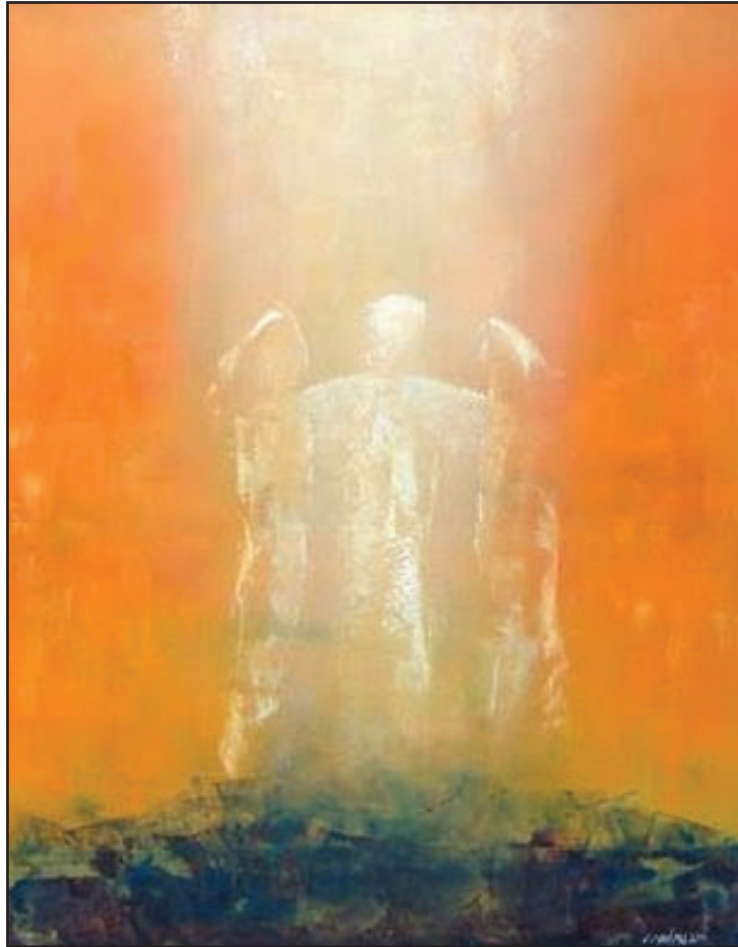


Hiroshima and the Transfiguration of Christ

Each year, on the sixth of August, I'm reminded of the strange convergence. In the liturgical calendar, August 6th is the Feast of the Transfiguration, where Jesus goes up Mt. Tabor with Peter, James, and John, and they see the manifestation of his glory, as he talks with Moses and Elijah. It is a feast that reminds us of the power and glory that was Jesus' own, even as he came "in our midst as one who serves": teaching, healing, washing feet. And, to paraphrase Philippians 2, he did not cling to the glory that was his, but instead humbled himself, choosing to make his most striking statement of power on the Cross. Christ did not stay on Mt. Tabor, but moved forward to Calvary.

And yet it was on this day in 1945 that the US, led by President Truman, dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in Japan. Three days later, we would drop another on Nagasaki. There were certainly reasons to do this, which of course came down to shortening the war, saving American lives, and showing American strength to our enemies and our uneasy alliances alike.

But there is no room at all in the just war tradition for truly justifying reasons to use a weapon which cannot discriminate between soldiers and non-combatants. In all our talk (for instance, in moving into war with Iraq in 2003) about the danger of rogue nations having weapons of mass destruction, we tend to forget that the two most devastating usages



Transfiguration 2006, oil painting, artist unknown

of weapons of mass destruction were our own.

Each year on this day, I pull up Dorothy Day's column on the bombing (worth reading in its entirety!), published in the Catholic Worker in September of 1945. I think of the courage it must have taken to publish it, in the midst of all of the celebrations as the war was over and the troops were coming home and America had proven its strength and won the victory. But she points out so powerfully that, as Christians, we have to look at not only the returning American troops but also the vaporized Japanese as our brothers and sisters. And in that light, jubilation is sorely out of place. In Day's own words:

"Mr. Truman was jubilant. President Truman.

