

## PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

The Work of the People

*The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

In the last installment, I talked about crosses, crucifixes, and candles. This week I want to spend some time writing about the tabernacle. In the past we may have thought of the tabernacle as the focal point of the church building because of its prominence on the altar and in the sanctuary. Since our worship at the time was more like adoration, the tabernacle seemed to be the focal point. When the altar was brought closer to the assembly and the people gathering around it became more a part of the worship, it was often thought that the tabernacle sat on an "altar" of its own. This is not true since there is to be only one altar in any church building. It is true that in large cathedrals and basilicas there are often many "side altars" but these buildings were designed and built for a time long in the past.

In order to understand the reason for a tabernacle, we have to understand something about the Eucharist. The church building, as I have already stated, exists for the primary purpose of providing a place for the People of God to gather for prayer and worship. It is here that we encounter our God in sacramental moments. One of those moments is encountering our God in the Eucharist and in our Eucharistic celebration. As I have been writing, the building, its configuration, and its contents ought to serve that Eucharistic celebration. As Roman Catholics we do, however, reserve the Eucharist after the celebrations.

Did you ever notice that the presider breaks a small piece of the host off and drops it into the chalice? This is a practice that came from the bishop of the church reserving part of the Eucharist that was consecrated on Sunday. Since the Eucharist was celebrated only on Sunday, people took part of what was left home and placed it in a distinctive place in the home. This may seem unusual (and maybe even sacrilegious) to us but remember that the Lord's Supper was celebrated in the homes of individuals early in our history.

The bishop also reserved some of the Eucharist to take to those who, because of illness, could not be present to celebrate with the community on that particular day. This was, and is today, the primary reason for the reservation of the Eucharist. Communion to the sick is called *viaticum*. The tabernacle therefore is a repository for the reserved sacrament so that it will be available for the sick. We have a tradition in Roman Catholicism of pastors taking communion to the sick on the First Friday of the month and now, because of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, the sick can receive communion every Sunday.

"The tabernacle, as a receptacle for the reservation of the eucharist, should be solid and unbreakable, dignified and properly ornamented. It may be placed in a wall niche, on a pillar, or eucharistic tower. It should not be

placed on an altar for the altar is a place for action not reservation. There should be only one tabernacle in a church building. A lamp should burn continuously near it" (*Environment and Art in Catholic Worship #80*).

I'll write more about the secondary reasons for Eucharistic reservation next week.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 18

Monday: Jgs. 2:11-19/Ps. 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab & 44/  
Mt. 19:16-22  
Tuesday: Jgs. 6:11-24a/Ps. 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt. 19:23-30  
Wednesday: Jgs. 9:6-15/Ps. 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt. 20:1-16  
Thursday: Jgs. 11:29-39a/Ps. 40: 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt. 22:1-14  
Friday: Ru. 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps. 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a,  
9bc-10/Mt. 22:34-40  
Saturday: Rv. 21:9b-14/Ps. 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/  
Jn. 1:45-51  
Sunday: Is. 66:18-21/Ps. 117:1, 2/Heb. 12:5-7, 11-13/  
Lk. 13:22-40

**PLEASE NOTE**—Latin Mass will be Sunday, August 25th at 12:30 pm here at St. Anthony.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today Jesus warns us his Word will create conflict between parents and children. In a permissive society which advocates individualism and consumerism, parents must continue to teach and live the gospel values of respect, service to others, forgiveness, generosity and compassion. A Christian family is a countercultural family.

### SIGN INTERPRETED MASS FOR THE DEAF

A Sign Interpreted Mass for the Deaf is held every Sunday at 11:00 am at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Church, 147 W. 24th St., Erie. For more information, call 814 824-1257 or email [d&ministry@erieRCD.org](mailto:d&ministry@erieRCD.org)

### MARRIAGE MOMENTS

If your employment is home based or you are a homemaker, you may have to create your own "marriage friendly" work policies. Agree about when you will take work phone calls or when it is time to stop WORK and relax together. Of course, if you have young children, you don't fully control your time. You're always on call. Have the spouse who works "outside the home" spell you.

