God is here. As recipients of the great power and commission we have received, believers may not remain unresponsive. To do so is to bring condemnation upon ourselves. There is a sense of urgency in the sense that we are moved with pity.

There are any number of ways that we can respond to the grace of the moment when we are *splandidzomai*-ed, when we are moved with pity. Some of the ways to respond are financial. Donating to Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services, Nutritional Development Services, the Pontifical Mission Society, the Propagation of the Faith – all of which can be contacted easily.

But finances are not the only means to respond to the sense that you are moved with pity. Check in on an elderly neighbor, pick up groceries for that same neighbor. Make sandwiches for our Loaves and Fishes effort through which we respond to the mandate given to us in Matthew Chapter Five. Remember what you do for the least of His brothers and sisters, you do for Him.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



Have you ever wanted to read the Bible, but got bogged down almost as soon as you started? Or are you already familiar with the stories of the Old and New Testaments, but never figured out – or even thought about – how they all fit together? Then join us as St. Cornelius offers **evening sessions** of last summer's very popular program, *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*. If you've been thinking of taking a Bible study but daytime sessions don't work with your schedule, then now's your chance.

This 8-part Bible study uncovers the story woven throughout Scripture so you can get the "big picture" of the Bible and understand how you fit into that story today. In weekly, short videos, Bible scholar Jeff Cavins takes us on a quick journey through salvation history -- from Creation and the Fall through the coming of Christ and the establishment of the Church. You'll learn with the aid of an easy-to-use, color-coded Bible Timeline chart and small-group discussion questions, which reinforce the video presentations and help you apply the message to your life. *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* will help you pick up the Bible with confidence.

The program will run **Tuesday evenings, July 11 through Aug. 29, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center**. For more information or to register contact parishioner Jean Wysocki, 215 240-0873 or ajwysocki2@verizon.net. There is a \$29.00 materials charge to cover the workbook, timeline, and a one-year online access to the videos.



Updating Our Prayer List

We are attempting to update our prayer list as it has grown over the years. If you know of a loved one listed whom you feel has been helped by our prayers and are now recovered, please email the office at stcorn1@comcast.net so we can remove their name.



Online Giving is an easy and convenient way to save time and support St. Cornelius Parish. Donating is **simple, safe, and completely secure**.

With **WeShare**, you can set up a recurring weekly or monthly transaction using your checking, savings, or credit card account. You can decide how much to give to the offertory and make changes any time, day or night. Plus, you can leave your checkbook at home on Sundays.

If you would like to enroll in Online Giving, please visit

<https://saintcornelius.weshareonline.org>



If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call our parish office at (610) 459-2502.

WeShare accepts the following means of contributing
debit card • credit card • checking & savings account



"Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Let the light of your marriage sacrament shine for all. Make your light bright by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown, PA.

July 7-9 • Oct 6-8 • Nov 10-12

- ♦ **Anytime is the perfect time to romance your spouse.**
- ♦ Worldwide Marriage Encounter puts the spark back in your marriage.
- ♦ Get off the treadmill of life and focus on each other.
- ♦ Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends on
- ♦ Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at:
website at wwme-philly.org

Or call (610) 449-1859 for more information.

Matthew XXV Garden



Welcome to the Matthew XXV Garden Season 3

Thank you for your support with the Matthew XXV Garden.

Our next hurdle is building trellises for the tomato plants. We have 5 rows to install trellises. If anyone would like to help we will be meeting Saturday June 24th at 0900.

See the garden sign-up genius on the parish website for weekly support with mowing the lawn, weeding, edging, and checking on the water.

Otherwise look for updates in the Bulletin and via Monsignor Diamond's Thursday email.

Children working on volunteer projects / hours are welcome.



**Sunday
June 18
12:00 Noon**



Join our Parish Pro-Life Group in the church on Sunday, June 18, at noon, as we pray a Rosary and the Litany of Loreto for the unborn and an end to abortion. It is a perfect way to perform a spiritual work of mercy for the most vulnerable.