True man; what a strange name, come to think of it. We refer to Jesus Christ as true God and true Man. Truman is a true man of his time in that he was jubilant. He was not a son of God, brother of Christ, brother of the Japanese, jubilating as he did. He went from table to table on the cruiser which was bringing him home from the Big Three conference, telling the great news; "jubilant" the newspapers said. Jubilate Deo. We have killed 318,000 Japanese."

"That is, we hope we have killed them, the Associated Press, on page one, column one of the Herald Tribune, says. The effect is hoped for, not known. It is to be hoped they are vaporized, our Japanese brothers — scattered,

Continued on page 2

Hyroshima/Transfiguration

Continued from page 1

men, women and babies, to the four winds, over the seven seas. Perhaps we will breathe their dust into our nostrils, feel them in the fog of New York on our faces, feel them in the rain on the hills of Easton.

“Jubilate Deo. President Truman was jubilant. We have created.... we have created destruction.”

I often use this column with my students, and I can tell you that, 68 years later, we are still divided. About half of them are horrified by the use of the atomic bomb. They find it shocking to imagine it was ever considered. But about half, as uncomfortable as they are with it, end up saying something like, “But we HAD to use the bomb. If we hadn’t, the war would have dragged on, we may have lost it, or we may have lost Europe to the Soviets while we were fighting in Japan.” And, of course, they are right. All of those are possible outcomes of the choice to refuse to use a weapon of mass destruction.

But it seems to me that there is one definite outcome of the same decision. You become a person and a nation willing to let the end justify the means, willing to kill the innocent in order to secure the world as you think you want it to be. For Christians, especially, that is a deep betrayal of our most basic values, and of our trust in God’s providential care of history. But even on American secular humanist terms, isn’t the first betrayal there? If we kill the innocent to preserve our way of life, haven’t we already betrayed the life we think is our goal?

Certainly, we won’t all agree, but it is crucial to take anniversaries like today and consider the decisions that were made, and to consider deeply and carefully what they have come to mean for us, and whether we would make the same decision today. These are the discussions and the arguments which help us decide and determine who we are and who we want to be.

Posted on the Catholic Moral Theology Web Site by Dana Dillon who is an Assistant Professor of Theology at Providence College. Her primary research area is fundamental moral theology, with a special interest in virtue ethics and the connection between persons and acts. She received her doctorate from Duke University. Her undergraduate degree and her Master of Divinity degree came from the University of Notre Dame. catholicmoraltheology.com

The cause for Dorothy Day’s possible eventual beatification and canonization moved into a new phase in April of this year as Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, opened the canonical inquiry on the life of the Catholic Worker movement founder, gathering evidence to determine if Dorothy Day lived a life of “heroic virtue” in the eyes of the Church. To learn more about Dorothy Day and to access her writings, log onto info@catholicworker.org

Era of Change - Change of Era

Three of the best from our Catholic tradition – three speakers who have touched many throughout the world through their books, retreats and workshops – will be in our area this August as we explore, “An Era of Change or a Change of Era?”

Pope Francis has challenged us: “*One could say that today we are not living an era of change but a change of era.*” Tomorrow, Monday, August 7th at 7:00 p.m. we will have “Wrestling with the Faith: The Demands of Mature Discipleship in a Secular Age” with Dr. Richard Gaillardetz, Ph.D. at St. Isidore Parish, 8201 23 Mile Rd, Macomb, MI 48042

Mature Christian belief has never been more difficult than it is today. This presentation will reflect on the need to find a middle way between facile obedience and casual regard for the received Faith of the Church.

Then on Tuesday, August 8th at 7:00 p.m. the presentation is “Be Not Afraid: I Am With You Always” with Margaret Nutting Ralph, Ph.D. at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, 21201 E 13 Mile Rd in St. Clair Shores, MI 48082.

