

ISSUE NO. 114

27 OCTOBER 2019



Cathedral WEEKLY

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD | FR. DOMINIC RANKIN
10 POINTS FOR EFFECTIVE PARISH MINISTRY | MICHAEL J. RUSZALA

STILL
HINT

Cathedral WEEKLY

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP
OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER A. HOUSE, V.J.
RECTOR

THE REVEREND MICHAEL FRIEDEL
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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Mass Times: SAT 4PM, SUN. 7AM, 10AM, 5PM
Weekday Masses: MON. thru FRI. 7AM, 5:15PM and SAT. 8AM
Reconciliation (Confessions): MON-FRI 4:15PM- 5PM, SAT. 9AM-10AM,
2:30PM-3:30PM, and SUN. 4PM-4:45PM
Adoration: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4PM to 5PM

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please contact: Patricia Kornfield at 321-1155.


Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or home-bound, to contact the Parish offices or Sr. Francella at 522-3342 x 142. Hospitals may know you are Catholic, but not know you are from Cathedral. We would be happy to visit.

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, I welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

I hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. I also hope that you will find this edition of the *Cathedral Weekly* to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!



Very Reverend Christopher A. House
Rector

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Monday – October 28

7 AM DORIS DREA (MIKE & KAREN RELLIHAN)
5:15PM PURING GARDE (FAMILY)

Tuesday – October 29

7 AM ANDY O'NEILL, JR. (JIM & JULIE BERBERET)
5:15PM ED BARTH (RUEDI FISHER)

Wednesday – October 30

7AM JIM JACKSON (M. TIMMERMANN)
5:15PM SOPHIA E. BARTOLETTI (BARTOLETTI FAMILY)

Thursday – October 31

7AM Frank Vyverman (VYVERMAN FAMILY)
5:15 PM Bonnie Donnals (Dan Kelch)

Friday – November 1

7AM For the People
12:05PM BILL CRUMLY (FRANK & BARBARA HUTTER)
5:15PM KYLE BUCKMAN (MOM)

Saturday – November 2

8 AM BILL CRUMLY (KATIE HUGHES)
4 PM DORIS DREA (4 O'CLOCK USHERS)

Sunday – November 3

7 AM FOR THE PEOPLE
10 AM CHARLES & MERCEDES NESBITT (KATHY FRANK)
5 PM SPECIAL INTENTION FOR LOST SOULS (CCCW)



Calling on the Name of the Lord

As we sat there in the public side of the little chapel, my family and I strained to see and here all that happened around the corner and through the metal lattice-work that divided the world and the cloister, our family and my sister Nicole. It was a fall morning in 2012 and it was the day that my sister was entering the Dominican Novitiate. Now, becoming a novice is not as profound a jump as is entering the convent outright, at least in terms of the practical detail that there wasn't a change in who-sat-where in the minivan, but it was the day that, besides taking one more step into full membership in the community, she would also receive her new name. The ceremony was brief but beautiful, and the Mother superior spoke her new name loud and clear: Sr. Mary Thomas, of the Holy Name of Jesus.

Our attention was first grabbed by "Thomas". Was it St. Thomas, the Apostle of India? Or Thomas Aquinas, the great Dominican scholar? Or, one of those other Saint Thomas's Thomas à Kempis, who wrote the *Imitation of Christ*, or Thomas Becket, who was martyred after opposing King Henry II, or Thomas More, who died to uphold the authority of the Pope, and integrity of marriage? (It was Thomas Aquinas, who himself was named after the Apostle, so she got two for the price of one!)

But then we began to consider that second half of the name: "Of the Holy Name of Jesus". What a tremendous title! How magnificent to have Our Lord's name brought into your own? The name of Jesus, which literally means "the LORD saves", and Who, literally, *is* the LORD, *saving* His people! The name at which every knee shall bend, every person be saved, every grace given, every demon cast out... Needless to say, we were stoked at the name she had been given!

