

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

The Work of the People

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This week we move from the Preface into the Eucharistic Prayer proper. In the past when asked which part of the Mass was most important, we probably would have said "the consecration" meaning the Words of Institution and the Elevation. However, it is important to see the Eucharistic Prayer as a whole and to view it as one of the two focal points for our gathering. Again, those two points of focus are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Remember that the Eucharistic Prayer is the central part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The bishops of the United States have determined our prayer posture for this part of the Liturgy. After the Holy, Holy, we kneel throughout the Eucharistic Prayer. In almost every other country in the world, the bishops have decided that the prayer posture of standing provides a much better sign of the unity among all those who have gathered for the celebration. Some may think that kneeling is a posture that better expresses a reverence for what we are celebrating but that is just not the case. I remember when I was in Catholic grade school we were taught to stand when someone else came into the room (most especially for a priest, sister, or other teacher) as a sign of respect. Kneeling is more a posture of penitence or subservience. It is true that it can also be a sign of respect and reverence and this is the posture that has been chosen for us.

So, we kneel and the presider briefly prays an expression of God's greatness. The presider then, in the name of all those present, prays an *epiclesis* or an invocation addressed to God to allow the Spirit to "Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ." (*EP II*) *Throughout this discussion of the Eucharistic Prayer, I will be quoting from Eucharistic Prayer II although the same elements may be seen in all the other Eucharistic Prayers with the exception of EP I.* After asking for the presence and work of the Spirit, we move to the Words of Institution. These words are one of the few statements attributed to Christ that is present in all four Gospels. In knowing that, we come to know their importance to the early church and can, with a good deal of certainty, say that they are the exact words of Christ spoken at that last Passover Meal. These words express Christ giving himself to us but in the "Do this in memory of me", they also express that we are to give of ourselves to one another. They are words of invitation and words of gift giving: "Take this, all of you, and eat of it:" and "Take this, all of you, and drink from it:"

They are also words of self-sacrifice: "this is my Body which will be given up for you" and "this is the chalice

of my Blood . . . (that) will be poured out for you and for many". In each instance, the presider takes the elements (the bread and the chalice) in his hands and after the Words of Institution, shows the consecrated host and the chalice to the people. In these actions and through these words Christ gives himself once again to us.

We are then invited by the presider to proclaim what is at the center of our faith, our life together in Christ and we respond with another of the sung acclamations. Form C expresses our faith thus: "Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free." We'll continue next week.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17

Monday: Gn. 4:1-15, 25/Ps. 50:1 & 8, 16bc-17, 20-21/
Mk. 8:11-13

Tuesday: Gn. 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps. 29:1a & 2, 3ac-4, 3b & 9c-10/
Mk. 8:14-21

Wednesday: Gn. 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps. 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/
Mk. 8:22-26

Thursday: Gn. 9:1-13/Ps. 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 & 22-23/
Mk. 8:27-33

Friday: 1 Pt. 5:1-4/Ps. 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt. 16:13-19

Saturday: Heb. 11:1-7/Ps. 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11/Mk. 9:2-13

Sunday: 1 Sm. 16:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps. 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10,
12-13/1 Cor. 15:45-49/Lk. 6:27-38/12-13

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

All are welcome to attend the annual "Greater Things" Catholic Charismatic Conference March 9 from 9 am - 3:30 pm at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Center. The event is sponsored by the Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center of the diocese. Speaker and worship leader will be Jaci Phillips, Ph.D, with guest violinist Louis Nicolita. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes lunch. Scholarships are available. Register online at www.ErieRCD.org/wordoflife/conference.html or call 814 833-9717.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Don't look very far when you hear today's gospel speak of poverty, hunger, sorrow or exclusion. These things happen in families. Children feel "insulted" when they are constantly criticized. Spouses "hunger" for affection. Grandparents feel "excluded" by divorce and custody decisions. Parents "weep" because they feel alienated from their children.

NOVA

A one-day marriage preparation program designed specifically for couples free to remarry in the Catholic Church. Topics covered include expectations of remarriage, blending families, legal issues and others. Call the Family Life Office at 814 824-1261 for information. The next NOVA is scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd in Erie. Pre-registration is required.

*"Jesus, you are always here for me.
Give me the grace to trust you
more and more."*

WORSHIP

Monday, February 18
 8:00 am + Episcopo & DiMattio Families
 Tuesday, February 19
 8:00 am + Colleen Candice Pifera (Shawn Pflieger)
 Wednesday, February 20
 7:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE'S
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 Thursday, February 21
 8:00 am + Paul Cirillo
 Friday, February 22 - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
 8:00 am + Leona E. Auer
 Saturday, February 23
 4:30 pm + Lucille Hobson (Tom Hobson & Family)
 Sunday, February 24
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE'S
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY'S
 Charles F. Sieck (M/M Nelson Allen, Jr.)
 12:30 pm + TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS AT ST. ANTHONY'S
 Catherine (Wesdock) Test (Alan Wolfe)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
 7:00 am - Communion Service
 Monday, February 18
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO
 Tuesday, February 19
 After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena
 Saturday, February 23
 3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions
 Sunday, February 24
 Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE'S
 After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY'S

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

ST. ANTHONY'S
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 - 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Hermann/Tom Hobson/Judy Kingston
 Lector: Julie Hobson
 Altar Servers: Peyton Crays/William Moats

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 - 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Douglas/Judy Kingston/
 Christine Krzyasiak/Jim Samson
 Lector: Veronica Walker
 Altar Servers: Max Marteeny/Andrea Walker

ST. BERNADETTE'S
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 - 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Greco/J. Acker
 Lector: B. Smith
 Ushers: D. Nowak
 Altar Servers: B. Greco

STEWARDSHIP

<u>2/10/19</u>	
Offertory	\$464.00
Votives	36.00
Rent	<u>825.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,325.00

MEN'S CONFERENCE

The sixth annual 22:32 Men's Conference will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 2401 W. 38th St, Erie on March 2 from 9 am - 3:30 pm. The lineup of speakers includes two who would appeal to younger men in high school and college, as well as men who are out of college and beginning their careers and families. Speakers are Sean O'Hare, Sean Forrest and Tom Peterson. The cost is \$40 for adults, \$25 for college students, and \$10 for high school students. See detailed information at www.2232men.com where you may register and purchase tickets. For more information, go to info@2232men.com

THEOLOGY ON TAP

St. George Church welcomes you to Theology on Tap (TOT) at BREWERIE (Union Station) from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. The next event will be Monday, February 25 by Fr. Jamie Power, Parochial Vicar, St. George Church. This series will be Do this in Remembrance of Me: Why We Do What We Do at Mass.

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Cambridge Springs Heritage Society presents its first History Night of 2019: Businesses around Macy Park, The Progression of the Entrepreneurs on Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00 pm at the First Baptist Church on South Main St. Refreshments will be served after.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

"Love is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, but rejoices with the truth..." (1 Cor. 13:6) Which of these qualities of love best describes your beloved.

GREATER THINGS CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

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"Lord, help me to be merciful as you are merciful."

BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, February 18. 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,051.00
Maintenance	493.00
Initial Offering	10.00
Faith Comm.	20.00
CSA	<u>46.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,620.00

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