An unwillingness to embrace change is often caused by fear. In this session we will learn how to dispel fear by exploring the many ways in which the risen Christ remains in our midst.

Registration is not required for these evening events; the sessions are walk-in with free-will offerings. Visit wearethechurchconferences.com for more details as well as full Conference daytime presentation schedules.

The Assumption of Mary

Catholic parishes in the United States celebrate the feast of the Assumption on August 15th each year to honor the belief that Jesus’ mother was taken to heaven, body and soul. Many Catholics in the United States attend mass and have big festivals to celebrate Mary’s rise into heaven on Assumption Day. Although it is not celebrated as extravagantly as other countries, there are many parishes in the US that have festivals on or near this feastday.

As early as the tenth century, the Church has celebrated a special blessing of herbs which is reserved only to the feast of the Assumption. Herbs had not our restricted English meaning but included all kinds of cultivated and wild flowers, especially those which in some way had a symbolic relation to our Lady. The people brought herbs to church on her feast not only to secure for themselves a blessed object, but also to make of the occasion a harvest festival of thanksgiving to God for His great bounty manifested in the abundant fruits and vegetables of the earth. It is thought that from this close contact with the Eucharist these plants might receive a special consecration, over and above the ordinary sacramental blessing of the Church.

Bring your herbs, flowers and/or produce to the 10:00 a.m. or the 7:00 p.m. mass next Tuesday, August 15th. Leave your garden’s surplus bounty to share with others in the parish.

All Things Considered

Found on the front steps of our church before last weekend's Saturday liturgy was this small rock with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe painted on it. On the reverse was written: "Grosse Pointe Art Rock, 2017. Hide again."

I'll admit that the Art Rock phenomena was relatively unknown to me until I saw an article in the [Grosse Pointe News](#) which pointed me to a Facebook page with more than 2,000 rock-paintings.

Parishioner **Carol Roszka** tells me that she has been painting rocks since she was an 8 year old in the Girl Scouts. She's a multiple of that age now, but has never lost the joy that comes from creating and disseminating these miniature works of art. One of the things she likes about this activity is that it includes all ages. She and her husband **Jerry** recently took **Cecilia**, their granddaughter to the Detroit riverfront where she found a "Downriver" rock hidden there.

The rock discovered on our doorstep was a "holy stone" dedicated to Mary. That leads me to suggest that those from our parish who are rock painters, or want-to-be rock painters, use their talents as an opportunity for evangelization. How easy it would be to feature Jesus, his saints, or acts of charity, or religious symbols on small stones with an identifier as coming from St. Ambrose Parish — then to leave them for others to discover and ponder over them after they are found. Give us your contact information and we'll forward it on to Carol if you need inspiration or instruction in this project.



In speaking about the joy of the Gospel in his homily for the Chrism Mass during Holy Week, Pope Francis said, *"Like Jesus, the priest makes the message joyful with his entire person. When he preaches...he does so with the joy that touches people's hearts with the same word with which the Lord has touched his own heart in prayer. Like every other missionary disciple, the priest makes the message joyful by his whole being. For as we all know, it is in the little things that joy is best seen and shared: when by taking one small step, we make God's mercy overflow in situations of desolation."*

As we celebrate the ordination of our Deacon Intern, **Robert Wotypka** this Sunday, the Holy Father's words resonate deeply with me.

The conventional wisdom of an internship is that the intern learns something, but I have found the converse to be true. In addition to marvelous insights that came to me through his preaching and writing, Deacon Robert has taught me the joy that comes from simplicity, or purity of intention. It manifests itself in his keeping his life focused on one and the same end — namely, the pleasing of God, or more accurately, the doing of God's will in the simplest of tasks.

Fr. Robert will share those simple joys in a higher way as a priest. He will now celebrate the Holy Eucharist, Penance, and the Anointing of the Sick. He will continue to open up the Scriptures through his creative preaching, to teach our faith in all its breadth and richness, to simply sit with and listen to those who need to talk and offer counsel when he can, and to walk (cycle) with others as we journey together into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

It appears that the Capuchin Order to which Fr. Robert belongs will allow him to stay here and at his other Detroit assignments for the coming program year — what a joy!

