

## PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

The Work of the People  
*The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

When we speak of the environment of the worship space and the objects that symbolize and point to our beliefs as Christian and Catholic, it is necessary to consider things such as crosses or crucifixes, candles, the tabernacle, and statues. In considering these objects of art and worship, it is important to remember the role of art in our places of worship. They are to connect us with the unseen God who has become incarnate in creation. These objects must, therefore, connect us to the transcendent and the imminent, that which is beyond and that which, at the same time, is accessible to us humans. "What has happened in the last few centuries [preceding ours] is that Church art, architecture, and music have remained too aloof [*the transcendent side*], too alien to our mainstream of general culture. Most of the time they seem to be the products of secular imitation and not true religious creation. It is so easy for us to develop stereotypes and, in the name of tradition, to hand these down regardless of how sentimental they may be and deprived of true religious content" (*Art and the Church: The Need for Mainstreaming, Most Rev. Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.*).

With all of this in mind, I turn to the cross or crucifix. The difference between the two is that a crucifix is a cross with a *corpus* or an image of the crucified Christ attached to it. Generally, in Roman Catholic church buildings, we display a crucifix on the sanctuary wall behind the altar whereas most protestant church buildings have a cross. It may be interesting to note that at the Good Friday service most protestant denominations use a crucifix while we use a cross in our Roman Catholic observance.

The purpose of the crucifix is to remind us why we are gathered in this particular place in the first place. The mysteries of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection are at the center of our faith and worship. As we gather around the altar to celebrate "these sacred mysteries", we look to a symbol that tells that this act of our redemption is taking place today and always for us and for all people. "A cross [*crucifix*] is a basic symbol in any Christian liturgical celebration" (*Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, #88*).

One of the things to remember in the use of symbols is that we don't overuse. In this case, less is more. "A symbol claims human attention and consciousness with a power that seems to be adversely affected by overdose. For example, the multiplication of crosses in a liturgical space or as ornamentation on objects [*such as vestments*] may lessen rather than increase attention to that symbol" (*EACW, #86*). The same is also true for such things as the improper placement or excessive use of statues as objects of veneration in a space that is intended for public worship and not private devotion.

Candles usually accompany the crucifix in procession (especially at major celebrations) and are to be used judiciously. As fire is a symbol of the presence of God throughout Scripture, candles are a reminder to us of that presence, especially of Christ who is our light. The candles we use at each celebration are shadows of the great candle, the Paschal or Easter Candle that is a symbol of Christ. "The Easter Candle and its standard call for very special dimension and design. They occupy a central location in the assembly during the Easter season and a place at the baptismal font thereafter" (*EACW, #90*).

I will continue this discussion next week.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 11

Monday: Dt. 10:12-22/Ps. 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mt. 17:22-27  
 Tuesday: Dt. 31:1-8/Dt. 32:3-4ab, 7, 8, 9, & 12/Mt. 18:1-5, 10, 12-14  
 Wednesday: Dt. 34:1-12/Ps. 66:1-3a, 5 & 8, 16-17/Mt. 18:15-20  
 Thursday: Rv. 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps. 45:10, 11, 12, 16/ 1 Cor. 15:20-27/Lk. 1:39-56  
 Friday: Jos. 24:1-13/Ps. 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22 & 24/Mt. 19:3-12  
 Saturday: Jos. 24:14-19/Ps. 16:1-2a & 5, 7-8, 11/Mt. 19:13-15  
 Sunday; Jer. 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps. 40:2, 3, 4, 18/Heb. 12:1-4/ Lk. 12:49-53

### CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As you know, many of our southern neighbors are experiencing serious crises. Nearly every day we hear dramatic stories about the migrant crisis in our southern border. In recent months the news has also been filled with stories about the economic collapse of Venezuela. The annual collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA) allows us to help.

The CSA helps provide lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, as well as marriage and family life programs to the millions of Catholics in Latin America who would otherwise have no access to them.

Today I ask you to renew your support for our brothers and sisters in Latin America. I invite you to pray for them and to support this year's Church in Latin America Collection, which will be taken up in the parishes of the Diocese of Erie on the Weekend of August 17-18. Together we can make a real difference in the lives of our fellow Catholics throughout Latin America. Please know my gratitude for your generosity and be assured of my prayers.

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

### 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, August 12  
 8:00 am + Michael H. Milligan (Barb Milligan)  
 Tuesday, August 13  
 8:00 am + Jane Goss (Kathleen Lipkovich)  
 Wednesday, August 14  
 5:00 pm + AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 Thursday, August 15, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 7:00 pm + AT ST. ANTHONY  
 Anthony Rembielak (JoanCRembielak/Phyllis & Bob Wronko)  
 Friday, August 16  
 8:00 am + Leona Auer  
 Saturday, August 17  
 4:30 pm + Lucille Hobson (Hobson Family)  
 Sunday, August 18  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY  
 Margaret Styborski (Stacy Mott)

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 (Except Holy Days)  
 7:00 am - Communion Service  
 Tuesday, August 13  
 After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena  
 6:30 pm - Finance Council Mtg. at St. Bernadette Parish Center  
 7:15 pm - Parish Council Mtg. at St. Bernadette Parish Center  
 Saturday, August 17  
 3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions  
 Sunday, August 18  
 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**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 15 - 7:00 PM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Carol Rasavage/Jim Samson  
 Lector: Shawn Pflieger  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 - 4:30 PM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Rob Bullman/Judy Hermann/Jim Samson  
 Lector: Kathleen Lipkovich  
 Altar Servers: Payton Leandro/Sydney Zilhaver  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 - 9:30 AM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Theresa Douglas/  
 Larry Douglas/Barbara Milligan  
 Lector: Shawn Pflieger  
 Altar Servers: Paige Tucker/Andrea Walker  
**ST. BERNADETTE'S**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 - 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**

<u>8/4/19</u>			
Offertory	\$538.00	Latin America	\$20.00
Votives	23.00	TOTAL	\$659.50
Strawberry Fest.	13.50		
C.C.D.	35.00	CSA: Pledged -	\$8,205
Assumption	30.00	Paid -	\$7,075

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

In today's gospel a servant WAITED for the maser to return. Waiting is a normal part of family life. We wait for a child's birth, then for small legs to catch up. Later we wait for teenagers to return home safely. Finally we wait alone anticipating a call or visit from an adult child. Waiting is sacred time, for even in the waiting we are connected.

**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.

**SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Seton Catholic School, preschool—8th grade, where students thrive on being challenged academically, learn to be respectful, responsible and self disciplined. Scholarships available. Call today 814 336-2320 for a tour or to register. All faiths welcome.

**- 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).

**17TH ANNUAL RETREAT**

Sponsored by the Erie Division of the WAF and St. Ann Church in Erie to include three talks, a film, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary and Mass. Registration begins at 9:30 am; donation is \$13 each or \$20/household. Retreat Master is the Spiritual Director for the World Apostolate of Fatima, Erie Division - Fr. Jerry Priscaro, priest in residence for St. Ann Church/Mother of Sorrows Parish in Erie. Retreat lasts all day ending with Mass at 4:00 pm. Please call 814 790-2002 to make your reservation by August 17th. Lunch will be served; donation accepted or bring your own bag lunch.

**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**

Wed. Aug. 14 - 5:00 pm - Mass for The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$2,055.00
Maintenance	338.00
Candles	38.00
Special Offering	45.00
CSA	<u>790.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,266.00

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged - \$23,246.00    Paid - \$17,606.00

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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