

ISSUE NO. 111

6 OCTOBER 2019

Cathedral

WEEKLY

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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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 7

7 AM DECEASED MEMBER OF THE CLAYTON FAMILIES
(MCGRATH FAMILY)
5:15PM SHIRLEY LOGAN (LISA LOGAN & FAMILY)

Tuesday – October 8

7 AM BARBARA J. MCGRATH (FAMILY & FRIENDS)
5:15 PM LEMUEL MOSS (JEAN MOSS & RALPH WALTER)

Wednesday – October 9

7 AM BILL CRUMLY (CINDY & ED HOUSE)
5:15 PM PATRIA & RUFINO GOTANCO (JOE & HATI UY)

Thursday – October 10

7 AM DORIS DREA (PHIL & RHODA CHAMPLEY)
5:15 PM BARBARA MCGEE (TOM MCGEE)

Friday – October 11

7 AM IRVIN LARRY SMITH (CAROL GREENWOOD)
5:15 PM MARY ANN MIDDEN (WILLIAM MIDDEN)

Saturday – October 12

8 AM DENNIS HELM (D. HUNSLEY)
4 PM NORMAN & EILEEN ROVEY (FAMILY)

Sunday – October 13

7 AM MARY ANN MIDDEN (WILLIAM MIDDEN)
10 AM FOR THE PEOPLE
5 PM JOHN & EDITH BAKALAR (JOHN BUSCIACCO)



Around the Parish

I find it hard to believe that we are now in the month of October. Time always moves forward and we are called to do the same, forward towards the Kingdom. Our Holy Father Pope Francis has designated October as an **Extraordinary Mission Month**. World Mission Sunday is always celebrated in October in the Church, but the Holy Father is calling us to give special attention all month to the Church's missionary efforts around the world in proclaiming the Gospel and advancing the Kingdom of God. Our own Vicki Compton will have several items in the Weekly during the month of October highlighting the Church's missionary activity.

As October begins we are also kicking off another year of **Adult Faith Formation** starting this Monday evening at 7PM in the atrium. I will be presenting on the topic of the Church's process for the canonization of saints, using our own Venerable Father Tolton's cause as our case study. This was the topic for my thesis when I finished my license in canon law four years ago. This talk is also timed to coincide with the canonization of Cardinal John Henry Newman by Pope Francis on Sunday, October 13th. Father Rankin will be presenting on Cardinal Newman following his canonization. Please check the Weekly for upcoming dates, times, and topics for Adult Faith Formation.

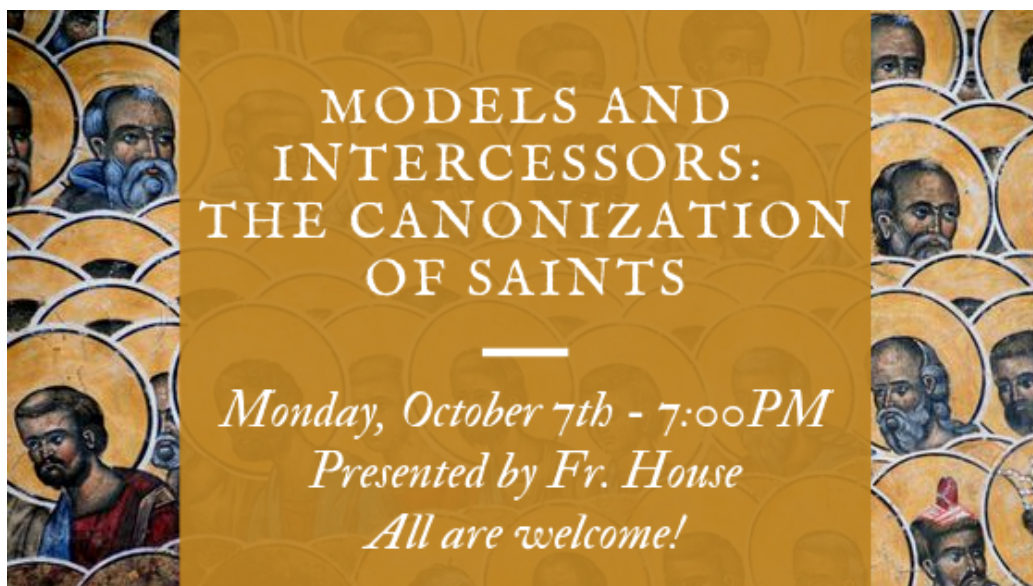
As you may have seen in the Weekly, we have begun another course of preparation for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**. Sometimes people want to join the faith and they are simply waiting to be invited. Might someone in your life be one of those people? It's not too late!