Next Sunday, Fr. Robert will be out of town celebrating a mass of thanksgiving with members of the Mercy Volunteer Corps, a group that was instrumental in his vocational journey.

The week after that, on August 20th, Fr. Robert will offer the 11:15 am Mass here, followed by an ARK luncheon. Please RSVP for that meal.

I've checked with the Capuchins regarding gifts given to their Friars. They informed me that their general rule is that all monetary gifts (cash and checks) should be turned over to the Province. It's part of their vow of poverty and an expression of what they call "the fraternal economy."

Obviously, though, if parishioners want to give a friar specific items suited to his personality (e.g. a bicycle repair certificate at Bike Teck, an Amazon gift card, movie vouchers, etc.), the Order allows them to keep those things in part because of the sentimental value and symbolism that they often carry. If you want to go in on a group gift for Brother Robert, send your donation to us at the rectory and we will include your name in the package.

TRP

Prayer for Vocations

Loving God,
You speak to us and nourish us through the life of this Church community here at St. Ambrose Parish.

In the name of Jesus, we ask you to send your Spirit to us so that men and women among us, young and old, will respond to your call to service and leadership in the Church.

We pray especially today, for those who hear your invitation to be a priest, sister, or brother.

May those who are opening their hearts and minds to your call be encouraged and strengthened through our enthusiasm in your service

Amen.



Name

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

- I would simply like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- I desire to prepare for my Baptism into Christianity.
- I've been Baptized as a Christian and now desire to join in Catholic Communion.
- I'm non-Catholic, but married to a Catholic, and now wish to join the Catholic Church.
- I'm Catholic and I would like to complete my initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating Confirmation and/or Communion.
- I'm Baptized Catholic and would like to learn more about my faith and how to practice it.
- I want to propose someone for Catholic Church membership and offer to serve as their sponsor.
- I would be willing to help with an R.C.I.A. program.
- I have other needs, requests, and questions. Please contact me.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or place it in the Collection basket.

The Pope's Art

Join us for an Evening with Art historian Liz Lev presenting "The Pope's Art: The Making of the World's First World Class-Museum" at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, August 24th at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lake Shore Road in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Elizabeth Lev is an American-born art historian with the good fortune to live and work in Rome. Life in the "Eternal City" allows her the perfect environment to pursue her many passions. For on an average day, one can find Elizabeth working on her latest article or book, preparing for one of her worldwide speaking engagements, touring visitors through the treasures of Rome, or using her skills as a sommelier to find the perfect wine to pair with dinner.

With her dynamic and engaging speaking skills, Elizabeth is a sought-after public speaker. She has presented a TED talk on "The unheard story of the Sistine Chapel" and has appeared on many television and radio interviews, from ABC's Nightline to the Today Show. She was featured in the series 'MUSEUM SECRETS' for History television, Brad Meltzer's "Decoded" and was the host of "Catholic Canvas", a 10-part television series on the art of the Vatican Museums, which aired on EWTN. In addition to these, Elizabeth has been a keynote speaker at the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference for several years and serves as a Permanent Research Fellow for the Center.

Three and a half miles in the Vatican galleries, five hundred years of history and five and a half million visitors a year, how did the Church end up with so much amazing art? This talk looks at the creation of the Vatican museums through the contributions of three extraordinary pontiffs, each of whom brought his particular gifts to bear on the collection. Pope Julius II was the "Visionary," Pius VI the "Money Man" and finally Pius XI the "Public Relations Master." Despite troubled times and huge obstacles, the three popes recognized the power of art to uplift souls, teach history and promote peace, and dedicated extraordinary efforts to forming the museum we know and love today. To RSVP, please call the St. Paul Parish Office at 885-8855.

