

PASTORS LETTER

The Work of the People

The Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

At this point in the Liturgical year we have almost moved through the entirety of Luke's Gospel. This is certainly a time of transition as we experience the changing of the seasons and it is also a time of transition in our liturgy. We move into the last few Sundays of Ordinary Time and, as we do so, we begin to hear Jesus in the Gospel speak more of the coming of God's Kingdom in its fullest sense. Today the readings focus on our response to God's invitation into relationship that comes through our prayer.

On this Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time we hear first from the Book of Exodus. The militaristic tone of this passage should not detract from the underlying meaning of the text. Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and Hur all play prominent roles in the life of God's people. Although God is not mentioned in this passage, the author's perspective is that God intends to protect the chosen people. When Moses raises his hands the Israelites prevail, but it is the power of God who acts through Moses.

The reading from the Letter to Timothy is written as if Paul continues to instruct and encourage Timothy in preaching the Word of God. Timothy is reminded that all of Scripture is inspired by God; here the author is referring to the writings of the Old Testament. The author urges Timothy to make it his responsibility to preach the message that Jesus came to fulfill the Scriptures and that persistence in proclaiming the Word of God was a follower's primary responsibility.

In the reading from the Gospel of Luke, we are easily caught up in the plea of the widow for a just hearing from the judge. Her persistence is admirable and Jesus turns the encounter into a lesson on prayer. The actions of the dishonest and unwilling judge are contrasted with the just and speedy response by God to the pleas of the "chosen ones." Jesus states that such prayer comes from faith.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Sr. Melannie Svoboda, a Sister of Notre Dame from Chardon, Ohio. She writes and gives retreats and talks nationally. Her latest book is *The Lord Is My Shepherd*.

Today's readings present two individuals: a man and a woman. The man, Moses, is a great leader of his people. The woman, nameless, is a disenfranchised widow on the margins of society. Moses is standing on a mountaintop overlooking a great battle. The widow is boldly stomping into a law office every day waging a personal battle for justice.

Both are pleading for something they desperately want from powers stronger than they are. Both are persistent. In fact, it is their persistence that stands out most. Moses prays for so long, he eventually has to sit down and solicit help from his friends. The widow pleads for so long, the judge finally gives her what she wants just to get rid of her.

It would be easy to limit the lesson of these stories to this: if we are persistent in prayer, God will give us what we ask for. But experience tells us that prayer doesn't always work that way. The duration of our pleading is no guarantee that we will get what we want. And that's okay. In fact, it can be good.

Why? Because there are other graces associated with persistence besides getting what we ask for. For one thing, persistence in prayer reminds us of our intrinsic incompleteness. It also keeps us in touch with our deepest needs and desires— like love, faith, justice, forgiveness, mercy. And persistence unites us with God. The responsorial psalm says, "Our help is from the Lord." But God's help sometimes comes in forms that surpass our pleadings. We plead for an end and receive the strength to endure. We beg for stability and receive the grace to change. We ask for more time and receive the gift of eternal life.

Readings for the Week of March 6

Monday: Rom. 4:20-25/Lk. 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk. 12:13-21
 Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps. 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk. 12:35-38
 Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps. 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Lk. 12:39-48
 Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps. 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6/Lk. 12:49-53
 Friday: Rom 7:18-25a/Ps. 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/Lk. 12:54-59
 Saturday: Rom 8:1-11/Ps. 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk. 13:1-9
 Sunday: Sir. 35:12-1'4, 16-18/Ps. 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23/2 Tm. 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk. 18:9-14

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The widow in today's gospel is praised for her perseverance. In our homes perseverance is a critical ingredient to resolving differences in marriage, and teaching lessons and skills to children. Perseverance is always an act of faith and trust in the goodness of the other person.

HOLY CROSS FRATERNITY

Holy Cross Fraternity of the Order of Franciscan Seculars concluded our annual fundraiser and extends congratulations to Brenda Muller of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cochranon, PA on winning a Kindle Fire 7 and Mary Lou Kessler of Our Lady Queen of the Americas Parish in Conneaut Lake, PA on winning the olive wood creche. We want to thank everyone in Crawford County for supporting this fundraiser which supports our Student Faith Award in the spring.

2019 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The 2019 Community Christmas Cantata is in the planning stages. Practices will be held on Sunday afternoons, 4 pm—5:30 pm, starting at the First United Methodist Church in Cambridge Springs. Those interested in raising their voices to celebrate the season and become part of the cantata should contact Tammy Peters, 398-2608, home, or 720-6526, cell, so as to reserve music for this most joyous event. Please contact her with any questions. The cantata will take place Nov. 30 at St. Paul's Lutheran at 7:00 pm and Dec. 1 at C.S. 1st United Methodist Church at 7:00 pm.

