

## Oscar Romero: Bishop of the Poor

*Today, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis will declare Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero saints of the Universal Church in a ceremony in the Vatican during the synod for bishops on young people. The following biography on Romero is by Renny Golden, written for The U.S. Catholic*

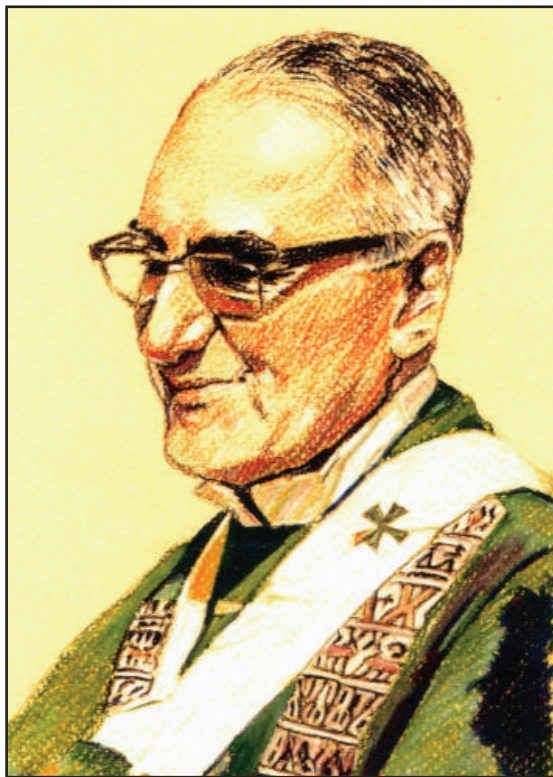
In 1980, in the midst of a U.S. funded war the UN Truth Commission called genocidal, the soon-to-be-assassinated Archbishop Oscar Romero promised history that life, not death, would have the last word. "I do not believe in death without resurrection," he said. "If they kill me, I will be resurrected in the Salvadoran people."

On each anniversary of his death, the people will march through the streets carrying that promise printed on thousands of banners. Mothers will make pupusas (thick tortillas with beans) at 5 a.m., pack them, and prepare the children for a two-to-four hour ride or walk to the city to remember the gentle man they called Monseñor.

Oscar Romero gave his last homily on March 24. Moments before a sharpshooter felled him, reflecting on scripture, he said, "One must not love oneself so much, as to avoid getting involved in the risks of life that history demands of us, and those that fend off danger will lose their lives." The homily, however, that sealed his fate took place the day before when he took the terrifying step of publicly confronting the military.

Romero begged for international intervention. He was alone. The people were alone. In 1980 the war claimed the lives of 3,000 per month, with cadavers clogging the streams, and tortured bodies thrown in garbage dumps and the streets of the capital weekly. With one exception, all the Salvadoran bishops turned their backs on him, going so far as to send a secret document to Rome reporting him, accusing him of being "politicized" and of seeking popularity.

Unlike them, Romero had refused to ever attend a government function until the repression of the people was



stopped. He kept that promise, winning him the enmity of the government and military, and an astonishing love of the poor majority.

Romero was a surprise in history. The poor never expected him to take their side, and the elites of church and state felt betrayed. He was a compromise candidate elected to head the bishop's episcopacy by conservative fellow bishops. He was predictable, an orthodox, pious bookworm who was known to criticize the progressive liberation theology clergy so aligned with the impoverished farmers seeking land reform. But an event would take place within three weeks of his election that would transform the ascetic and timid Romero.

The new archbishop's first priest, Rutilio Grande, was ambushed and killed along with two parishioners. Grande was a target because he defended the peasants' rights to organize farm cooperatives. He said that the dogs of the big landowners ate better food than the campesino children whose fathers worked their fields.

The night Romero drove out of the capital to Paisnal to view Grande's body and the old man and seven year old who were killed with him, marked his change. In a packed country church Romero encountered the silent endurance of peasants who were facing rising terror. Their eyes asked the question only he could answer: Will you stand with us as Rutilio did? Romero's "yes" was in deeds. The peasants had asked for a good shepherd, and that night they received one.