While on Vacation

Our parish is equipped to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card on our website. Christian Financial Credit Union brings parishioners and friends the ability to make an electronic contribution to St. Ambrose on a regular or on a one-time basis. Your checking account or credit card may be used to make a single donation; or you may set up automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly contributions on a schedule. We hope that this financial service allows you yet another way of managing your stewardship to St. Ambrose. Go to stambrosechurch.net for more information on electronic giving.

Weekend Retreats with the Capuchins

Treat yourself to a weekend away from the stress of everyday living. The retreat theme for this season is "Come and Rest in Me." (Matthew 11:28). If we are going to rest in Christ, we need first of all to recognize His presence in all the circumstances of our lives. Part of that resting is to slow down and be quiet and pay attention to that constant presence.

All these retreats are silent and begin on Friday night with orientation at 7:30; and they finish with the noon time meal on Sunday. The suggested offering for the weekend is \$170, which includes the \$50 deposit to confirm your registration. Please register with a captain for the weekend in which you are interested. You do not have to belong to a parish that may be attending that weekend.

The suggested donation includes all snacks and meals from Friday evening through lunch on Sunday, and a private room with bath. A Healing Service, availability of staff to meet one-on-one, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Eucharistic celebrations round out the spiritual side. For a schedule, go to capretreat.org.

In Port

The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord is one of the pivotal moments in the Church calendar. The miracle on Mount Tabor, which took place near the end of Christ's earthly ministry is as important today as it was when Peter, James and John witnessed it. The literal meaning of transfiguration is "across form or shape." When he climbed Mount Tabor, Christ changed form from the physical into the spiritual in appearance. He was for a short time literally changed. He is surrounded by Moses and Elijah. Moses stands for the law of God and Elijah represents all of his prophets. Jesus is the fulfillment of both the law and the promises of the Father made through the prophets. It is Jesus' incarnation and his glorification at Mount Tabor that makes sense of the previous labors of both Moses and the prophets.

Of course, Peter, the most human of all the apostles, represents all of us when he asks Christ if amidst this glory set in motion by the Father it would be a good idea to set up tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. I mean really, there is Jesus, spiritually floating before three scared apostles along with Moses and Elijah who had been dead for more than a thousand years, and Peter – Cephas – the Rock of the Church, wants to call Coleman Stove and set up Camp Happy ... seriously? More in a second about how Peter's reaction is so like our own ... every Sunday.

Of course, Matthew's Gospel ends with the appearance of God the Father amidst a majestic cloud and his voice booms down to the now petrified apostles, "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am much pleased, listen to him." Can you imagine the terror of Peter, James and John when they literally hear the voice of the eternal one; the "I am who am", the Father? Frankly, I can try to grasp for a share in the experience but it is just so amazing to me that like the apostles I mentally cower. Yet, importantly, as the three apostles were groveling in fear, it was the Son, Jesus the Savior who helps them to their feet and tells them not to be afraid. Seconds before Jesus had been glorified with his Father and now he is the apostles' dear friend, comforting them as they try to make sense of the divine experience.

Yet aren't we really looking to make tents with Peter? Don't we simply view today's Gospel as a bit of a history rather than having an active place in our lives? Peter simply could not appreciate what was happening in front of his eyes for what it truly was. This was the clear exposition of Christ as the eternal Son of God. Christ's divine state is clearly articulated by the Father's action.

Where is our Mount Tabor? I would argue it should be the altar at every Mass we attend. For there we see another Transfiguration as it were, in the form of the act of transubstantiation/consecration. Bread and wine, which by the power of the Holy Spirit, summoned by the anointed and ordained priest of God, literally changes bread into the body of Christ and wine into his blood. Do we see and believe or do we simply take the act for granted? Do we worry about what kind of condition our soul is in before we receive what is literally the body and blood of our savior? These are important questions.

I have another question for you; do we allow ourselves to be changed by this transfiguration? Do we let the Eucharist truly convert us from what we were – people ready to sin – to the wonderful and giving people Christ wants us to be? Pun intended, this is decent food for thought don't you think? I know personally that I have a great deal of work to do in this department; real conversion is hard. Together, I think we can climb Mount Tabor with our Lord and recognize with awe exactly who he always was, is and ever shall be – the savior of the universe and our only hope of entry into eternal salvation.