This event is scheduled every 3rd Sunday so please mark your calendar now. Bring a friend..



Helping Hands and Hearts

This ministry offers temporary help (meals, errands, etc.) to individuals and families in need! If you are aware of someone in need or would like to be a volunteer helper, please contact Marilyn Gustin at mgustin05@gmail.com (484) 732-8842.



THANK YOU,
ST. CORNELIUS
DONORS!



Our parishioners are so generous in every way! Time, spirit, effort.....!! Many thanks to those who were able to take part in the Parish's Red Cross Blood Drive on May 25th. 41 units were collected here at our Parish Life Center. Your donations will impact the lives of local hospital patients! We will sponsor another blood drive on **Thursday, October 12, 2023**.

The need is constant. Consider donating in the future at a nearby site by calling

1-800-Red-Cross or register at redcrossblood.org



CHOSEN FATHERS

*A ministry of Mutual Support for
Fathers of Children with Special Needs*

Being a good dad day-in and day-out is not an easy task. Yet raising children with special needs can make fatherhood even more challenging.

We invite fathers of children with physical, mental, sensory, or emotional challenges to our monthly meetings aimed at enabling dads to follow Christ's example of love, patience, mercy and service in raising and supporting their children.

**3rd Tuesday of every month
7:30 - 8:45 pm**

Please call the gentlemen below with questions about meeting location as it can change from month to month depending on group size.

Joe Howard (610) 458-7831; jchoward72@aol.com
or Liam Dempsey (610) 390-9076; liam@LBdesigns.tv



masstimes.org

MASS TIMES FOR TRAVEL

It can be difficult to find a Catholic Church while traveling and vacationing in unfamiliar locations. WWW.MassTimes.org is a convenient way to locate a church so you can continue to receive Holy Eucharist and celebrate Mass.



The Sunday collection is very important for us to maintain our fiscal responsibilities. So, if you are away on a Sunday, *ENJOY*; but remember *YOUR* church.

June 11 2023

WeShare eGiving	\$6,346.50
Envelope Offering	<u>\$11,257.50</u>
	\$17,604.00



*"For where your treasure is,
there also will your heart be."*

Luke 12:34



St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Saint Cornelius Early Learning Center Job Opportunity

Assistant Teacher

Saint Cornelius Early Learning Center is now accepting applications for part time assistant teachers for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. We are looking for candidates, who are enthusiastic, energetic, and flexible. We are looking to hire individuals who are available Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 3 PM. Hours can be made flexible.

For more information about the position and necessary qualifications, please contact: Abigail McCusker at akohlbrener@scornelius.org or call 610-459-8663

*Let us pray for our Men and Women
serving in the Armed Forces. Especially for:*

SSG Ana Brunal	Sgt Jason Lyons
SPC Mike Canfield	2nd Lt. Kevin Malone
Cpl Michael Castle	Sgt Alexander Marlow
Lt. Connor Cleary	Pfc Zachary Marlow
Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain)	LT. Cmdr Daniel McCadden
Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr.	CSM Sean McGlensey
Capt Joshua deFreitas	Capt Jonathan McGrath
SSGT Michael DiVernieri	LT Molly K. McGuckin
Cadet Emily Fanning	LCDR Ryan A. McGuckin
Ens Ryan Gallagher	Maj. Sean P. Noll
SSG. Eric Gardner	Lt. Col Brian J. O'Shea
Capt Matthew Gibbons	Lt. Cmdr Inga O'Shea
Ens Patrick Gibbons	Maj James O'Shea
Ens John Paul Gibbons	PFC L Roland
Maj Rachel Gonzalez	Capt. Neal F. Schubert
SPC Logan Hannum	HM3 Charles Schwartz
Sgt Andrew Hart	Ens Nicholas Spadaccini
Devin J. Hunt	MSG Thomas Stone
PO1 Nathan R. Keller	Cpl Mark Truex
Lt Lauren Kinnee	Lt. Christopher Vish
Capt Daniel Kohli	1st Lt Aidan Walsh
Capt Chris Love	Capt Jennifer Wynn
Capt Megan Love	



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In a world that can be void of meaning and leave young adults restless and dissatisfied, Young Catholic Professionals Philadelphia brings together young professionals in their 20s and 30s into a community of belonging, support, and encouragement at all stages of your faith journey. Young Catholic Professionals empowers and equips you to live your Catholic faith through everyday work and to perform all work with excellence for the glory of God.