In the area of faith formation, we have launched a new catechetical program for our youth and their families called **Family of Faith**. This new model is directly intended to help parents fulfill the responsibility that they were given at their child's baptism to be their child's first teacher in the faith. At the beginning of each month, one of the priests teaches the parents on a specific topic and the parents then teach that topic to their children. We also have an activity with all the families in the program each month. All adults are invited to the parent formation session at the beginning of each month. Again, times and topics can be found in the Weekly or by calling Vicki in the parish office.

At the end of the month we will kick off another **Season of Stewardship** when all of us will be invited to examine what we are offering to the Lord regarding our service, prayer, and treasure. At that time we will be a month away for our celebration of Thanksgiving, so it will be an appropriate opportunity for us to examine what our response to God is for the good things that he has done for us.

The weather now seems to give the indication that summer is indeed giving way to fall. As the leaves will begin to fall and the color of creation fade, we must always remember that this is a part of creation's renewal which is always ongoing. The same is true for us with the grace of God; the Lord is always seeking to renew us. I invite all of us to seek those avenues and opportunities for God's grace so that each of us, and as a parish family, might become more and more the people that the Lord is calling us to be. God bless you!

Father Christopher House is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in various leadership roles within the diocesan curia, namely Chancellor and Vicar Judicial.



MODELS AND
INTERCESSORS:
THE CANONIZATION
OF SAINTS

—

Monday, October 7th - 7:00PM
Presented by Fr. House
All are welcome!



October
2019

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH
OCTOBER 2019

Second Dimension: The Witness of the Saints, the Missionary Martyrs, and the Confessors of the Faith



“Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church,” Pope Francis says in his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* (9). When the members of the Body of Christ live an authentic Christian life, they help build up the kingdom of God (CCC, 2044-2045). In my many travels to Mission lands, I met so many holy men and women, lay, Ordained and Religious who were building the Kingdom through large and small acts of love. I know a Bishop in Kenya who has built a medical school so that local men and women can be trained to provide healthcare to his impoverished people. I know a priest in India who despite writing books, hosting a television show, teaching at the seminary and pastoring a large parish plus 15 mission parishes, made time every Sunday morning to greet the homeless men and

women at his gate and provide them each with a bit of money so they could buy breakfast. I met laypeople in Tanzania who gather monthly in someone’s home to read the Word of God, pray for each other and discuss ways of helping their neighbors who are in need. The first time I ever heard about human trafficking, modern day slavery, was from a Religious Sister in Michigan who had been working for years with other Sisters to raise awareness and provide relief to victims. Our local orders of Sisters, lay missionaries and priests from our diocese have served or are serving in remote areas of Haiti, Tanzania, Brazil, Peru, Japan, El Salvador, on Native American Reservations and at the border bringing the hope and healing of Jesus Christ to our most vulnerable neighbors.

Week Two Challenge:

We are provided with the testimonies of missionary saints, martyrs, and witnesses to the faith to draw us ever deeper in our relationship with God and strengthen our own proclamation of the Gospel. Spend some time researching the life of a missionary witness - St. Francis Xavier, Anna Maria Dengel, Daniele Comboni, Fr. Andrew Kim and the Korean martyrs, Sr. Dorothy Stang, Dr. Tom Catena, Francis Xavier Ford, Jean Donovan or another missionary here <http://www.october2019.va/en/testimoni.html#paginationinit>

Question to Ponder:

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis says to each one of us, “May you come to realize what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life. Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit, so that this can happen, lest you fail in your precious mission. The Lord will bring it to fulfilment despite your mistakes and missteps, provided that you do not abandon the path of love but remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens.” (24)

How is the Lord shaping the “word” He wants to speak to the world by your life?



5 Reasons Your Parish Should Have a Bereavement Ministry

If your parish is hoping to meet people where they are, then implementing a bereavement ministry program is a good starting point. I had the privilege of working in bereavement ministry for the

Archdiocese of St. Louis, and saw the benefits such a ministry could have if done well. Here are five reasons to include bereavement ministry, or grief ministry, in your parish.

1. Jesus told us to comfort those who mourn.

Jesus says in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." There are mourners in your parish. Will you comfort them?

In fact, the Bible is sprinkled with mentions of grief and mourning. Jesus himself mourned after the death of Lazarus, and supported the dead man's family in their grief. St. Cyprian once said: *"How can a man say that he believes in Christ, if he does not do what Christ commanded him to do? From where will he attain the reward of faith, if he will not keep the faith of the commandment? ... He will make no advancement in his walk toward salvation, for he does not keep the truth of the way of salvation" (The Treatises of Cyprian, Treatise I, ch. II). Our quest to be Christ-like shouldn't neglect how Jesus approached grief and the grieving.*

2. It applies to everyone at some point.

Everyone dies, so it stands to reason that just about everyone will, in fact, have someone close to them die at some point in their life. Most of us will have many people die, and we will struggle horribly after some of them. No one goes through life without grief.

