

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 13, 2020

Please pray for the souls of
Mary Cetta Benzinger &
Caroline Cetta Harrison
May they rest in the peace of our Lord.

Grow Closer to God

Grow closer to God this fall! Take home a "family" copy of the *The Word Among Us* and spend 5 to 10 minutes each day reflecting on the word of God for your life. Each issue includes the Order of the Mass, all the daily Mass readings, and a meditation for each day that is practical and insightful! This month's issue features articles on holiness and becoming an "everyday" saint.

Enjoy this practical guide to holiness in the midst of uncertain times. Copies are in the literature racks.

Catholic Charities Thanks You

Thank you to everyone who supported Catholic Charities last weekend by either purchasing a raffle ticket or making a donation. Your kindness and generosity enables Catholic Charities to continue its work in assisting the poor and vulnerable in our communities.

Mary Hunter's New Address

Following is Mary Hunter's current address for cards and notes:

Chenago Memorial Senior Living
179 North Broad Street, Room 218
Norwich, NY 13815

May the Word of Christ
ever fill your hearts.

Share with one another
the wisdom you receive.

The Debt We Owe

Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life. Yet, as the First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in the Gospel with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant, who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, seven is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a sevenfold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (Prov 24:6; Lev 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time.

We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (Lk 6:36; Mt 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us? Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the Cross (Rev 5:9). In our Psalm, though we de-served to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown us.

This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (Rom 14:10, 12). So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.

Dr. Scott Hahn

Yes, words are cheap, and many of us abound in them.

Actions are costly, and the saints abound in them.

Without action our faith is dead.

Fr. Thomas Dubay ~ *Happy Are You Poor*

"Solidarity Needed" - Pope Francis

In his catechesis at the Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis urges everyone to combine authentic solidarity with the virtue of faith in order to heal social ills in the post-pandemic world (continuing his catechesis series on "Healing the World"). The Holy Father noted how the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted our interdependence, "for better or worse". Solidarity, therefore, is the key to emerging from the crisis better than before, he said.

All humanity, said the Pope, has its common origin in God. We dwell together in our common home, "a garden-planet where God has placed us", and we have a common destination in Christ. "But when we forget all this, our interdependence becomes dependence of some on others," he said, "increasing inequality and marginalization; it weakens the social fabric and the environment deteriorates."

Pope Francis admitted that the word "solidarity" may seem a little worn and poorly understood. Solidarity is more than "a few sporadic acts of generosity." Rather, he said, solidarity involves creating a mindset which thinks "in terms of community and the priority of life of all over the appropriation of goods by a few." More than that, said the Pope, solidarity "is a matter of justice." A healthy and fruitful interdependence "needs strong roots in the humanity and nature created by God; it needs respect for faces and for the land," he said.

Finally, Pope Francis encouraged everyone to let our solidarity be guided by faith, so that we might translate the love of God for our brother and sisters to build communities that promote healthy growth. He also invited everyone to ask ourselves: "Do I think about others?"

Devin Watkins

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

"Hate not your neighbor." Sirach 28:7

This is yet another variation on "Love your neighbor." Everybody probably has somebody that they really dislike, if not hate. Is carrying this hate making you happier? Ask your beloved for help to identify one positive trait of a difficult person.

We pray for those:

who create: engineers, carpenters, landscapers, bakers, designers, writers, farmers, and

who bring beauty: artists, musicians, dancers, poets, hair stylists, and ...

who plan: teachers, administrators, parents, community leaders, and ...

who serve others directly: counselors, health care providers, receptionists, faith leaders, and ...

who meet our daily needs: bus drivers, trash collectors, grocery store stockers, plumbers, and ...

who are unemployed, unable to find work, and...

whose time for working is done and who are learning how to simply be and receive

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center

Virtual Weekend Retreat for Women: *"Trust in the Lord with All your Heart"* ~ Friday, September 18 to Sunday the 20th with Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP and Staff.

Suggested offering: \$60. Register: 518.393.4169.

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

Unable to forgive another means we are holding onto a past wrong and hoping for a better past. That is not going to happen. We must move on with our life by accepting we were unjustly treated, and it will not be corrected. We are not condoning the injustice. We just don't let it control our lives any longer. Forgiveness is critical to living a healthy life in the present.

Emmaus Zoom Retreat for Grieving Parents

A retreat for parents who have experienced the death of a child of any age, by any cause, no matter how long ago. Emmaus retreats focus on the spirituality of the grieving process which can help tremendously. Just as He comforted His grieving disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus comforts us, and we comfort each other in this very special ministry.

Saturday, October 24 (preregister by October 1) and
Saturday, November 21 (preregister by November 7):
800.919.9332