Romero already understood the church is more than the hierarchy, Rome, theologians or clerics — more than an institution — but that night he experienced the people as church. "God needs the people themselves," he said, "to save



Name

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- 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.

## OSCAR ROMERO: BISHOP OF THE POOR

*Continued from page 1*

the world . . . . The world of the poor teaches us that liberation will arrive only when the poor are not simply on the receiving end of hand-outs from governments or from the churches, but when they themselves are the masters and protagonists of their own struggle for liberation."

Romero's great helplessness was that he could not stop the violence. Within the next year some 200 catechists and farmers who watched him walk into that country church were killed. Over 75,000 Salvadorans would be killed, one million would flee the country, another million left homeless, constantly on the run from the army — and this in a country of only 5.5 million. All Romero had to offer the people were weekly homilies broadcast throughout the country, his voice assuring them, not that atrocities would cease, but that the church of the poor, themselves, would live on.

"If some day they take away the radio station from us . . . if they don't let us speak, if they kill all the priests and the bishop too, and you are left a people without priests, each one of you must become God's microphone, each one of you must become a prophet."

By 1980, amidst overarching violence, Romero wrote to President Jimmy Carter pleading with him to cease sending military aid because he wrote, "it is being used to repress my people." The U.S. sent \$1.5 million in aid every day for 12 years. His letter went unheeded. Two months later he would be assassinated.

On March 23 Romero walked into the fire. He openly challenged an army of peasants, whose high command feared and hated his reputation. Ending a long homily broadcast throughout the country, his voice rose to breaking, "Brothers, you are from the same people; you kill your fellow peasant. . . . No soldier is obliged to obey an order that is contrary to the will of God. . . ."

There was thunderous applause; he was inviting the army to mutiny. Then his voice burst, "In the name of God then, in the name of this suffering people I ask you, I beg you, I command you in the name of God: stop the repression."

Romero's murder was a savage warning. Even some who attended Romero's funeral were shot down in front of the cathedral by army sharpshooters on rooftops. To this day no investigation has revealed Romero's killers. What endures is Romero's promise.

Days before his murder he told a reporter, "You can tell the people that if they succeed in killing me, that I forgive and bless those who do it. Hopefully, they will realize they are wasting their time. A bishop will die, but the church of God, which is the people, will never perish."

The twentieth century has been the bloodiest century in history. In what Jose Marti called the "hour of the furnaces," Oscar Romero, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dom Helder Camara, Maura Clark, Dorothy Kazel, Ita Ford, Jeann Donovan, and Ella Baker accompanied those who were in the sights of the men with guns. They burned brighter.

## Canonization Coverage

This Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, the canonizations can be seen on the Catholic Television Network of Detroit/CTND on Comcast (Channel 398) live at 4 a.m. with rebroadcasts at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Mass and rebroadcasts are also available online at Salt + Light Media ([saltandlighttv.org/live](http://saltandlighttv.org/live)). Additionally, there is special programming Sunday and Wednesday evenings on S+L titled Righting the Wrongs: Saint Oscar Romero.

To read more on the six canonizations go to [zenit.org/articles/six-blesseds-to-be-canonized-october-14-2018](http://zenit.org/articles/six-blesseds-to-be-canonized-october-14-2018).

# All Things Considered

Today in Rome, **Pope Paul VI** and **Oscar Romero** will be declared saints together. Both were friends in life, and both are much revered by **Pope Francis**. It is also fitting that they will both be canonized during the synod of bishops on young people.

Paul VI guided and brought the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) to a conclusion and subsequently established the Synod of Bishops at its request. Archbishop Romero, for his part, is an inspiring example not only for bishops but also for young people of how to live the teachings of that Council with courage through commitment to justice, peace and to the poor, even to the point of martyrdom.