I mention all of that because, being named "Christians" ourselves, we, too, have announced to the world, and incorporated into our lives, the truth that Jesus is *the One Whom* we call upon. Not upon the "name" of money, power, worldly-prestige, or any other person do we rely on in our daily battles, nor our supernatural ones, but only the name of Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters, that has to be the case above all when we find ourselves fallen into sin! As the tax collector in our Gospel today, we too, have to acknowledge our sin, and simply and humbly repeat that prayer "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." This phrase, including Christ's name, is a devotion as popular as the rosary in many parts of the Christian world. It's so short, but incredibly powerful to simply repeat throughout the day the simple phrase: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." If you find yourself tempted, say these words! If you find yourself fallen into sin, pray this prayer! If you need peace in a moment of crisis, call on Christ's name in this way! As you wake up, let these be your first words! If you have 5 minutes, stop and sit and slowly repeat this simplest of prayers! If you are lost, or burdened, or overjoyed, or in any situation whatever, simply repeat that Name above all Names: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."



Say that first phrase, of belief in Christ, as you breathe in, and the second half, humbly asking for His grace and mercy, as you breathe out, and the phrase of the justified tax collector begins to naturally enter into the entirety of our lives to the cadence of our respiration. With St. Paul, we learn to "pray without ceasing" and "call on the name of the Lord".

Prayer is not just for cloistered nuns! It's the mark of anyone who has taken the name "Christian" because it is the lifeline that connects us to Christ, the bond that keeps us members of His family. Our first reading emphasizes God's attentiveness to the weak, oppressed, orphan, and lowly ... for anyone who serves God, "the Lord will not delay". But He can only come to our aid if we speak to Him and invite Him into our lives. God will never force His way in! Our Psalm says much the same: "When the just cry out, the LORD hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them ... the LORD is close to the broken-hearted ... The LORD redeems the lives of his servants." Paul lived this out: "I am already being poured out like a libation ... But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength." How can we receive the Lord's care, forgiveness, mercy, and strength? Call out to Him! Call on the name of the Lord!

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen!

Fr. Dominic Rankin is the Parochial Vicar for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP



THE SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

How does your life model discipleship & stewardship?

Join us in discerning your prayer, service, and giving toward the parish.

Kicking- off the Season of Stewardship!

We are excited to announce the official kick-off to the Cathedral Season of Stewardship! Last year was the inaugural season, and to say the least, we all were surprised and grateful. I had already found myself with newborn twins by Oct. 1st and because of the commitment and generosity of the Cathedral staff, the torch for our first Season of Stewardship carried forward. We were so touched by the generous response from so many of you! You answered your call to intentional discipleship with eagerness and enthusiasm! Over this past year, we have been able to connect parishioners to new faith formation programs, ministries and ways of giving. The generosity outpoured from the community through prayer, service, and giving has transformed the Cathedral! We are so grateful for your response.

We know many of you still are eager to become connected and find companions for this discipleship journey! We want to accompany you! Take some time with us over the next few weeks to discern:

- Where do I spend my time? Is it in worldly experiences or with Jesus through prayer, adoration, or the Sacraments?
- How do I serve others, as Jesus asked me to do?
- Have I discerned God's gifts in my life? What has he given to me, in order to share with others?
- How does my life model an intentional disciple's life? How can I bring Christ to others?
- Who can I invite to accompany me to a greater relationship with God through stewardship?

Over the next few weeks, you will hear a message of stewardship that hopes to invite you into a deeper conversion. Stewardship is a toolkit for disciples in action. It calls to mind our need to *offer all of ourselves*- our time, talent, and treasure. We are invited to respond during every Mass at the Offertory. Jesus longs for you to respond to Him and encounter His love for you. Just say "Yes, Lord!"

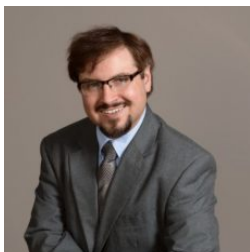
If you have any questions or if you would like more information, please contact Katie Price, Stewardship Coordinator, at kprice@cathedral.dio.org.

Stewardship in Scripture

*"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
1 Corinthians 12*

Discernment Question

Have you been searching for more meaning or explanation for the experiences of your life? How would engaging in prayer (daily Mass, Bible study, etc.) help in this effort?



10 Points for Effective Parish Ministry

According to Pope St. John Paul II, the parish is “the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.” It is the unit of the Church closest to the lives of the people and how they live their faith. Parish life

centers around the celebration of the sacraments and the proclamation of the Word in the Liturgy. From that, the parish forms community and goes out in service.

The parish is a place where people need to be evangelized and re-evangelized, but every parish has a different culture and dynamic, its own traditions and expectations. The parish is where all the faithful of a locale come together, and many personalities come into play. These many personalities provide potential for an abundance of gifts from the Holy Spirit to build up the Body. The parish can provide for many of our needs, spiritually, socially, and otherwise. People who are highly invested in their parish feel strongly about it. Others are on the fringes.