By opening ourselves to Christ's transfiguration we can permit him to help us along the way so that someday we can share as adopted children in the Father's great pronouncement to our brother Jesus that we too are his beloved daughters and sons in whom he is much pleased.

Deacon John Maksym

Marcellina's Book Club



Detroit 1967: Origins, Impacts, Legacies is a soon-to-be released anthology from 30 contributors offering up memories, facts and analysis and some suggestions for the future.

The book ends with a cautiously optimistic tale: "Fifty years after the riots, Detroit is living up to its motto. It is seeing better things. It is rising from the ashes. And if city leaders, residents and businesses are willing to build a city that works for everyone, they are sure to avoid the fire next time."

We've selected this work for your summer reading. Our book club gathering will be held just after Labor Day with contributing author, Dr. Kevin Boyle. The date of that session will be announced shortly.

The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the
St. Ambrose Catholic Community
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc
Assistant: Rev. Robert Wotycka OFM, Cap
Assistant: Rev. Mr. John Maksym
Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski
Religious Education: Kelly Anne Wooloms
Minister of Music: Norah Duncan IV
Office Manager: Pamela Moffitt

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –
Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton
Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230
Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838
Email address: stambrose@comcast.net
Religious Education: (313) 822-1248
Pastoral Ministry: (313) 822-2017
Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814
Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, August 7

St. Sixtus II, pope & Companions, martyrs

8:30 - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, August 8

St. Dominic, priest

8:30 - Mass - Dorothy Rose,

Robert Gatzke, Sr., Joseph MacEachern

Wednesday, August 9

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin and martyr

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, August 10

St. Lawrence, deacon

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Georgina Falvey,

Rev. Aiden Kavanagh, William Story

Friday, August 11

St. Clare of Assisi, virgin

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Ted & Mary Zawacki

Saturday, August 12

St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious

4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

Sunday, August 13

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary time

8:30 a.m. - Mass - For All People

11:15 a.m. - Mass - For All People



Scriptures for the 18th Week of Ordinary Time

Monday, August 7

• Nm 11: 4b-15

• Ps 81: 12-17

• Mt 14: 13-21

Tuesday, August 8

• Nm 12: 1-13

• Ps 51: 3-7, 12-13

• Mt 14: 22-36 or Mt 15: 1-2, 10-14

Wednesday, August 9

• Nm 13: 1-2, 25-14: 1, 26-29a, 34-35

• Ps 106: 6-7, 13-14, 21-23

• Mt 15: 21-28

Thursday, August 10

• 2 Cor 9: 6-10

• Ps 112: 1-2, 5-9

• Jn 12: 24-26

Friday, August 11

• Dt 4: 32-40

• Ps 77: 12-16, 21

• Mt 16: 24-28

Saturday, August 12

• Dt 6: 4-13

• Ps 18: 2-4, 47, 51

• Mt 17: 14-20

Sunday, August 13

• 1 Kgs 19: 9a, 11-13a, 11-13a

• Rom 9: 1-5

• Mt 14: 22-33

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 12th and August 13th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Pat Ticknor
Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Adam & Maria Cox- Borkowski,
Karen McShane, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague, Mary Helen Quigg
Altar Servers: Daniel & Eleanor Bernas

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Karlos Haynes
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Christopher Harrison, Steve Linne,
Judy Ramberger, Joellyn Valgoi, Chris Walsh
Altar Servers: Nicholas, Margaret, & Meredith Kramer

11:15 a.m. – Sunday - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lectors:** Pat Sperti
Eucharistic Ministers: Lupe Davila, Doris Fleming, Michele Hodges,
Janis Ramsey, Darryl Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden
Altar Servers: Conor & Delaney Garvey

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of \$10,100.00

On Sunday, July 30, 2017

in envelopes we received \$5,826.00

in the loose collection \$339.00

in electronic donations \$1,390.00

in children's envelopes

for a total of **\$7,555.00**

Under budget for the week \$2,545.00

Number of envelopes mailed 800

Number of envelopes used 151

"And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light." - MATTHEW 17:2

Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, we should reflect Christ's light to the world. When we receive the Eucharist, the body and blood of Jesus, we are called to be supernatural – to reflect His love, mercy and forgiveness to others. When we are grateful for all that God has given us, generosity flows through us because we are made in God's image.