Pope Paul's work in bringing the Second Vatican Council to a successful conclusion was in some Roman quarters widely misunderstood. After the sudden death of Pope John XXIII, some in the Church's hierarchy thought the opportune thing would be to scuttle a significant amount of the work that had been done and to return to business as usual. Paul VI knew that couldn't happen, and applied his intellectual accumen to putting a cohesive shape on the Council teachings.

Archbishop Romero's work was widely misunderstood in El Salvador, but also in the Vatican where there was opposition to the cause of his canonization, which opened in 1997. The process was blocked until Francis became pope and, breaking new ground in the process for the causes of the saints, recognized him as a martyr who died for his work in defense of human rights, justice and peace.

Francis cleared the path for the canonization of the martyred archbishop and the Italian pope this Spring when he authorized the promulgation of the decrees that recognize miracles attributed to both. The miracle attrib-

uted to the intercession of Paul VI related to the positive conclusion of a high-risk pregnancy with the birth of a healthy baby; while the one attributed to Archbishop Romero regarded the cure of a woman in danger of death after giving birth.

It is fitting that Pope Francis should canonize these two great Church leaders since he sees his own ministry as being in continuity with both bishops whom he today declared saints of the universal Church.



The old J.L.Hudson site has long held special significance for Detroiters, who in generations past flocked to the massive department store and mourned the closing of the Hudson's store in 1983 as an ominous sign of the city's decline. That is why there is growing excitement about the project that will fill the void in our city's skyline – **Dan Gilbert's** Hudson Tower.

It will ultimately be an architectural icon, a hub for technology and the signature element of Gilbert's downtown developments. The skyscraper, which will be topped with an observatory and skydeck, will surpass the Renaissance Center, whose highest tower at 727 feet has held the city's – and Michigan's – height record since 1977. It will be about another 14 months before construction becomes "vertical."

**Melissa Dittmer**, is head of architecture and design for Dan Gilbert's Bedrock real estate and development entity. In her role she works to ensure high-quality and appropriate designs for all of Bedrock's many projects. She will be our guest speaker this Sunday morning in between masses to talk about the Hudson's tower that will forever change the skyline and image of Detroit. My thanks to **John Gallagher** who arranged for Ms. Dittmer's talk and who will moderate the session.

Last week, an out of town visitor to St. Ambrose was curious about our Motor City Makeover Series. While not objecting – he was just looking for a rationale as to why a parish should be interested in such "secular" matters. The answer, of course, lies in our "bedrock" Catholic belief that this world is not something disposable, but something to be cherished and built upon creatively.

Pope St. Paul VI once wrote, *"...the expectation of a new earth must not weaken but rather stimulate our concern for cultivating this one. For here grows the body of a new human family, a body which even now is able to give some kind of foreshadowing of the new age. Hence, while earthly progress must be carefully distinguished from the growth of Christ's kingdom... it is of vital concern to the Kingdom of God."*

TRP



**Motor City Makeover**

Metropolitan Detroit is rapidly being made over in ways that will define its future. We've invited persons knowledgeable in the field of Detroit's makeover to talk with us. Hear their visions of the 'City to come.'

These sessions are Sundays from 9:45 until 11 a.m. in the ARK

**October 14 – Bedrock Reaches for the Stars** – Melissa Dittmer, head of architecture for Dan Gilbert's real estate arm of Bedrock, will be here to talk about a project that will forever change the skyline and image of Detroit.

## Newman Connection

Choosing a college is one of the biggest decisions a student will make in his/her life. Some choose easily by going to the college that is closest to their home, or perhaps an alma mater of their parents. Some find it more challenging and weigh all of the options.

Either way, The Catholic Newman Connection supports students throughout this process by connecting them to other Catholics at the campus ministry at their chosen college. It serves as their “parish” while away from their home parishes, uniting them in prayer, and helping them grow in their faith – thus creating a community of Catholic students nationwide.