The parish has become a home for many people, something close to their heart and the patterns of their daily life. For some, it is a home primarily because it nourishes their soul. For others, it has become a home primarily because it fills another need in their life. These factors bring a challenge to parish ministry. One cannot simply implement a preset ideal. It has to be in dialogue with the concrete situation of the parish, under the leadership of the pastor.

Having served for years in various parishes and positions and having taught on lay ministry at the college level, I was asked to share with you my ten points for effective parish ministry.

1. Be a Disciple

St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests, went into a parish to transform it. He did so firstly by the witness of his holy life, and his ministry of reconciliation and parish renewal followed. Most importantly, it is necessary to be a disciple and undergo constant conversion. To lead Christians, we must first follow Christ. Parish ministry truly makes no sense without prayer. Prayer reorients our minds to God’s plan.

We read in St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans:

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2).

Even by being in the presence of God and staying aware of it, we allow our minds to be redirected and see our surroundings in a new way.

Jesus went into seclusion to pray before his ministry. For us, the Eucharist nourishes us to go forth and the Mass unites us with the community. Meditation on the Scriptures cleanses our minds and reminds us of God’s plan. Examination of conscience and

Reconciliation renew our thoughts and actions. The Rosary brings our needs before the Blessed Mother. Retreats help us refocus our lives and ministry.

2. Build Relationships and Share Your Faith

Pope Francis writes:

“An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the ‘smell of the sheep’ and the sheep are willing to hear their voice” (The Joy of the Gospel, 24).

People are more open to hearing the gospel from people they know and trust. It’s important to build connections and relationships with parishioners, conversing and spending some time with them. We need to be perceptive to their needs, and know the needs of the community so we can effectively reach out. Having built relationships, we need to be comfortable in talking with others about living the faith. In a parish, the faith is assumed, but it’s not automatic that it gets consistently lived out. We need to be comfortable and enthusiastic in talking about it. One way we can do that is by reminding people and our coworkers that we need to pray about our difficulties.

3. Pray with and for People

People will come forward with situations that need prayer. Sometimes they will ask us to pray, and other times we find an opportunity to ask them if we should bring the situation before the Lord. We could ask them if we could pray with them right then and there. When we pray with people, I’ve found that it’s most important to be intentional about being in God’s presence and confident in his love and mercy. We could also bring their intentions into our prayer later on, or even direct them to request their intention be listed in the petitions at Mass, for someone who is ill or who has died.

The needs of the parish are many, and some needs we will simply observe. We in lay ministry are also intercessors, realizing that it is only through God’s grace that these situations can truly be resolved.

4. Have a Vision and a Plan

We must always try to stay focused on what ministry is all about —bringing people to Christ for his glory. But also, we should prayerfully think of what this particular ministry should look like in the future. After the vision has been established, communicate the vision to the group and work towards it, keeping it always in prayer. Often, there is a big gap between the status quo and the vision. It can be daunting to move forward, so it’s a good idea to make a plan for how to get there, in incremental steps. Focus on implementing each step to achieve small successes first and then move forward. Perhaps God will guide the ministry in a different direction along the way, so we should be open to that as well.

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5. Work as a Community

The pastor is the one entrusted with the care of souls in the parish. He is the head of the parish community, representing Christ, and his guidance, leadership, and support is essential. Typically he needs help in caring for the many needs of a modern parish, and people have come to expect a variety of services from the parish. It is important to meet with the pastor to know his vision and to implement it, or sometimes to dialogue with the pastor towards a vision that he can support.

The Church is a unity, so we'll want to work together with other parish leaders. It helps to work to understand them and their organization. Allow for some give and take, while communicating your vision to them. Show them support when needed, and find ways to help each other.

Different input and perspectives helps make for a ministry that is able to reach more people. Out of doing ministry together, friendship and community can grow in a way that is very special. It comes along the way of doing the activity of the parish. Involving others as much as possible is important, but it's key to have the right people in leadership.

6. Focus on Adult Faith Formation

One of the big challenges of collaboration is being on the same page in the Faith. Adult faith formation is a great way to form disciples who can then go out and serve. We have to first have faith in order to share it. It's also important for us to continue growing in our own faith and in skills for ministry.

