

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 5, 2018

Backpack Project

Deadlines: By **August 27** donations need to be dropped at First Presbyterian Church on Clinton Street (a box is located outside their office) or By **August 26** items dropped at St. Peter:

Pencils (colored & regular), crayons, markers, pens, folders, erasers, full-size generic backpacks, plastic crayon/pencil boxes, college-ruled loose-leaf paper, spiral notebooks, scissors, glue sticks, dental picks, juice boxes, child-size mittens, character band aids, male/female deodorant, mini shampoo bottles, toothbrushes/mini toothpaste, Chapsticks®, & other useful school items.

Checks, made out to "First Presbyterian Church," are also welcome and appreciated (*please note 'school supplies' on check memo line*).

CAMP ESTHER

One weekend could change your life – forever. New York State Right to Life is offering teens age 14 through college an intense leadership camp where you learn about pro-life issues, learn to speak knowledgeably and powerfully about life issues to your friends and even strangers, learn to debate with the best of them, and get the tools you need to change hearts around you to believe in a culture of Life.

Camp Esther takes place August 10 to 12 at The Good News Center in Utica. Cost: \$150 (scholarships available) for room, meals, tuition, materials.

Contact Alison Stevens at New York State Right to Life at 518.434.1293 or email: alisons@nysrighttolife.org. Come to Camp Esther this summer and learn how to become a pro-life champion!

WALTON FOOD BANK

Some needed items: spaghetti & sauces, tuna fish, egg noodles, pasta; soups: vegetable, tomato, chicken noodle, cream of mushroom, Ramen noodles, etc., and saltines.

"Bread of Life"

John 6:24-35

After the feeding of the multitudes, the disciples leave in a boat and Jesus follows them. The crowd has noticed the departure of Jesus and His disciples and so seeks them out in Capernaum. In the dialogue that follows, Jesus unfolds for us the gift of Himself that He gives in the Eucharist.

There are four exchanges between Jesus and the crowd. In the first, the crowd asks a very matter of fact question: "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus replies by naming their motivation in pursuing Him: they have been fed. Jesus acknowledges this, yet challenges them to see beyond the fulfillment of their material needs. They ought to be seeking out Jesus because He can give them eternal life.

As the second dialogue begins, it seems that the crowd might be on their way to accepting Jesus and His mission. They ask: "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus replies that they must have faith in the one sent from God. But in the third dialogue, the crowd reveals their inability to see Jesus' true identity. They ask Jesus for a sign so that they might know that He is from God. How strange this sounds since He has just fed more than 5,000 people. What more is expected?

The crowd, however, cannot see beyond the surface of the sign. They show this in their interpretation of the sign that came from Moses, who gave the people manna in the desert. They are looking to identify a prophet without realizing that God is standing before them. Jesus corrects them by saying that the manna came from God. As God fulfilled their ancestors' needs in the desert, so God has provided them with food for eternal life. In the bread that they have received from Jesus, they have received physical nourishment and also spiritual nourishment. Jesus wants the crowd to see beyond the surface to the One who provides true nourishment.

The Sunday Connection

Hearts Aflame Eucharistic Congress

Bishop Scharfenberger: *"This will be a spiritual event, hallowed in part by the very ground on which it is held. We will celebrate Mass, host inspirational speakers, have a Eucharistic Procession, and offer activities for children. My hope is that the Holy Spirit will make this a powerful time of spiritual renewal for our entire Diocese."*

When: September 22 from 9 am to 3 pm. Where: Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville. Registration: rcda.org/heartsaflame, 518.453.6690.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS Susan Vogt

"The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron." Exodus 16:2

Sometimes there are plenty of reasons to grumble in marriage - not enough money, something breaks, your spouse forgot to get gas Let's call for a grumble-free day; or at least if a grumble occurs to you, put it in the perspective of all the blessings of your life together.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Bud Ozar

Jesus tells us in the Gospel: *"Do not work for what perishes."* Give your life to what endures such as the family history you are creating, the love and mutual respect which bonds you together, the memories you share, and the forgiveness generously given. These are the true treasures that are worth working and dying for.

PARENTING POINTERS Susan Vogt

As older children continue their schooling this fall, it's tempting to want to pour all your protective wisdom into them, especially around issues of faith. As they age, however, "share your faith struggles, not just your certainty."

*Approach the cross and you will find in it
Christ with arms outstretched to embrace you.*

~ St. Thomas of Villanova

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, August 14*: St. Peter: 6pm
St. John: 7:15pm

* There will be no morning Masses.

Wednesday, August 15: St. Peter: 8am
St. John: 9:30am

SINGLE WOMEN: IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Do you think God may be calling you to the religious life -- a life of love and service through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience? Would you like to learn more about such a life?

There are approximately 18 communities of religious sisters who live and serve in our Diocese, and all 18 are in need of vocation. If you would like to learn more about the religious life, please contact Sister Laurie-Marie at lauriemarie.parisi@rcda.org or call 518.453.6690 for more information.

Rosa Mystica 800.720.9858

August 10-12: "M.A.P. to Heaven" [Mass, Adoration, Prayer]~ Friday: Rosary, dinner, Mass, Adoration, Night Prayer, and Benediction. Saturday: Confession, Adoration, praise and worship, talk, Stations of the Cross, Mass. Sunday: Mass and reflection. Cost: \$250; \$125 (commuter)

Dominican Retreat Center 518.393.4169

August 10-12: Silent Weekend Directed Retreat~ Spend time with God in silence and solitude; focus on your personal relationship with Him. Cost: \$205 (\$190 -- 65+)

A MINISTRY OF IMMENSE LOVE

If you have a friend or loved one in need of Holy Communion or a visit, please give them a Pastoral Care Ministry pamphlet with more information, which is located in the vestibules at St. Peter and at St. John. Notify the church at 865.7394, extension 207 if they would like communion or just a visit.