

The Work of the People
The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I had a very refreshing, if not completely relaxing, time as Catholic Chaplain for the week at The Chautauqua Institution during the week of July 3 – 10. It is always good to get away but there is always much work waiting for the “catching up” time. This past week the Cambridge Springs Ministerium held Vacation Bible School for 2021 and we were once again able to learn about the good things of God in person. The Ministerium is sponsoring a Community Worship Morning on Sunday, July 25 at the Firefighter’s Carnival Grounds. Rev. Johnny Bridges will deliver the message at that service. Certainly, all are welcome.

This Sunday we hear from the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah's prophetic words in the first Oracle are a warning to those who mislead God's people. The shepherds who did not care for their people, God will punish. No longer will they have their jobs, for God will replace them with shepherds who will attend to their flocks. In the second part of the reading, Jeremiah communicates God's promise that God will raise up a "righteous shoot" to David. The king will save both Israel and Judah through his reign of justice.

Paul writes that Christ Jesus abolishes the wall that once divided Jews and Gentiles. They are now one Body in Christ existing in peace. All the legalities and detailed commands of the Mosaic law are no longer necessary. What is necessary is that we strive as a people to live the unity of the one Church in reality.

Last Sunday, Jesus sent the Twelve out to proclaim repentance, to exorcise demons, and to heal the sick. In this Sunday's Gospel, the Twelve return and provide Jesus with a summary report. True to his form as an evangelist of few words, Mark does not describe to us what the Twelve reported. Their mission, however, must have exhausted them because Jesus invites them to come away and rest by themselves.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, who is the author of several books, including *All God's Creatures: A Theology of Creation*.

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that one of God's key attributes is justice. So central is this aspect of our understanding of divine action and intention that “justice” is a fitting divine name. God wants leaders to model themselves in the Ex. 14:5-18/Mt

pattern of divine justice. And God promises to raise up such leaders.

Jesus regularly draws on this prophetic imagery, famously referring to himself as the Good Shepherd while calling out unjust and merciless religious leaders in his time for being bad or unjust shepherds. Though a lot of attention is given to shepherds, I wonder what is expected of the sheep and what responsibility is expected of us who profess to follow the Good Shepherd. In other words, let's talk about sheep.

Too often we dismiss ourselves as “just sheep,” as unimportant followers of the more important shepherd. But rather than considering ourselves as merely dispensable lemmings, that is, “just sheep,” maybe we need to think of our vocation to be just sheep—those called to exemplify the justice demonstrated by our one, true Shepherd. To overlook our call as followers of Christ is to act as “sheep without a shepherd.” But having been baptized into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, we can walk confidently into the future, embracing our identity as images of the God of justice.

In this way, we demonstrate that not only does God promise to raise up leaders, but God also promises to raise up just sheep.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ex. 14:5-18/Mt. 12:38-42
 Tuesday: Ex. 14:21; 15:1, 20-21/Mt. 12:46, 48-50
 Wednesday: Ex. 16:1-5, 9-15/Mt. 13:1-9
 Thursday: 2 Cor. 5:14-17/Jn. 20:1, 11-18
 Friday: Ex. 20:1-17/Mt. 13:18-23
 Saturday: Ex. 24:3-8/Mt. 13:24-30
 Sunday: 2 Kings 4:42-44/Eph. 4:1-6/Jn. 6:1-15

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

Everyone is invited to attend the Community Worship Service sponsored by the Cambridge Springs Ministerium. This will take place on Sunday, July 25 at the Firefighters Carnival Grounds and will begin at 11:00 am.

*“Jesus,
 thank you for being the Good Shepherd
 who cares for my every need.”*

WORSHIP

Monday, July 19

8:00 am + John E. Auer

Tuesday, July 20

8:00 am + Janell Weidner

(Ginger (Weidner) & Dick Kester)

Wednesday, July 21

8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

Kathleen Nowak (St. Bernadette Altar Rosary Society)

Thursday, July 22

8:00 am + Ray Gallagher (John & Leona Kutz)

Friday, July 23

8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (James & Karen Mott)

Saturday, July 24

4:30 pm + Kathleen Nowak (Paul & Mary Lou Pacoe)

Sunday, July 25

8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

Living & Deceased Parishioners

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Carolyn Lange (Gerard & Martha Adamczyk)

12:30 pm + LATIN MASS AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

For the Archie & Olive Brown Family

(Joyce Lyons)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 20

After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, July 25

3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (or by appointment)

Sunday, July 25

Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel "the apostles gathered around and told Jesus all they had done." Listening allows the other person to express, understand and appreciate their experiences. Whether it is the excited chatter of young child or the repetitious stories of an aging grandparent, listening is important. It is not just time well spent, it is sacred.

NATIONAL NEEDS COLLECTION

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Holy Father is constantly encouraging us to remember the poor and the marginalized.. In his Homily on World Day of the Poor last year the Pope prayed: "Rouse us, Lord, from our idle calm, from the quiet lull of our safe harbors. Set us free from the moorings of self-absorption that weigh life down; free us from constantly seeking success. Teach us to know how to 'leave' in order to set out on the road you have shown us: to God and our neighbor." Today I am asking you to continue on that road to God and neighbor by considering a generous gift to the National Needs Collection. This year the National Needs Collection will take place the weekend of July 17-18. This is a good opportunity for Catholics to show their solidarity with the poor in our own nation. This collection is a combination of two collections:

- The Catholic Home Missions Appeal - supports, among other things, education for seminarians, which is a significant expense for poorer dioceses in the United States. This collection also support training for lay ministry, Hispanic ministry, catechesis and other pastoral programs in needy dioceses throughout the United States.
- The Black and Indian Mission Collection - supports the work of the Church among the African American, Alaskan Native and American Native peoples in the United States.

I ask your generous response to the Collection for National Needs on July 17-18. Your help does make a difference.

Be assured of my gratitude and prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

BINGO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Anthony of Padua will resume their Bingo operations in August. We are in need of volunteers to help run these games. There will be a short meeting on Tuesday, July 20 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Center to discuss the various roles (kitchen help, game management, etc.) for all former and new volunteers that are able to help.

Please call Kathleen (814 282-6707) if you have questions or need more information.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$500.00
Candles	12.00
Peter's Pence	10.00
TOTAL	\$522.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$6,590 Paid: \$6,290

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,140.00
Maintenance	328.00
Candles	19.00
National Needs	5.00
Peter's Pence	25.00
TOTAL	\$1,517.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$26,250 Paid: \$21,859

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