Newman Centers are located at Catholic and non-Catholic universities throughout the world. They were named in honor of Cardinal John Henry Newman the 19<sup>th</sup> century’s most important English speaking Anglican/Roman Catholic theologian.

If you or your son or daughter are in college now, go to [newmanconnection.com](http://newmanconnection.com). Get connected, unite in prayer, and grow in faith.

## The Buzz

What are your goals in life? Short term ones? Long range ones?

As I share with engaged couples . . . look at your personal goals, at your goals for those closest to you, and those you project for others. Once again, in each category . . . what are the short range, intermediate, and long term goals?

Did “salvation” come to mind in any of your answers? And if it did, was it only in the realm of long term goals?

Many of us remember the Baltimore Catechism question: “Why did God make me?” I’d guess most everybody would remember the answer.

But Jesus in today’s Gospel passage has a much deeper and challenging answer. He’s basically saying – start participating in salvation right now; live His life right now, not just in the afterlife. This should be our short term, intermediate, as well as long range commitment.

And to common sense, it may be as foolish as trying to fit a camel through the eye of a needle. I guarantee you won’t find any hint of such a spirit in any political campaign ad! It’s hard; it’s impractical; it’s not realistic. “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God.” And our goal-oriented pipeline to the Lord is communion with Jesus and all that this kind of life involves.

Will we try it, or will we go away sad?!



Speaking of a lived faith that participates in Jesus’ salvation ... next Sunday we will begin exploring such things with a new group/year of adults in the R.C.I.A. here at St. Ambrose. The acronym stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. In this process, adults are prepared to celebrate any or all of the Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church. These Sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. This year’s group would be looking toward celebrating those sacraments at the Easter Vigil, April 20, 2019.

One of the wonderful developments from Vatican II that sprang up in the 1970’s was that the Latin (Western) Rite of the Catholic Church revised the process by which adults would prepare for and then celebrate these sacraments all in one ceremony. In a way, this brought back the style of preparation and celebration that existed in the early centuries of the Church.

One of the key understandings of the RCIA is that preparation for full initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ, is not just about knowledge and information. Prior to the renewal of these Sacraments for adults, the usual mode of preparation was private instructional sessions with a priest to study a catechism text such as the ubiquitous Father Smith Instructs Jackson. This was a book set up basically in a dialogue/Q&A format between a priest and a potential convert. It covered material similar to the Baltimore Catechism that almost all Catholics my age and older used as our main religion text through most of our school days.

Preparation for initiation into the Church in the early centuries was somewhat different. The major emphasis was not on learning doctrine, but rather on hearing the Gospel and practicing a new style of life. Prayer, fasting, and works of charity were prime activities of this preparation period. In fact, many of the “teachings” of the Church were held back until after the initiation of the new members ... then “revealed” as part of the post-Easter stage of the process.

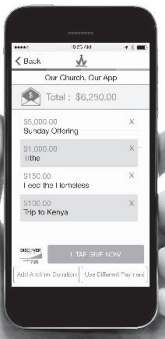
If you or anyone you know would like to explore God’s call to full initiation into the Catholic community – without obligation to join (and no financial cost is involved with this program) – it is never too late to jump into the process. I look forward to welcoming you on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the ARK to our deep, but relaxed, adult (and older teen) gathering. Call me at 332-5631 for more information and to make sure I have enough continental breakfast items for all who wish to participate.


Chuck Dropiewski

# G:ivelify


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## Journey of Hope

We are so delighted to add two newborn saints (SS. Paul VI and Romero) to the Church, and we are privileged now to invoke their prevailing intercessions.

Pope Saint Paul VI (1897-1978) became pope of the Roman Catholic Church in 1963. He reigned during the great changes following the Second Vatican Council. Saint Paul VI presented an inspirational value on evangelization to empower the community of believers who mutually lean on and live in the hope that Christ's love offers. Saint Paul VI encourages us in our witness to emulate Christ who proclaims salvation in God's never-ending gift of freedom. The tangible Good News here is the liberation from oppression of the evil one and sin, and to embrace God's love. St. Paul VI emphasized that evangelization summons us to be reunited together anew with Christ, the Lord of freedom.