### CATHOLIC FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania is pleased to share its new website at [www.cfnwpa.org](http://www.cfnwpa.org). Please take a few minutes to learn more about the work of the Catholic Foundation and its impact on the Catholic community in northwest Pennsylvania.

## WORSHIP

Monday, August 19  
8:00 am + For the Episcopo & DiMattio Families

Tuesday, August 20  
8:00 am + John E. Auer

Wednesday, August 21  
7:00 am AT ST. BERNADETTE  
Living and Deceased Parishioners

Thursday, August 22  
8:00 am + Living & Deceased Members of PNA Lodge 1540

Friday, August 23  
8:00 am + A Special Intention

Saturday, August 24  
4:30 pm + Victims of mass shootings in El Paso & Dayton  
(Dale & Carole Schoiack)

Sunday, August 25  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE  
Living & Deceased Parishioners  
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY  
Harold W. Schmidt (Friends)  
12:30 pm + LATIN MASS AT ST. ANTHONY  
William P. Lyons, Sr. (Elizabeth Calupca)

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE  
(Except Holy Days)  
7:00 am - Communion Service

Tuesday, August 20  
After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena

Saturday, August 24  
3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions

Sunday, August 25  
Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE  
After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY  
NOTE: Latin Mass will be the last Sunday of every month

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 - 4:30 PM**

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Hobson/Judy Hermann/Judy Kingston  
Lector: Kathleen Lipkovich  
Altar Servers: Robert Moats/Sydney Zilhaver

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 - 9:30 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Douglas/Harriet McLaren/  
Don Marteeny/Barbara Milligan

Lector: Vicki Eckstein  
Altar Servers: Sophia Mott

**ST. BERNADETTE**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 - 8:00 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers: S. Sada/J. Weagraff/K. Weagraff  
Lector: J. Drda  
Ushers: S. Sada, Sr.  
Altar Servers: I. Levis

**STEWARDSHIP**

<b>8/11/19</b>	
Offertory	\$697.00
Votives	3.00
Rent	<u>325.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,025.00</b>

CSA—Pledged: \$8,205  
Paid: \$7,125

**NEEDED**

Our Religious Education program is in need of an elementary teacher to team teach for this upcoming year. If interested, please contact the rectory at 398-4234.

**WANTED**

St. Anthony of Padua is looking for an interested person to clean the rectory, three to four hours, one day a week. If interested, please call 398-4234, 9 am - 3:30 pm, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.

**- CRAFTERS WANTED -**

St. Anthony of Padua will hold a Craft Fair on Saturday, October 5 from 9am - 3pm. For more information please contact Sue (814 398-8265) or Kathleen (814 282-6707).

**SILENT PEACE WALK**

Benedictines for Peace in Erie will hold a Silent Peace Walk on Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 7 - 7:30 pm at the St. Benedict Child Development Center, 345 E. 9th St. Erie. Benedictines for Peace initiated monthly walks in response to the escalating tensions and divisiveness present in our country and our world. There will be a cookout beginning at 6:15 pm at the adjacent playground. Parking in the lot behind the building is limited. Parking along East 9th or 10th streets is preferred.

**GREAT LAKES HOSPICE**

Anyone who likes to sing and would enjoy lending their voice to comfort those nearing the end of life is invited to join the Threshold Choir, sponsored by Great Lakes Hospice of Erie. To volunteer or to learn more, call 814 824-2030.

*“Jesus, show me how to participate in your plan.”*

**BINGO** - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, August 19th. Early Bird BINGO starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors and kitchen open at 5:00 pm. Chicken 'N Biscuits Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE'S**

Sun, Sept. 9—Holy Name Sunday

**STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,028.00
Maintenance	312.00
Candles	43.00
Rent	450.00
Roof Donation	1,000.00
CSA	<u>315.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,148.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
Pledged: \$23,246.00 Paid: \$17,871.00

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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