

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

The Work of the People

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last week's article was full of questions and this week I provide some of the answers. Remember that from a liturgical perspective, the three most important objects within the worship space are the altar, the ambo, and the chair. Remember, too, that the primary purpose of the church building is to be the place within which the Church, the People of God, gathers to praise, worship, and give thanks to God who is the giver of every good gift. Now, how do each of these objects, or pieces of liturgical furniture if you will, serve the purpose of the space?

The altar is the most important object within the worship space. It is around the altar that the People of God, the Church, gathers for prayer. The altar is to be placed in the space in such a way that the people can gather around it. There are many elements with our worship space that lead us into prayer but because of the more traditional design of the building, we, as the worshipping community, cannot gather *around* the altar. Many of us, because some choose to sit in the rear of the building, are farther away from the altar than others. Physically and spiritually we are farther away from the action of the Church. I suppose that if one did not realize the significance of the liturgical action for one's life, it wouldn't matter to that person how near to or how far from the action one chose to be.

In the document *Environment and Art in Catholic Worship* we read, "The altar, the holy table, should be the most noble, the most beautifully designed and constructed table the community can provide. It is the common table of the assembly, a symbol of the Lord, at which the presiding minister stands and upon which are placed the bread and wine and their vessels and the book. It is holy and sacred to this assembly's action and sharing, so it is never used as a table of convenience or as a resting place for papers, notes, cruets, or anything else" (#71).

Since the altar is "a symbol of the Lord" it is a sign to us of the presence of Christ among us and within us. It is the only object within our tradition that is anointed. Usually people are anointed in a sacramental moment. Sacred Chrism is used at Baptism, Confirmation, and the Sacrament of Orders. The Oil of the Infirm is used in celebrating the Sacrament of the Sick. At the dedication (or re-dedication) of a church building, however, the altar is liberally anointed with Sacred Chrism. Scripture and our tradition tell us that Christ is the priest, the altar, and the Lamb of sacrifice. Therefore, the altar is a sacred object upon which the most sacred of sacrifices is offered and the around which the most sacred of meals is shared.

The ambo (or reading stand) is to be a second altar. As the body and blood of Christ are broken and poured out for us on the altar, so is the Word of God broken open for us at – or on – the ambo. "The ambo or lectern is a standing desk for reading and preaching (although preaching can be done from the chair or elsewhere. The ambo represents the dignity and uniqueness of the Word of God and of reflection upon that Word" (*Environment and Art in Catholic Worship*, #74). The ambo, like the altar, should also never be used for another purpose such as the leading of song.

The chair is the liturgical object that usually is most misunderstood. It is much more than a place to rest. It is the place from which the liturgical prayer begins and it is the symbol of the teaching of Christ. The Latin word for chair, *cathedra*, is the word from which we get cathedral. In a traditional cathedral the chair may take the form of a throne. It is the place from which the bishop teaches. That teaching is passed on in each parish by the one who is delegated by the bishop, the pastor. "The importance of the personal symbol and function of the one who presides in liturgical celebration should not be underrated or underplayed, because it is essential for good celebration" (*Environment and Art*, #70). The chair should stand alone unless other ministers, such as a deacon, are present and part of the celebration.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 28

Monday: Ex. 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps. 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/
Jn. 11:19-27/Lk. 10:38-42
Tuesday: Ex. 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Mt. 13:36-43
Wednesday: Ex. 34:29-35/Ps. 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt. 13:44-46
Thursday: Ex. 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps. 84:3, 4, 5-6a & 8a, 11/
Mt. 13:47-53
Friday: Lv. 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps. 81:3-4, 5-6,
10-11ab/Mt. 13:54-58
Saturday: Lv. 25:1, 8-17/Ps. 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt. 14:1-12
Sunday: Eccl. 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps. 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17/
Col. 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk. 12:13-21

SHARING PERSONAL INFORMATION

In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy, and entities such as parishes and schools will never solicit your personal or business information by any method unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information - including a request for gift cards of any type - exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.

- 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).

Congratulations to Fr. Mark on his 1st anniversary as pastor at St. Anthony and St. Bernadette, on August 1, 2019.

WORSHIP

Monday, July 29
8:00 am + Leona Auer

Tuesday, July 30
8:00 am + Margaret (Peg) Styborski (Barbara Zabody)

Wednesday, July 31
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, August 1
8:00 am + John Auer

Friday, August 2—FIRST FRIDAY
8:00 am + Doris Inter (M/M Gerald Adamczyk)

Saturday, August 3
4:30 pm + Leo Wronko (Joan Rembielak & Phyllis & Bob Wronko)

Sunday, August 4
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY
One Year Anniversary of Fr. Mark Nowak, as Pastor
for St. Anthony and St. Bernadette

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday at St. Bernadette
(Except Holy Days)
7:00 am - Communion Service

Tuesday, July 30
After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena

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

Sunday, August 4
Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE
After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 - 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Rob Bullman/Shawn Pflieger/Jim Samson
Lector: Vicki Eckstein
Altar Servers: Robert Moats/Sydney Zilhaver

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 - 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Douglas/Christine Krzyziak/
Harriet McLaren/Barbara Milligan

Lector: Julie Hobson
Altar Servers: Sophia Mott/Andrea Walker

ST. BERNADETTE SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 - 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Sada/G. Beisler/D. Nowak
Lector: D. Capell/Mrs. Greco
Ushers: S. Sada, Jr.
Altar Servers: Greco/Levis

STEWARDSHIP

<u>7/21/19</u>	
Offertory	\$527.00
Votives	39.00
National Needs	<u>88.00</u>
TOTAL	\$654.00

CSA: Pledged - \$7,705
Paid - \$6,550

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.

St. Boniface Parish is looking for a qualified, capable individual for the position of Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry. The position is full time. Interested candidates please go to mstockton@eriercd.org for further information.

Seton School in Meadville is seeking a qualified person as principal, with teaching positions available. Candidates must have current clearances. Required documentation may be found at <https://www.eriercd.org/schools/teachingforms.html>

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel guarantees if we "ask" we will "receive," perhaps not what we wanted but what our Heavenly Father knows is best for us. All the love we have for our children, God has for us and more. As our children trust us, we must trust "Our Father."

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Treat each other—Wives: Give him an afternoon of uninterrupted time to watch sports. Husband: Place a rose under the car's windshield wiper. Sure these are gender stereotypes, but let it prompt you to think of your own personal creative treat.

- 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).

BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, July 29. 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. A Meatloaf Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE'S

Mon. Aug. 5 - 6 pm - Holy Name Society Mtg.

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$895.00
Maintenance	197.00
CSA	580.00
Candles	24.00
National Needs	226.72
Peter's Pence	<u>20.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,942.72

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$23,241 Paid: \$17,311

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