Saint Paul VI also said that evangelization impels us to strive for our own conversion, restoration and reunion with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit in our baptismal identity. For St. Paul VI, evangelization invites and encourages us to the renewal of humanity. So we are also called to share a true gospel message with our neighborhoods and the larger community. It is our responsibility to extend the Good News of Christ to non-Christian religions, non-believers, and the fallen away as well. Evangelization reflects our vocation of hope when we witness Christ in our activities that engage us with all others.

Saint Oscar Romero (1917-1980) was the archbishop of San Salvador in Central America. Unlike St Paul VI, St. Oscar protested against the dictatorship in El Salvador. He advocated in defense of the poor who were defenseless victims of persistent violence in El Salvador. Like Jesus, Romero affirmed his identity as paschal sacrificial victim lamb for the "redemption and resurrection" of El Salvador.

Saint Oscar Remaro indicated that the state of grace that the church proclaims is not hostile. But it also isn't simply travelling to heaven to be engulfed by an eternal embrace and, along the way, overlooking the earthly problems faced by the poor daily. Rather, it is the conviction and conversion of human hearts. It is stepping into the shoes of the poor and advocating for their rights. St. Romero emphasized that we are called to reestablish hope within the marginalized, and ensure that they feel useful and valuable. St. Oscar said: "Each one of you has to be God's microphone [witness], to be a messenger, and prophet." Therefore we are all summoned to advocate for the poor so to reinstate peace. How so? Peace is not an invention of violence, torture or fear. Rather, peace reflects generous support for one another's uprightness.

The violence we preach is not the violence of the sword, the violence of hatred. Reasonably, it is the violence of immeasurable love. In our journey of hope, let's preach the violence of unconditional love, which flows from the cross of Calvary. May we share hope by witnessing Christ in our engagement activities to promote evangelization and advocating for the rights of the impoverished.

Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM Cap.

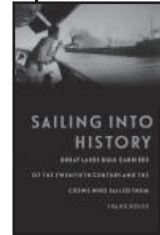
## Pasta for the Poor

The St. Vincent DePaul Society Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 – 8:00p.m., in the ARK. Dinner includes all-you-can-eat choice of pasta and sauces, garlic bread, salad, dessert, tea and coffee.

Prices are: adults \$15, children (6-12) \$6 and children (5 and under) free. Delicious Jumbo Meatballs will be available for an additional \$5. Tickets are available in the back of church after the Masses on the weekends of November 3-4 and 10-11. They can also be purchased at the door.

We need donations of desserts purchased from a commercially licensed bakery or grocery store. You can sign up for this at the back of the church on the same weekends that tickets are being sold.

## Marcellina's Book Club



The Great Lakes create a vast transportation network that supports a massive shipping industry. In [Sailing into History: Great Lakes Bulk Carriers of the Twentieth Century and the Crews Who Sailed Them](#), Frank Boles

relates seamanship, cargo, competition, cooperation, technology, engineering, business, unions, government decisions, and international agreements in a story of unrivaled interest.

We are in the process of connecting with the author to see when he can pay our book club a visit. That date will be announced here. In the meantime, pick up a copy of the book and get a headstart in reading this important work which was one of this year's twenty Notable Book Honorees by the State Library of Michigan.