Our patron saint is Saint Joseph the Worker. Our mission calls upon the intercession of Saint Joseph the Worker, a simple carpenter who reminds us of the importance of stillness, reflection, and prayer.

Young Catholic Professionals mission is to challenge, train, and inspire young adults working in various professional careers to work in witness for Christ. For more information go to our local Philadelphia website at

www.ycppphiladelphia.org/cpages/home



We are happy to announce there is a new, easy way to help support St. Cornelius Early Learning Center! The new and improved app uses technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online. 1.To participate in the new digital program simply, download and use the Box Tops App! 2.Find St. Cornelius and connect your box tops app to our school. 3.Start scanning your paper or digital receipts and earn money for our school



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WWW.HeedTheCall.org



St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Early Learning Center End of Year Ceremony

The students of our Early Learning Center wrapped up an amazing school year with a beautiful closing program at church last week. The children sang songs and entertained family and friends with their smiles and enthusiasm! We will miss all of our little friends and we wish them a happy, fun and safe summer!



"Help provide home cooked meals to neighbors in need! Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends) is collecting frozen meals and soups for homebound seniors and food insecure individuals. Meal trays and soup containers can be found in the utility closet on the right of the side door of the narthex. Consider putting aside an extra dinner or soup portion, freeze it and then bring it to the freezer also located in the utility closet. PLEASE sign the meals and soup in on the list attached to the shelves next to the freezer. The food is distributed all over the Greater Philadelphia Area. This effort is on-going at our parish. We invite you to contribute what you can." If you have questions, please contact Nancy Todor 609-234-119



Monsignor's Thursday Email

Msgr. Diamond's weekly Thursday Email is a popular weekly news letter for our parishioners. Currently there are **over 1049** people who receive his email each Thursday afternoon. If you would like to be on our distribution list, please call the office at (610) 459-2502 or send your request to be added to our distribution at

Stcorn1@comcast.net.



A Good Neighbor to the Homeless Opportunity to help a homeless family!

Saint Cornelius has four families who are serving as a support team for a local family experiencing homelessness. They have received training with Bridge of Hope and have been assigned a family to serve as good neighbors. Bridge of Hope provides case management for the vulnerable family and guidance for the volunteers, who meet with the family regularly.

Our family had a new addition in January! We continue to deliver meals to the tired mom and to search for needed baby items for the family. We received a donation of a requested double baby stroller from one of our parishioners. Thank you so much - our family is so grateful and appreciative!!

For more information email colleenmz@hotmail.com or call 610-361-9412.

Please keep our family in your prayers.

CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

There are 280,000 Venezuelan migrants living in Brazil. Most of them are experiencing some degree of food insecurity. With support from the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, CRS implemented a soup kitchen that provides nutritious, culturally preferred food that tastes like home. Visit www.crs.org for more information and to see how you can help!



"Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society. This demands that we be docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid."

