Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 6, 2020

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

Second Online Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter will again host a virtual marriage retreat on Mondays and Thursdays from August 31 to September 24.

The retreat is for Catholic couples of all ages seeking to improve their marriage and grow closer to God. Married couples (priests & religious looking to strengthen their ministries) can register at: aweekendforyourmarriage.org or call Tom and Ruth DeFalco at 732.904.9636.

The only requirement for the program is an iPad, computer, or tablet with access to the Internet. Workbooks and hand-outs will be sent to participants before the start of the series. There is a $50 application fee (can be waived for those with economic hardships). Good faith offerings will be accepted at the end of the program as well. John Spinelli

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.

Give me insight, Lord, to know Your will.
Then I will cherish it with all my heart.

To Win Them Back Dr. Scott Hahn

As Ezekiel is appointed watchman over the house of Israel in the first Reading, so Jesus in the Gospel today establishes His disciples as guardians of the new Israel of God, the Church). He also puts in place procedures for dealing with sin and breaches of the faith, building on rules of discipline prescribed by Moses for Israel (Leviticus 19:17–20; Deuteronomy 19:13). The heads of the new Israel, however, receive extraordinary powers similar to those given to Peter (Matthew 16:19). They have the power to bind and loose, to forgive sins and to reconcile sinners in His name (John 20:21–23), but the powers He gives the Apostles and their successors depends on their communion with Him. As Ezekiel is only to teach what he hears God saying, the disciples are to gather in His name and to pray and seek the will of our heavenly Father.

But the readings are more than a lesson in Church order. They also suggest how we're to deal with those who trespass against us (a theme that we'll hear in next week's readings). Notice that both the Gospel and the First Reading presume that believers have a duty to correct sinners in our midst. Ezekiel is even told that he will be held accountable for their souls if he fails to speak out and try to correct them.

This is the love that Paul in the Epistle says we owe to our neighbors. To love our neighbors as ourselves is to be vitally concerned for their salvation. We must make every effort, as Jesus says, to win our brothers and sisters back, to turn them from the false paths. We should never correct out of anger or a desire to punish. Instead, our message must be that of today's Psalm: urging the sinner to hear God's voice, not to harden their hearts, and to remember that He is the one who made us, and the rock of our salvation.

Self-forgetfulness in prayer cannot be pursued as a deliberately cultivated attitude. We forget ourselves only as our attention no longer rests on self. This occurrence has one primary requirement and condition. It happens when a deeper quality of love turns us in a purer manner toward God.

Fr. Donald Haggerty~ *Contemplative Enigmas*

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

An old African song says, *"When an old man dies, it's as if a library burns down."* Grandparents are like a library for your children, connecting them with the pages of their past. Are your children's grandparents alive? Ask them to tell their story.

"Christians Must Act" - Pope Francis

Christians cannot stand idly by and watch as millions of people are deprived of their basic needs because of others' greed, Pope Francis said August 26. "When the obsession to possess and dominate excludes millions of people from having primary goods, when economic and technological inequality are such that the social fabric is torn and when dependence on unlimited material progress threatens our common home, then we cannot stand by and watch," he said. Christians must act together, rooted in God and united in the hope of "generating something different and better" that is more just and equitable, he said.

God entrusted the earth and its resources "to the common stewardship of mankind to take care of them," he said, citing the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2402). When God called on his children to "have dominion" over the earth in his name, the pope said, this was not to be interpreted as "a 'carte blanche' to do whatever you want with the earth." "No," he said. "There exists a relationship of mutual responsibility between us and nature."

Communities must protect the earth, take only what they need for subsistence and make sure the fruits of the earth reach everyone, not just a few people, the pope said. A person should see his or her legitimate possessions "not only as his own but also as common in the sense that they should be able to benefit not only him but also others," according to the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World ("Gaudium et Spes"). "If we take care of the goods that the creator gives us, if we put what we possess in common in such a way that no one would be lacking, then we would truly inspire hope to regenerate a more healthy and equal world," he said. Carol Glatz

Catholic Charities Raffle Tickets Sold this Weekend

On Saturday the 5th and Sunday the 6th, Catholic Charities representatives from our parishes will sell tickets for the annual raffle after all Masses. Raffle tickets are $20 each. There are three money prizes: first prize is $1,200, second prize is $500, and third prize is $250. In the past, there have been several winners from our parishes. This year you could be the lucky winner, but you have to be in it to win it!!

Catholic Charities celebrates over 100 years of assisting the poor and vulnerable in our area and the proceeds from this raffle enable us to continue our mission. Pamphlets are available outlining the organization's continuing role. Only 300 tickets will be sold for this raffle. Thank you for your support and good luck!

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

"All work and no play make Jack a dull boy" -- and a spouse boring. On this Labor Day, use a labor saving device (washer, microwave, car, blender, etc.) to save some time, then do something playful with your honey. Also, pray for (and thank) those who worked to make your life easier.

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

The key word in the Gospel is *"listen."* We cannot change another person; not alone, not with others, and not with a whole Church. All we can do is state our position, and "if he listens to you" then they can take the steps necessary to change themselves--change comes from within.

Prayer is a relationship. It is a personal
relationship of growing intimacy with
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
It is a dialogue of Love.
Like any relationship, intimacy with
God grows as I come to know and
love Him and as I experience
being known and loved by Him.

Father Scott Traynor ~