## The Beehive

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

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

**Assistant:** Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM, Cap

**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Dropiewski

**Religious Education:** Kelly Anne Woolums

**Minister of Music:** Dr. Norah Duncan IV

**Office Manager:** Peggy O'Connor

### 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) 332-5633

**Pastoral Ministry:** (313) 332-5631

**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814

**Parish Website:** stambrosechurch.net

# Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

**Monday, October 15**

*St. Terese of Jesus, virgin & doctor*

8:30 - Morning Prayer

**Tuesday, October 16**

*St. Hedwig, religious &*

*St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Stella and Paul Zawisa

**Wednesday, October 17**

*St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop & martyr*

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

**Thursday, October 18**

*St. Luke, evangelist*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Shane Cooley

**Friday, October 19**

*St. John de Brebeuf & St. Isaac Jogues,  
priest & Companions, martyrs*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Carol & Jerry Macek

**Saturday, October 20**

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

**Sunday, September 21**

*Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 a.m. - For All People

11:15 a.m. - For All People

## Scriptures for the 28<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

**Monday, October 15**

- Gal 4: 22-24, 26-27, 31-5: 1
- Ps 113: 1-7
- Lk 11: 29-32

**Tuesday, October 16**

- Gal 5: 1-6
- Ps 119: 41, 43-45, 47-48
- Lk 11: 37-48

**Wednesday, October 17**

- Gal 5: 18-25
- Ps 1: 1-4, 6
- Lk 11: 42-46

**Thursday, October 18**

- 2 Tm 4: 10-12b
- Ps 145: 10-13b, 17-18
- Lk 10: 1-9

**Friday, October 19**

- Eph 1: 11-14
- Ps 33: 1-2, 4-5, 12-13
- Lk 12: 1-7

**Saturday, October 20**

- Eph 1: 15-23
- Ps 8: 2-7
- Lk 12: 8-12

**Sunday, October 21**

- Is 53: 10-11
- Heb 4: 14-16
- Mk 10: 35-45

## Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup>

**4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bern Degnan  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Beverly Bennert, Karen McShane, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague  
**Altar Servers:** Julianna & Kiernan Tague

**8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bob Gatzke  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Colleen Gatzke, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson,  
Bob Jogan, Steve Linne, Chris Walsh  
**Altar Servers:** Erica, Corey, & Carrigan McGraw

**11:15 a.m. - Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Leslie Leitch  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Lupe Davila, Joseph Hugh, Sue & Roger Playwin,  
Janis Ramsey, Darryl Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden  
**Altar Servers:** Dominik & Malvina Lubanski

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

**On Sunday, October 7, 2018**

in envelopes we received ..... \$6,146.00

in the loose collection ..... \$711.00

in electronic donations ..... \$1,390.00

for a total of..... **\$8,247.00**

**Under** budget for the week..... **\$1,853.00**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 900

Number of envelopes used..... 141

*"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." MARK 10:25*

Jesus uses tough language that we may not want to hear. But, we are all called to be generous with all our gifts. Not just the ones we pick and choose, but all our gifts: our time in prayer to God, our talent in participating in parish ministries and our treasure supporting our local parish and other charities.

## Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Maria Chinchilla, Karen Culver, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Arthur Stoyshin, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Rivers, Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Martha Luna, Dan Urbiel, Dina Engels, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Betty Greenia, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Darby O'Toole, Frank Gregory, Josephine DeCastris, Alex Billiu Albina Checki and Gladys Bogos.

## Gather them Home

The final expression of our faith as Catholics is a blessed and sacred burial in a Catholic Cemetery. By burying the bodies of the faithful, we confirm our faith in the resurrection of the body – that death is not the end. *Gather Them Home* is a no-cost mission of the Archdiocese of Detroit to help those looking for a final resting place for a loved one's remains they currently have at home or in safe keeping.

The All Souls Day Community Memorial Service is a celebration of faith that enables loved ones and the community to mourn by focusing on the promise of everlasting life and the hope of Resurrection in Christ. The nearest All Souls Day Community Memorial Service will be at the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Sepulchre in Southfield. For information and to register go to [www.gatherthemhome.org](http://www.gatherthemhome.org).

## Mass for Commerce

The Catholic business and professional community are invited to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Mass for Commerce on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. in the Chapel of Sacred Heart Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit.

The Eucharist reminds us that we are not just business and professional people who happen to be Catholic, but people who recognize they are stewards of God's gifts and their need for the Holy Spirit to be with them, guiding them every day.