Our Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are seriously ill or hospitalized: Pat Blake, Dominic Centorbi, Andrew Chavez, Maria Chinchilla, Karen Culver, Mary Pat Egan, Kathleen Elberson, Ann Sullivan Kay, Josephine Marino, Donald & Marilyn Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Mary Myers, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Scott Nedoff, Betty Greenia, Emilie Kasper, Arthur Stoyshin, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Rivers, Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Martha Luna, Dan Urbiel, Dina Engels, Cheryl Lapensee, Darby O'Toole, Lou Rondini and Liz Linne.

Manresa Retreats

Manresa Jesuit Retreat House is a place of quiet, peace and prayer that seeks to help people grow in their spiritual life by group and individually directed retreats based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. They offer workshops, spiritual direction, days of prayer, a Seminar in Ignatian Spirituality, and a yearlong Internship in Spiritual Companionship.

The retreat center and its conference facilities are used by various religious and educational groups. You are welcome to attend the 8 a.m. Mass in the main chapel on most weekdays, Monday to Friday. On First Fridays, Mass is followed by a light breakfast.

Though just sixteen miles north of the center of Detroit, our thirty-nine wooded acres are a place of peace, and the main branch of the young Rouge River runs through it. Come to the quiet of this special place and find rest for your souls.

Looking ahead, much of the Manresa calendar is filling rapidly. Check out the schedule at manresa-sj.org/retreats for information about upcoming retreats, including the 3-day men's weekend retreat beginning Friday, August 25th and the 3-day women's mid-week retreat starting Tuesday, September 12th, as well as other programs.

Don't forget to join us on Friday, August 4th for breakfast after the 8 a.m. First Friday Mass.

Pope urges new priests to serve with joy, never sadness

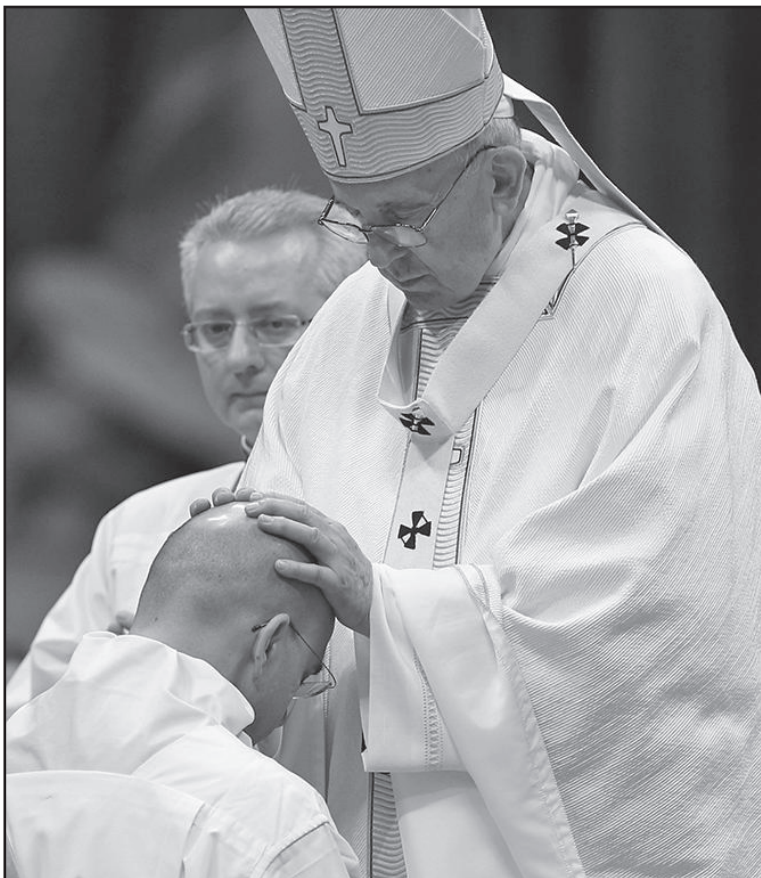
This Spring at ceremonies conducted at the Vatican, Pope Francis ordained 10 men to the priesthood, telling them to imitate Jesus in every aspect of their ministry, so as to avoid hypocrisy and draw near to their people, always serving with the joy that comes from being united to Christ. “Aware of having been chosen from among men and formed in their favor to attend to the things of God, exercise in joy and sincere charity the priestly work of Christ,” the Pope said last May 7th.