That is why a ministry for those who are grieving is such a good thing. Other than birth and taxes, grief is the only thing guaranteed to effect every parishioner at some point.

3. It's what people are looking for.

Major upheavals bring people to faith. Death causes us to think about what comes after this life. Funerals pull lapsed Catholics back into Church, sometimes for the first time in decades. All of these are very good reasons to be prepared to minister to the grieving.

Catholics Come Home has a great collection of resources for people brought to the Church because of grief, which may be helpful for anyone leading a grief ministry. But perhaps the best thing a parish can do is provide a home for the grieving. Give people a space to tell the story of their grief, and see that they can find a community to support them. That is evangelization at its finest.

One parish I worked with had a dedicated bereavement team who would make sure the church was prepared for every funeral.

They would place tissue boxes in the pews and have people on hand to answer any questions. They would reach out to the family after the funeral and ask if they would like to receive bereavement resources in the mail. The family would receive resources on prayers, remembrance services, simple self-care steps, and a card on the anniversary of the death. They were also invited to join a grief ministry group.

The woman in charge of the resources said she wanted to make sure her fellow parishioners were never alone in their grief. She wanted them to know that they were welcome at the parish even when they felt messy and distraught.

4. It's easy.

We're in the midst of a small-group renaissance. There are so many support systems for people who want to start one! You can read here about the basics of starting a small group. Most likely, you can also contact your parish office. If you are willing to put in the work to lead a small group, the pastor and his council should be happy to help you succeed.

There are also plenty of options for what you can do! You can do a study that is completely focused on grief, or get together twice a month for coffee and a general check in. You can learn how to pray with Scripture together, or study Christ's passion in-depth. You could even read a book that enunciates the grief process, or one about a profound experience of grief. Local funeral homes also tend to offer workshops and speakers you could attend together. It's all down to what works best for you and your parish.

5. The return on investment is high.

When your parish supports someone in a time a grief, it doesn't just affect that person. All of their family and friends learn that they were able to turn to the Catholic Church during a painful time. That plants a seed for the future.

As I previously stated, everyone will experience grief at some point in their life. Sometimes that grief is overwhelming. It is a good thing to let people know they can come to the Catholic Church when they are in despair.

Melissa Keating is a writer, editor, and content strategist based in St. Louis.

The Cathedral Bereavement Group Is Starting Soon!

Cathedral parish will begin hosting Grief Share, a weekly grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us beginning Thurs., Nov. 7, 1:00-3:00pm in the Cathedral School Library.

Grief Share runs for 14 weeks, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up what they missed during the next cycle. Brochures are available in the literature rack by the west atrium doors. For more information contact Berni Ely @ 899-6637 or jackandberni96@yahoo.com



It Would Have Been Enough

If the only prayer you said was "thank you," that would be enough.

—Meister Eckhart

I was sitting quietly early this morning, before the rush of life commenced, and was overwhelmed with an undefined sense of gratitude. Actually, it was very defined. It was a visceral awareness of the gratuitousness of existence (i.e., the fact that anything exists at all is a sheer gift bereft of any claim to entitlement). "Gratuitous" captures this well, I think, as it means "not necessary or justified."

God needn't have created anything at all, yet chose to. While we often complain to God that we do not yet possess well-being, we forget that we already possess something far more radical, extraordinary, stunning, mind-blowing and grounding: being. I am.

Become aware at this very moment that there is something rather than nothing, there is a you, and a whole massive cosmos that did not have to exist at all, but does. Existence is a mystery, a source of wonder, and its very being itself is already excessive.



Another vantage on this. I shared with my students this summer that for most of the Old Testament faithful men and women, there was no clear awareness of a personal afterlife, of a resurrection from the dead that promised reward for justice and punishment for injustice. With death, identity faded into the shadows of non-existence.

*I call to you, Lord, all the day long;
to your I stretch out my hands.
Will you work your wonders for the dead?
Will the shades stand and praise you?
Will your love be told in the grave
or your faithfulness among the dead?
Will your wonders be known in the dark
or your justice in the land of oblivion?*

The answer to Psalm 88's desperate questions? No. The idea of "eternal life" in Judaism only came later, closer to the time of Jesus.

So imagine, would you remain faithful to God and his commandments in this life, as did the Hebrew saints, amid great

hardships and sufferings, amid unanswered questions about good and evil, with no belief that after death an eternal life awaited you? No reward, other than knowing you lived in fidelity, here and now, to the will of the good God who made you and chose you to be his own in this world? Would you have done so wholeheartedly? Would you say, as Tennyson once said so beautifully,

*I hold it true, whate'er befall;
I feel it, when I sorrow most;
'Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all.*

Back to my morning's silent insight. It is quintessentially a Jewish-Christian instinct to see gratitude as the foundational virtue on which all else is built, the attitude that sustains all other good things. And this gratitude is not, in the first instance, for this or that good thing, or even for well-being, but simply for the very fact that you, I, or anything exists at all. Ever has, ever will. Period.