Ascension offers many great studies (<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/study-programs>) that help adults learn more about the Bible, the Mass, the Church, and Christian living. Done in a welcoming spirit, these workshops form community in the Lord and lasting friendships. They make for truly forming a community of missionary disciples. Many of these studies focus on areas that are often experienced in the life of the Church, but they bring them consciously into focus with depth of understanding.

According to Pope Francis:
"In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers" (The Joy of the Gospel, 28).



The Mass, the homily, the parish's works of service, and so forth, all form us. Yet people especially nowadays often need to come to a deeper understanding of the truth of the mysteries in which we participate. This is even more the case because of the competing voices of the world.

7. See Everything as Ministry

The aim of ministry is building up the Body of Christ and the power of ministry is God's grace. Everything done in that spirit is ministry, in the broad sense. St. Paul exhorted us: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Church meetings can start with prayer, even if they aren't directly about the faith. A groundskeeping committee could begin with a prayer about God's creation, for example. "God bless you," or similar words, should be on our lips even in conversations or phone calls that aren't specifically religious.

8. Work to Resolve Conflict

Jesus taught:
"If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24).

Conflict often arises, but this is more often than not because people love their church. Anger is typically the response to a perceived threat.

For some people, changing the status quo is a threat to the good they see. If conflict arises in your ministry, try to pause and stay calm. Be assertive but objective. Avoid gossip, but talk directly to the person. Talk about how the behavior affects you, but speak in terms of external behaviors—what is actually going on—never overgeneralizing a person, implying in some way that they are a bad person.

We are all children of God and are struggling in different areas. While we stand firm on faith and morals, surely we can be willing to make compromises on practical matters of parish life such as rooms and scheduling. There needs to be a give and a take. It's easy to focus on the past and how we were right, but we need to rise above that. Think forward to how to resolve the issue in a positive way.

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9. Reach Out to the Fringes

Pope Francis writes:

"While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be 'the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters'. This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few" (The Joy of the Gospel, 28). As Jesus reached out to those outside, we must reach out as well. We must be welcoming, and also go outside of our comfort zone to invite people who have not been embraced yet by the group. Personal invitation is still one of the most effective ways to invite. Knowing the situation helps to be creative in finding ways to include those who are not as involved as they could be. We can also be creative in rethinking how the community as a whole can reach out in new ways, meeting the needs of the people.

Pope Francis writes of the parish:

"Precisely because it possesses great flexibility, [the parish] can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community" (The Joy of the Gospel, 28).

10. Take Time for Balance

St. Benedict's maxim for life in the monastery was ora et labora (pray and work). Living a balanced life helps to ward off burnout, and losing our sense of purpose. In addition to prayer, we also

need the support of Christian community, sometimes outside of where we do ministry to provide a safe place to talk about being real about living the Christian life. We need faithful people to encourage us in our walk and to challenge us to grow. Also, we are not meant to constantly work without relaxation. Hobbies and activities have their place too in a balanced life and ministry.

We Have Work to Do

Pope Francis challenges us:

"We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented" (The Joy of the Gospel, 28).

That means we have some work to do, but it must start with ourselves and go out from there.

Michael J. Ruzala is the author of several religious books, including Lives of the Saints: Volume I and Who Created God? A Teacher's Guidebook for Answering Children's Tough Questions about God. He holds a master of arts degree in theology & Christian ministry from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He has served for a number of years as a parish director of religious education, parish music director in the Diocese of Buffalo, and adjunct lecturer in religious studies at Niagara University in Lewiston, NY. For more information about Michael and his books, visit michaeljruszala.com.

Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Prayer:

Please pray for our parish during this Season of Stewardship:

O Merciful God, You are the provider of all that we are and all that we have. You open wide your hand to provide for the needs of every living creature. Make us always grateful for your loving Mercy and grant that we may be faithful stewards of your gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Stewardship of Service

Are you interested in serving, but not sure where to begin? Contact the Parish Offices or watch for the discernment article next week that will highlight many of the ministries of the Cathedral!

Stewardship of Gifts- October 19th & 20th

Envelopes:	\$5,036.00
Loose:	\$2,781.24
Maintenance:	\$110.00

Total:	\$7,927.24
September EFT	\$18,509.60

STEWARDSHIP IS LIVING A LIFE
OF GRATITUDE. IT MEANS
TAKING THE TIME EVERY DAY TO
RECOGNIZE THE GIFTS THAT GOD
HAS GIVEN TO US AND
BEING GRATEFUL FOR THEM.