~ Pope Francis



In our charity, let us pray for the repose of the soul of

Nicole Drulik

Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord.
May she rest in peace.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Thomas Drane, Kara Ulatowski, Harold Von Brockdorff, Jeff Behm, Mary Harmes, Mary Helen Arthur, Charles Foster, Anne Spetzer, Pete Petroll, Ginger Casey, Carolyn Duffy, Carleen Peters, Marian Short, Matthew Hess, Bryan Thompson, Cindy Ficca, Paul Lucas, Carla Santoleri, Richard Meccarrielli, Edward Field, Judy Field, Joyce Monaco, Matthew Hurst, Leonard Smith, Jr., Jim Waters, Kathie Buckley, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Sean Mulvey, George Butler, Margaret Butler, Patricia Wells, Kathy Williams, Michael Gibbons, William Grant, Shirley Masse, Ellen Brisgone, Laura O'Brien-Black, Elizabeth Kephart, Tina Landis, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Michelle Dillione, Chris Roe, Frank Kuders, Kylee Dougherty, Dave and Ronnie Pryce, Rosemary Brennan, Ellie May McGrath, Vicki Wojdak, Andrea Bateman, Brandon Heacock, Brittany Lott, Nancy Young, Peyton Lott, Billy Lott, Nanci Ehmer, Peggy Peters, Paul McEneaney, Ken Rudert, Ed Shell, Ellie McCreight, Ellie Griem, Gregory Varacchi, Michael McKinnen, Connie Carney, Luke Post, Jim Buckley, Jerome Lienhard, Mary Rose Salisbury, Margery Butler, Charlotte Kensicki, Jim Barr, Jerome Lichard, Lisa Winkleblech, Aaron Winkleblech, Patricia Butler



The Faith Community Nurse Holistic Health Ministry

On request, Faith Community Nurses are making home visits to families who may be experiencing medical or social difficulties. The nurses confidentially address the needs holistically through bringing with them prayers from the parish, a knowledge of the medical field and process for providing support. If you know of anyone in the parish or beyond who would benefit from these services, please email: stfcfn@gmail.com. Contact person is Joan Holliday, RN/FCN at (610) 717-2180.



The Ministry of Consolation

A St. Cornelius community response to the needs of people grieving the death of a significant person/persons in their lives, the ministry honors the words and example of the Lord Jesus:

"Blessed are they who mourn; they shall be consoled"

(Matthew 5:4).

A team of four St. Cornelius church members have been trained to set up and facilitate a Support Group for the Consolation Ministry.

On **July 15, 2023**, the Consolation Group will meet at the **Parish Life Center, Fr. Simon Room** from **2:30pm to 3:30pm**.

Contact Joan Holliday for any questions
docholliv@aol.com or call (610) 717-2180.

Holy Hour - Join Us!

Monday, June 5, 8:00 am

After the 7:30 Mass, the Pro-Life Group is hosting a Holy Hour. We will pray a rosary for the unborn, and an end to abortion. We will also pray the Miraculous Medal Novena for the unborn. There will be time for silent prayer. The hour will close at approximately 9:00 am.



Look for this event monthly on the first Monday of the month.

Assisted Hearing Devices

We have 4 assisted hearing devices, which connect directly to the sound system that are available for use at each Mass. They are located on the table by the Sacristy entrance.

Easy to operate: put 2 batteries in and you are good to HEAR!

Comments from satisfied users:

Wow - That is the first time in a long Time that I have heard everything at Mass.



Lending Library



You may not be aware of the Lending Library that exists in our ambulatory, near the large stain glass windows overlooking the family portico. The cart pictured to the left contains a variety of reading material that you are welcome to take with you.

You may also find a variety of holy cards, prayer pamphlets and novenas. Please feel free to take what you like.

Prayer Shawl Ministry... Come, Join US!

Did you know that each baby baptized at St Cornelius receives a hand-made blanket made by our Prayer Shawl Ministry? You are welcome to join us in this rewarding ministry. We also make shawls, blankets, scarves, hats, mittens etc. for elderly homes, the Giving Tree and anyone looking for a comforting gift.

**Every 4th Monday of each month
1:30pm to 3:00pm**

We find ourselves in need of white acrylic yarn or funding to help continue this wonderful ministry. Please prayerfully consider donating to our ministry or purchasing a "Pound of Love" or "Caron Pound" of white acrylic yarn. We have a basket set up in the narthex, below the large TV monitor, to offer our works and for your donations. Also, you are welcome to drop off any yarn donations to the Parish Life Center. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Shawls and blankets are available in the Bethany Room. If you have any questions, please contact

Mary Jo Shell, (610) 361-8198
or Joanne Fonash, (610) 299-9694



Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church.