A breakfast will follow Mass. Fr. Tim Hipskind, S.J., author of *What's Your Decision? How to Make Choices with Confidence and Clarity*, will sign free copies of his book and answer questions at the breakfast. Call (313) 596-7430 or visit [massforcommerce.org](http://massforcommerce.org)



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# From the Synod on Youth: Coherence and Concreteness

*Pope Francis opened the Youth Synod on October 4<sup>th</sup> with what he called “orientation” responses to the questions posed by young people at the Youth Synod. Here is part of that talk as reported by Seán-Patrick Lovett for the Catholic News Service.*

## Something useful

Pope Francis then gave his own brief reflections by offering some basic principles and “something useful” in response to the young people. The first of these was to encourage them to be “young people on the way”, young people “who look at horizons, not at the mirror”. We don’t find ourselves by looking in the mirror, he continued. We find ourselves “in doing, in going in search of good, truth, beauty”.

## Being coherent

The Pope said he was struck by the word “coherence”, used by one of the young people during his testimony. “When you see an incoherent Church”, he said, “a Church that reads the Beatitudes to you and then falls into the most princely and scandalous clericalism, I understand. If you are a Christian, take the Beatitudes and put them into practice”. Young people too must be coherent, he continued. “This is a second principle”. Pope Francis spoke of losing a sense of what it means to have power: “true power is to serve . . . power is to make people grow, to become the servant of people.”

## Priceless young people

The Pope then reminded young people that they are priceless. “You are not merchandise at auction”, he told them. “Please, don’t let yourselves be bought, don’t let yourselves be seduced, or enslaved by ideological colonization”. You are free and need to “fall in love with this freedom”, because this is what Jesus offers. But Pope Francis also addressed the issue of “interconnection with the digital world”. While recognizing that it is fast and effective, he went on to warn his young audience about the effects of becoming too dependent on it at the risk of sacrificing relationships. “You will end up like a family at the table, at lunch or dinner, each one with a

mobile phone, talking to the others, or with each other, with a mobile phone, without a concrete, real relationship”.

## The value of concreteness

This brought the Pope to the theme of being concrete: “Every road that you will take to be sure, must be concrete”, he said. “If the media, or using the web takes you away from concreteness, it makes you liquid. Cut it out. Because if there is no concreteness there will be no future for you”. Pope Francis gave the practical example of the concreteness of welcoming others. He was quoting from one of the young people’s questions when he asked how can we “overcome the increasingly widespread mentality that sees in the foreigner, in the stranger, in the migrant, a danger, something evil, an enemy?”

## Populism and popular

The Pope distinguished between “populism” and “popular”, saying that “popular is the culture of the people, the culture of each of your peoples that is expressed in art, in culture, in the science of the people, in celebration”. Populism, he said “is the opposite: it is the closure of this model. We are closed – we are alone. And when we are closed we can’t go on”. Love, he concluded, “is the word that opens all doors”.

## The roots of concreteness

The Pope returned to the theme of concreteness in his closing remarks, encouraging young people to spend time with, and to listen to, the elderly and to their grandparents: “They are the roots, the roots of your concreteness, the roots of your growing, blooming and bearing fruit”, he said. “Remember, if the tree is alone, it will not bear fruit. Everything that the tree has in bloom comes from what is buried in the ground”.

Pope Francis responded off the cuff and delegated more complete answers to the Synod Fathers themselves. The answers must come from everyone, from our reflection, our discussion and, above all, they must be answers made without fear”. *The Synod closes on October 28<sup>th</sup>.*



## St. Ambrose Liturgical Choir

. . . under the direction of Norah Duncan, IV . . . holds rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. New members – high school age and up – are always welcome. Interested volunteers who would like to sing for the Christmas holidays but cannot commit to the entire year are especially welcomed at this time. For more information, contact Dr. Duncan through the parish office at [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net) or climb up to the loft before or after Sunday’s masses.