

## PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

The Work of the People

*The Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

For the last several months I have been writing about things liturgical in our tradition and in the present day. If you have any questions about such things, I would be happy to respond to them. For now, I have come to the end of what I intended to present and so I've decided to continue the liturgical theme but in a slightly different way. Each week I intend to write a little about the scripture passages for the particular Sunday and then offer a brief meditation on the readings taken from a spiritual writer.

This week in the First Reading we once again here from Wisdom literature. Wisdom's author is in touch with the uncertainties and anxieties of human existence. If we are unable to understand the ways of life on earth, how can we begin to fathom heavenly things? Only through God's gift of wisdom and God's divine spirit is this possible.

In the letter of St. Paul to Philemon Paul is writing from prison, where he ended up on more than one occasion because of his proclamation of the Gospel. Paul was no stranger to the difficulties of being faithful to God's call. Even prison, however, could not impede Paul's proclamation of the Word.

The First Reading of today puts into perspective Jesus' hard sayings in today's Gospel. Only in the wisdom of God and through the power of God's spirit can we hear, not to mention, do, what Jesus asks. To become his disciple, one must first exceed to Jesus' demand to renounce all possessions, and indeed one's very self. Only then can we be as available and open to God as Jesus calls us to be.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Grace In Every Season* by Catherine de Hueck Doherty (1896-1985) who was a Russian-born aristocrat who dedicated her life to "the gospel without compromise."

You go forth as an apostle—with no shoes, no gold or silver. Then, once more, you too will hear the words of Christ at the end of the journey, "Have you wanted for anything?"

Your vocation is simple, so utterly simple, that words fail to describe it. It is intangible, yet very concrete. To burn. To do the will of God in the humble duty of every moment. To die to self through obedience, poverty, love. Through chastity also. To be ready to be crucified, in the mystical sense, on the cross of the will of God. To be ready to be crucified by men and women. You will be crucified by their words, though you may not yet realize that words spoken by men and women are like chaff in the wind. They will be words of disapproval, of doubt, of ridicule. You will also be crucified by gestures (the shrugging of shoulders, for example). You will be crucified by others' disbelief in your way of life.

Your cross will be very small. It will probably be in the marketplace or where you live. Yes, the cross will be small, as tall as you or I, each according to his size.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8

Monday: Col. 1:24; 2:3/Ps. 62:6-7, 9/Lk. 6:6-11

Tuesday: Col. 2:6-15/Ps. 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11/Lk. 6:12-19

Wednesday: Col. 3:1-11/Ps. 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/  
Lk. 6:20-26

Thursday: Col. 3:12-17/Ps. 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk. 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm. 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps. 16:1b-2a & 5, 7-8, 11/  
Lk. 6:39-42

Saturday: Nm. 21:4b-9/Ps. 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/  
Phil. 2:6-11/Jn. 3:13-17

Sunday: Ex. 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps. 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/  
1 Tm. 1:12-17/Lk. 15:1-31

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The yearly Catholic Education Collection is an opportunity for parishioners to show their support of life-long faith information initiatives.

To be taken up on the weekend of September 14 - 15, the Catholic Education Collection supports faith formation opportunities for everyone throughout our entire diocese. Almost every aspect of parish life is touched by faith formation, from religious education and family life to service and worship.

Please generously support this collection. Half of the funds raised from this collection remain in your parish to support its educational and faith formation programs. The other half is granted throughout the diocese to fund programs like leadership training, tuition assistance, workshops and conferences and training for pastoral ministers. A small portion also supports the Catholic University of America which promotes Catholic Social Teaching and the training of priests, religious and lay leaders.

Contributions can be made at your parish or online at [www.ErieRCD.org/Catholic-Education-Collection.html](http://www.ErieRCD.org/Catholic-Education-Collection.html). Thank you for your generous support. Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel is clear: commitment to another involves sacrifice. Before we accept a commitment such as marriage or parenting, we must plan carefully like the king in today's gospel. These are serious commitments which demand complete self-giving and are not for the faint hearted or selfish.

### 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.

**WORSHIP**

Monday, September 9  
 8:00 am + Leona Auer  
 Tuesday, September 10  
 8:00 am + Living & Deceased Members of PNA Lodge 1540  
 Wednesday, September 11  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, September 12  
 8:00 am + For the Episcopo & DiMattio Families  
 Friday, September 13  
 8:00 am + For all Ancestors of Joan Rembielek and  
 Bob & Phyllis Wronko (Joan Rembielek  
 and Bob & Phyllis Wronko)  
 Saturday, September 14  
 4:30 pm + Maria "Dina" Black (St. Anthony Parishioners)  
 Sunday, September 15  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY  
 Margaret "Peg" Styborski (Stacy Mott)

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 (Except Holy Days)  
 7:00 am - Communion Service  
 Tuesday, September 10  
 After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena  
 Saturday, September 14  
 3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions  
 Sunday, September 15  
 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, SEPTEMBER 14 - 4:30 PM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Hermann/Judy Kingston/Jim Samson  
 Lector: Sue Bullman  
 Altar Servers: Sophia Mott/Robert Moats

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 - 9:30 AM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Larry Douglas/  
 Don Marteeny/Harriet McLaren  
 Lector: Vicki Eckstein  
 Altar Servers: Max Marteeny/Sydney Zilhaver

**ST. BERNADETTE**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 - 8:00 AM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: C. Sada/G. Beisler/D. Nowak  
 Lector: D. Capell/Mrs. Greco (if needed)  
 Ushers: S. Sada, Jr.  
 Altar Servers: Greco/Levis

**STEWARDSHIP**

9/1/19	
Offertory	\$511.00
Votives	34.00
Share the Faith	10.00
Religious Educ.	5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$560.00</b>

CSA:  
 Pledged - \$8,205  
 Paid - \$7,220

**FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR**

St. Anthony of Padua is need of someone to fill the position of Faith Formation Coordinator. If interested, please contact the rectory at 814 398-4234.

**NOTICE**

*The Religious Education Classes for both churches will begin Sunday, September 22 after the 9:30 am Mass. Classes will be held at St. Anthony of Padua for both churches. If you have questions please contact the rectory at 398-4234.*

**CATHOLICS OVERCOMING INFERTILITY**

Medical, non medical, spiritual and emotional resources. Come and find out the best solution for your family. Presentations followed by Q & A sessions including information on how to get started will take place at St. Mark Catholic Center Auditorium, 429 E. Grandview Blvd, Erie, on September 15 from 1pm - 4:30 pm.  
 For more information including speakers please visit [www.eriercd.org/infertility.htm](http://www.eriercd.org/infertility.htm) or call 814 824-1265

**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.

**COMMUNITY LUNCH**

There will be a free community lunch at C.S. First United Methodist Church on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 11:30 - 12:30 pm. Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, fruit, bread & dessert. Carry-outs available. For more information call 398-4049.

*"Every day will I bless you." Psalm 145:2*

**BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, Sept. 16. 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. Homemade Lasagna Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.**

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

Sun. Sept. 22 - Religious Education Class following 9:30 am Mass at St. Anthony.

**STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,203.00
Maintenance	494.00
Craft Fair	80.00
Candles	19.00
Roof Donation	300.00
CSA	455.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,551.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged: \$23,596 Paid: \$18,881

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---