

# Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 30, 2017

## ~ On-Going Bishop's Appeal ~

Online at: [thebishopsappeal.org](http://thebishopsappeal.org) (pledges & gifts reported on monthly Diocesan statements) or drop an Appeal envelope in offertory basket.

### Walton Food Bank

Donations are needed more urgently during the summer: spaghetti, pasta, & sauces, tuna fish, egg noodles; soups: vegetable, chicken noodle, tomato, cream of mushroom, Ramen noodles etc.; saltines, canned fruit (peaches, fruit cocktail, applesauce); mac 'n cheese; peanut butter; cold & hot cereal; canned vegetables: corn, peas, green beans, pork 'n beans; Jell-O, pudding; Knorr rice/noodles; cake and cookie mixes; tea, cocoa, & coffee. Thank you.

### Walton Blood Drive

A blood drive is scheduled for August 10, from 11:30 am to 5:30 pm at United Presbyterian, East & North Streets. To make your appointment, please call 800.REDCROSS (appointment required).

### Senior Farmers Market Coupons

Coupons are available for Delaware County seniors and are good for \$20. Eligibility: are a 60 years or older resident, receiving or eligible for SSI, public assistance, Section 8 housing subsidy, one person monthly income of \$1,860 or two person income of \$2,504 or less.

Pick up your coupon at: 1) Office for the Aging, Six Court St., Delhi; or one of our local Senior Dining Centers: 2) First Presbyterian Church, Six Clinton Street, Delhi; 3) St. John the Baptist Parish Hall, 17 Benton Avenue, Walton.

## Peter's Pence Collection Today

Reconciliation~ Saturday 3-3:30pm, St. John.

Final Bible Journey Sunday, St. John, 3 pm.

### Delhi Backpack Project

Please drop items at First Presbyterian Church by August 31 or at St. Peter by August 27.

### Catholic Relief Services in Africa

Today more than 20 million people across Africa face the threat of famine and starvation. Humanitarian experts say this crisis could be worse than a 2011 famine that killed 260,000 people. What most people do not realize is that by the time "famine" is declared by the United Nations, many people are already dying. So the time to act is now.

This is a complex crisis of conflict, drought and hunger. It's not hard to imagine the heat and drought but add to that the fear of war and not having a place to lay your head.

How can you help? Pray. Read about it. Tell others about it, and please give generously. Saving 20 million people might seem like an insurmountable task, but CRS is there responding with food, water and emergency assistance with the generosity of people like you. To donate online: [CRS.org](http://CRS.org).

### Family Perspective Bud Ozar

The man in the Gospel "*sold all he had*" for the treasure he found. Family relationships are 'treasures' and demand our total personal investment. Invest yourself in the 'treasure' of your family.

## Our Place Adult Enrichment Center

Our Place, offering respite for primary caregivers, provides socialization, activities, exercise, nutritious food, cultural programs, and more for adults at no charge. Open Wednesdays noon till 3 pm at St. James Church Lake Delaware, 832.4401, with transportation provided, if necessary. Donations gladly accepted as well as those interested in volunteering.

### Marriage Moments Susan Voigt

One version of the wedding vows: "I will love & honor you all the days of my life." But what does honor mean? Consider these guidelines: When talking, give your undivided attention (make eye contact, do not interrupt, listen closely), and back your beloved up in front of other people, show your support, be selfless.

### Parenting Pointers Susan Voigt

Solomon asked God for an understanding heart. Surely this is the attitude we want to take toward our own children. Yet children test us: they do dumb, crazy, and selfish things, they need to be corrected and disciplined. An understanding heart does not mean ignoring bad behavior but rather loving our child *through* it.

### St. Isaac Jogues Mini Retreat

On August 12 experience the holy grounds where St. Isaac Jogues met and was aided by his friends. Enjoy two talks, lunch, and optional museum tour at Our Lady of the Holy Martyrs Shrine. Registration: 9am, Mass: 11am. Lunch included with \$12 donation. Preregister by August 9 by contacting Beth at 518.366.5694, [beth.shrine@gmail.com](mailto:beth.shrine@gmail.com).

## Lectio Divina

In the Gospel, Jesus starts with three well-known things in the lives of the people of that time in His three parables:

**The parable of the hidden treasure** – Here the comparison used to shed light on the things of the Kingdom of God is the treasure hidden in the field. By chance, a man finds it and rejoices and gratefully welcomes the unexpected. The discovered treasure does not belong to him yet, it will be his if he succeeds in buying the field (such were the laws in those days). So he goes and sells all he owns and buys that field. By buying the field he also acquires the treasure. Jesus does not explain the parable.

**The parable of the Merchant of Precious Pearls** – The comparison in this parable is not the precious pearl, but the activity – the effort of the merchant who seeks precious pearls. We all know that such pearls exist. Both parables have some common and some different elements. In both cases, it is about something precious: a treasure and a pearl. In both there is a finding of the object desired, and in both the person goes and sells all he owns so as to be able to buy the precious thing found. In the first parable, the finding is by chance. In the second, the finding is the result of the effort of seeking. Here we see two basic aspects of the Kingdom of God: The Kingdom exists, it is hidden in life, waiting for those who will find it. The Kingdom is the result of a seeking (obtaining). These are the two basic dimensions of human life: gratitude of love that welcomes us and comes to meet us, and the faithful observance that brings us to meet the Other.

**The Parable of the Dragnet Cast into the Sea**– The Kingdom is likened to a dragnet, a net cast into the sea that gathers fish of all kinds. The fisherman cannot prevent the less good fish to enter the net because he cannot control what happens in the deep waters of the sea. He will only know when he pulls up the net and sits to sort the fish out. Then he will separate what is worthwhile from what is worthless. Again, Jesus does not explain the parable. He just gives a hint: "This is how it will be at the end of time." Then the good will be separated from the evil.

The discourse of parables ends with a brief dialogue between Jesus and His listeners and acts as a key to the reading of all the parables. Jesus asks, "Have you understood all these?" The people reply, "Yes!" Then Jesus concludes with these very beautiful words: "Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of Heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom new things as well as old." These closing words are another parable. "The things new as well as old that the householder brings out from his storeroom" are the things of the life that Jesus has just suggested in the parables: seeds cast in the field (Mt 13:4-8), the mustard seed (Mt 13:31-32), the leaven (Mt 13:33), the treasure hidden in the field (Mt 13:44), the merchant of precious pearls (Mt 13: 45-46), and the dragnet cast into the sea (Mt 13:47-48). Each person's experience of these things is their treasure and finds the comparison that will permit them to better understand the things of the Kingdom of God! Order of Carmelites