**Adoration will return Friday, September 8,
after Labor Day.**

**The church will remain open for quiet reflection
during the summer months from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm**



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Saint Cornelius Parish

You can contact Mrs. Sullivan at
stcornprep@scornelius.org or by calling
the PREP office (610) 459-7723

PREP

Our PREP registration for the 2023-24 year is open. If you have a 1st through 7th grader who has not yet registered, please contact Julie Sullivan at stcornprep@scornelius.org for more information.

Call for Volunteers! The success of our programs depends heavily on the generosity of our volunteers. If you are interested in teaching in our program, please contact Julie Sullivan at

stcornprep@scornelius.org.

YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group has wrapped up for the year, we will still have volunteer opportunities available throughout the summer and will share them via email or on our webpage. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please contact Julie Sullivan at

stcornprep@scornelius.org.



**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 18, 2023**

Then he said to his disciples,
"The harvest is abundant
but the laborers are few;
so ask the master of the harvest
to send out laborers for his harvest."



Beneficiary Spotlight: St. John's Hospice



"The house I was living in started falling apart and I had no choice but to leave, but I had nowhere to turn. I was homeless and living on the streets for two years. I don't know how I made it through the winter months, but I know God was with me, looking over me. The streets were getting too dangerous, and I knew I needed shelter. I spoke to my pastor, and he recommended St. John's Hospice. The first time I walked through the doors here, I loved it. St. John's Hospice has clothed me, fed me, and kept me safe. They have also helped support me through counseling, case management services, and anything I could possibly need. Next week I start a new job, and I know this opportunity would not have been possible without the support of the staff here. In addition to helping the 52 residents that call St. John's Hospice home, individuals experiencing homelessness can come to the dining hall for a hot lunch every day. They are met with dignity. Through the support of the Catholic Charities Appeal, these services are made possible. People are given a second chance in their life. The Appeal helps feed the hungry and provides shelter to those experiencing homelessness. I don't know where I would be in my life without St. John's Hospice." – John, Resident, St. John's Hospice

When you support St. John's Hospice and other programs helping those experiencing homelessness each patron is met with compassion and given the opportunities to live a productive future.

Sunday Mass Intentions

7:30 AM	Thomas Kearney
9:00 AM	Deacon R. Steven Santoleri
11:00 AM	Mark DiSabatino
4:00 PM	Thomas Less

Weekly Mass Schedule (Week of June 19 - June 23)

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
Reading: Ex 19:2-6a; Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5; Romans 5:6-11; Matthew 9:36 - 10:8

Monday 7:30 AM St. Romuald, Abbot

Intention: Madge McGuigan
Reading: 2 Cor 6:1-10; Ps 98:1, 2b, 3-4; Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Anna & Marion Currie
Reading: 2 Cor 8:1-9; Ps 146:2, 5-9a; Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday 7:30 AM St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Intention: Georgia Mae Burks
Reading: 2 Cor 9:6-11; Ps 112:1bc-4, 9; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday 7:30 AM St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop St. John Fisher, Martyr St. Thomas More, Martyr

Intention: Living & Deceased Members of the Harland Family
Reading: 2 Cor 11:1-11; Ps 111:1b-4, 7-8; Mt 6:7-15

Friday 7:30 AM

Intention: Richard Flinn
Reading: 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; PS 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 6:19-23

PILGRIM STATUE

06 - 18 - 2023 Carla Santoleri
06 - 25 - 2023 Kathy Howley
07 - 02 - 2023 Maggie Falzone

Dates are available for July to Dec.

Call Carla Santoleri at (610) 361-8447 for more information.



Beginning June 22, the Feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops celebrates Religious Freedom Week. Join us in promoting religious freedom For the Good of All.

Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher were Renaissance men. Talented and energetic, they contributed to the humanist scholarship of early modern England. More wrote theological and philosophical treatises, while making a career as a lawyer and government official. Bishop John Fisher worked as an administrator at Cambridge, confronted the challenge Martin Luther presented to Christian Europe, and most importantly served as Bishop of Rochester. As a bishop, he is notable for his dedication to preaching at a time when bishops tended to focus on politics. These men were brilliant. They both corresponded with Erasmus, who helped Bishop Fisher learn Greek and Hebrew, and who also famously referred to More as a man for all seasons.

Above all their accomplishments, these men bore witness to a deep faith in Christ and his Church. More considered joining religious life and was assiduous in his devotional practices. As a married man, he committed himself wholly to his vocation as a father. At the time, disciplinary practices with children tended to be severe, but More's children testify to his warmth, patience, and generosity.

St. John Fisher was a model shepherd and demonstrated remarkable humility. He remained in the small Diocese of Rochester his entire episcopal ministry, devoting himself to his local church rather than seeking promotion to a larger, more powerful diocese.

More and Fisher are well-known for opposing King Henry's divorce. Ultimately, it was their refusal to sign an oath of suprema-

cy that led them to be executed. King Henry VIII claimed to be the supreme head of the Church in England, asserting sovereign power over English Christians. Neither Fisher nor More could abide this claim, and their steadfastness to their consciences put them in conflict with the king. They were convicted of treason.

It is good to love one's country, but ultimate loyalty is due only to Christ and his kingdom. In the moments just before his execution, More is said to have stated, "I die the King's good servant, but God's first." They never rose up to incite rebellion or foment revolution. They were no traitors. But when the law of the king came into conflict with the law of Christ, they submitted to Christ. These men gave their lives for the freedom of the Church and for freedom of conscience. They bear witness to the truth that no government can make a claim on a person's soul. May their example continue to illuminate the path for us, as we seek to faithfully serve our Church and country.

We ask for the intercession of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, that we too would be good servants to our country, but God's first!



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Diocesan is proud to now be printing *St. Cornelius' Sunday Bulletin*



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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

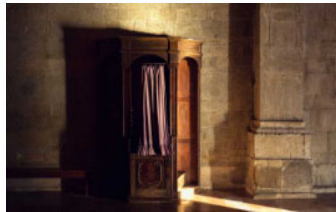
Embracing the Divine
Gift of Freedom

Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all. Beginning June 22, the feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, the USCCB invites Catholics to **pray, reflect, and act** to promote religious freedom.



June 22 Respect for Sacred spaces

Pray that Christian witness in the face of attacks on our churches will convert hearts to faith in Jesus Christ, and that people of all faiths would be free to gather in sacred spaces without fear.



June 23 Seal of Confession

Pray that governments would respect the seal of confession, as the Church in the United States continues to work to remove the scourge of clergy abuse.



June 24 Nicaragua

Pray for our Catholic sisters and brothers who are suffering in Nicaragua.



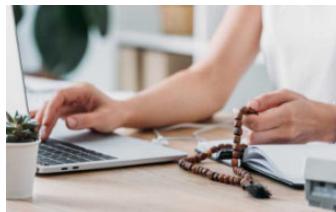
June 25 Religious Student Groups

Pray that religious student groups would be free to be faithful to their distinctive missions.



June 26 Religious Freedom in Nigeria

Pray that herders and farmers in Nigeria, whose conflict over access to land and resources has fueled religious tensions, may find the means to compromise and work out their differences in a non-violent manner.



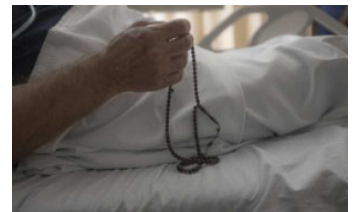
June 27 Faith at Work

Pray that business leaders would promote a culture that welcomes faith at work.



June 28 Service to Immigrants and Refugees

Pray that the Lord would protect all migrants and refugees, and that all those who work with people on the move would be free to serve.



June 29 Catholic Healthcare

Pray that governments will respect the consciences of all individuals and institutions that care for the sick and vulnerable.

More information can be found at www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/religious-freedom-week or by using the QR Code with your smart phone