When you begin each day with that mindset, it revolutionizes the way you experience life. And then the supererogatory "over-the-top" excess of well-being that God has in fact granted us in Christ, with the hoped promise of a new creation in which "all will be well in all manner of being

well," becomes a fresh cause to "leap for joy" (Luke 6:23).

In this dayenu (song), the Jewish soul lives in a constant thankful awareness of a God who says to each of us, in each and every moment, "I love you: I want you to be." Only then, like the prophet Habakkuk, we can sing:

*For even though the fig tree does not blossom,
nor fruit grow on our vines,
even though the olive crop fail
and fields produce no harvest,
even though flocks vanish from the folds
and stalls stand empty of cattle,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord
and exult in God my savior.*

Dr. Tom Neal presently serves as Academic Dean and Professor of Spiritual Theology at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. Tom received a Masters in Systematic Theology from Mount St. Mary's University and a PhD in Religion at Florida State University.

How Do I Know This Thought Is From God?

It's one of the most commonly asked questions when it comes to discernment—How do I know that this thought or desire is from God and not just from me? Is this actually God speaking, or is this just my mind speaking, and I think it's God? Is it me thinking that it's God but it's just my thoughts, while God is actually speaking through my thoughts? Confused? You are in good company.

I spent most of my twenties wrestling with the question of God's will and how to know if I was following his promptings well. I thought if I chose poorly I would be doomed to a life of misery. So I often spent time thinking and over-thinking as to where God wanted me and if I was following his voice or my own.

There's no scientific method to test our thoughts to confirm with one hundred percent accuracy that this particular prompting is a word from the Lord. That's part of the mystery of who God is and how he operates. Sometimes he will drop a loud word or give a clear sense of peace, and sometimes he wants us to make the decision and start walking ourselves.

There are three quick tips that I would like to share with you today that helped me out in my own journey. They may sound simplistic and indeed they are—the challenge is to actually set aside the time to put these into action.

1. Spend time in prayer.

In God we live, move, and have our being. (Acts 17:28). The more time we spend before the Blessed Sacrament or in quiet prayer, the better we start to realize the wandering nature of our own thoughts and will be able to distinguish God's voice above ours. Be sure to listen and don't do all the talking. Make time for pure silence. God also works through our thoughts and imaginations. Sometimes we get a holy idea for a work of service or we remember someone we haven't spoken with for some time. That can absolutely be a prompting of the Holy Spirit to reach out to that friend or take action where you see that need. Follow that holy prompting!

2. Spend time in Scripture.

Paul tells the Colossians to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16). Similar to the time spent in mental prayer, we must become familiar with God's word, especially the Gospels, so we know the voice of our shepherd. "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ," St. Jerome asserted. If we're too busy to open up the Bible, we're too busy.

3. Spend time with others.

God sometimes speaks through other people. Perhaps we've had moments where a friend or even a stranger said the exact thing we needed to hear for that moment. I think God humorously uses these moments to remind us that we need one another. No man is an island.

Friends and family and even co-workers can see what we often can't. Sometimes we get so lost and locked in our thoughts that we start spinning and overthink our concerns to the point of paralysis. Other people can help us gain perspective of the situation. They can also reveal concerns that we don't see (or want to see). Friends and family can call us to the carpet if we're in a bad relationship or making a rash decision. They can also remind us that we're losing out on joyfully living in the present moment.

Likewise, be that person for a friend who may also be in need of a loving gut check. I was blessed with several friends who did so for me when I needed to hear the truth—real friendship always brings the truth with love. God wants the best for us. These are just a few tips that might help you in achieving some clarity. Our God is faithful! He knows you, loves you, and wills your greatness! "*Call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.*" – Jeremiah 29:12

Bobby Angel writes and presents for the Ascension Presents blog and video blog. This article originally appeared here: <https://media.ascensionpress.com/2019/09/19/how-do-i-know-this-thought-is-from-god/>

Activating a Stewardship Way of Life

In preparation for the Season of Stewardship this fall, let's reflect on stewardship as a way of life. The four pillars: *Prayer, Formation, Hospitality, and Service* create the framework and model for our Parish mission.

How do you answer God in your daily life?

How do your daily actions reflect Jesus' hands and feet in the world?

Do you feel called to participate? Do you feel like you have talents yet to be discovered?

Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Gifts- September 28th & 29th

Envelopes: \$4,872.00

Loose: \$3,181.83

Maintenance: \$200.00

Total: \$8,253.83

September EFT (\$18,509.60)

Please keep the repose of the souls of Virginia A. Kloppenburg and Thomas Joseph Rapps in your prayers. May God bless them and their love ones during this time of grief.