He told the priests to “be joyful, never sad. Joyful, with the joy of the service of Christ, even in the midst of suffering, in comprehension of your own sin. Always have before your eyes the example of the Good Shepherd, who didn’t come to be served, but to serve,” he said, asking them to “please, don’t be ‘lords,’ don’t be clerics of state, but shepherds, shepherds of the People of God.”

Speaking to the congregation, the Pope encouraged them to reflect on the service the new priests will undertake in the Church. “While Jesus was the only High Priest in the New Testament, he wanted to choose certain men from among his disciples, so that exercising publicly in the Church and in his name the office of the priest in favor of all men, they would continue his personal mission as teacher, priest and shepherd.”

Francis stressed that the men chosen by Jesus were elected “not to make a career, but to do this service.” A priest is above all called to serve the people of God, he said, explaining that it is precisely this service that will configure them to Christ and unite them to the priesthood of their bishop.

“They will be preachers of the Gospel, shepherds of the people of God and will preside over the actions of worship, particularly the celebration of the sacrifice of the Lord,” he said. Speaking directly to the new priests, Francis stressed that by exercising their ministry, “you will be participants in the mission of Christ, the only master. Give that word to all, which you yourselves have received with joy, since you were children,” he said, telling them to “read and meditate assiduously on the Word of God in order to believe what you have read, teaching what you have learned in the faith, living that which you have taught.”



He told the priests to nourish the people of God with a doctrine that is “simple,” explaining that this is how the Lord himself spoke, and it arrived to the heart. “Don’t give homilies that are too intellectual, elaborate. Speak simply, speak to the heart. And this preaching will be a nourishment,” he said, adding that it will also be a “joy and support” for the faithful.

Pope Francis told the priests to recognize and be aware of what they are doing, primarily in administering the sacraments. He also said to “imitate what you celebrate, so that participating in the mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord, you bring the death of Christ into your limbs and walk with him in the newness of life.”

“A priest who has perhaps studied a lot of theology, and has received, 1,2,3,4 degrees, but who hasn’t learned to carry the Cross of Christ, isn’t useful,” he said, adding that “he will be a great academic, a great professor, but not a priest.”

He placed particular attention on the sacrament of confession, during which a priest forgives sins “in the name of Christ and of the Church.” Stressing the importance of mercy, he told the priests “please, I ask you, in the name of Christ and the Church, to be merciful, always. Don’t load on the back of the faithful, weight that they can’t carry ... not even you,” he said. “Jesus rebuked these type of doctors, and he called them hypocrites.”

Francis also urged the newly ordained to spend time with the sick and elderly, explaining that perhaps one of the most “boring” or even “painful” tasks they have is visiting the sick. While it’s okay to have deacons or lay members of their parishes go and give communion to them, Pope Francis told the priest to do it themselves. Otherwise, “you don’t let yourselves touch the suffering flesh of Christ in the sick. This sanctifies you. You will draw closer to Christ.”

He closed his homily telling them to always have before their eyes “the example of the Good Shepherd, who did not come to be served, but to serve,” and to seek salvation for the lost.

Reported by Elise Harris for the Catholic News Agency