BINGO— The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony will be Monday October 21, 2019 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. Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00

WORSHIP

Monday, October 21
 8:00 am + Joel Wentling (Don & Marie Marteeny)
 Tuesday, October 22
 8:00 am + Dec. of Mercier/Pankul Families (Mary Pankul)
 Wednesday, October 23
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, October 24
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Friday, October 25
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Saturday, October 26
 4:30 pm + Maria Black (Mary Mulligan-Haines)
 Sunday, October 27
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
 Thomas Brunot (Joseph & Alice Johnson)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 12:30 pm + LATIN MASS AT ST. ANTHONY
 Nicholas Roy, Jr. (Alan Wolfe)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday at St. Bernadette
 (Except Holy Days)
 7:00 am + Communion Service
 Monday, October 21
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO at St. Anthony of Padua
 Tuesday, October 22
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, October 26
 3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions
 Sunday, October 27
 Before Mass - Confessions at St. Bernadette
 After Mass - Confessions at St. Anthony
 10:30 am - Religious Education Classes for both St. Bernadette
 and St. Anthony at St. Anthony
 NOTE; Latin Mass - 12:30 pm - last Sunday of the month
 at St. Anthony

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 - 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Hermann/Tom Hobson/Judy Kingston
 Lector: Sue Bullman

Altar Servers: Payton Leandro/Sydney Zilhaver

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 - 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Larry Douglas/
 Christine Krzysiak/Harriet McLaren

Lector: Julie Hobson

Altar Servers: Sophia Mott/Andrea Walker

ALL SAINTS DAY, NOVEMBER 1 - 7:00PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Hobson/Judy Hermann/Judy Kingston

Lector: Shawn Pflieger

Altar Servers: Payton Leandro/Robert Moats

ST. BERNADETTE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 - 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: D. Nowak/A. Braymer/G. Beisler

Lector: M. Braymer

Ushers: S. Styborski

Altar Servers: A/M/R Braymer

STEWARDSHIP

10/13/19
 Offertory \$420.00
 Votives 6.00
 TOTAL \$426.00
 CSA—Pledged: \$9,225
 Paid: \$8,395

CASH GIVEAWAY AND GAME NIGHT

On Sunday, October 20th at 6:00 pm an organizational meeting will be held in the Parish Center to discuss plans for St. Anthony of Padua Cash Giveaway and Game Night to be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Volunteers are needed to make this annual fundraiser a success. For more information, please call Kathleen at 814 282-6707.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

There will be a community lunch on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 11:30 - 12:30 pm at the C.S. United Methodist Church. Carry-outs are available. For more information call 398-4049.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Argument Tip #2: Don't get unduly 'historical' in a marital argument. Counting and keeping track of all the past wrongs done you won't endeavor you to your beloved when looking for a mutually agreeable solution. Don't dwell on the past. Admit that each of you probably made mistakes and hurt each other. Focus on the future.

PRO-LIFE BANQUET

The Pro-Life Banquet will be Friday, November 1 at 6:30 pm at Pampered Palate Conference Center, Saegertown. Banquet tickets available by calling 814 967-3436. Price \$16/adults, \$10/children (12 and under)

A NITE AT THE RACES

Join in a Nite at the Races on Saturday, November 2 at 6:00 m at Seton Catholic School, Meadville,PA. Cost is \$15/ person includes dinner, dessert, beer, wine, soda, water and snacks. Professionally filmed announced horse races on big screen. Tickets can be purchased at the Seton Catholic School offices on Pine Street

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Bullying Prevention Month: Relational bullying is unwarranted, persistent, unwelcome behavior in the form of critic, isolation, or fabricated allegations that can damage relationships. Examples include social exclusion ("You can't be with us"), spreading rumors ("Did you hear...?"), and withholding friendship ("I won't be your friend if you..."). Though relational bullying can often seem ambiguous to outside observers and often garners less attention than physical bullying or verbal bullying, it should not be discounted simply as normal, adolescent behavior. In fact, several recent studies suggest relational bullying is more strongly related to emotional distress and teen depression than any other form of bullying. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help maintain safe environments visit <https://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/>

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$670.00
Maintenance	267.00
Candles	14.00
Rental	425.00
CSA	<u>230.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,704.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$23,862 Paid: \$21,857	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.: 054

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
