

ISSUE NO. 112

13 OCTOBER 2019

# *Cathedral*

## WEEKLY

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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FOSTERING THE GRATITUDE OF LEPERS | FR. MICHAEL FRIEDEL  
WHY SOCIETY NEEDS MORE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION | TAYLOR TRIPODI  
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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 14

7 AM DORIS DREA (MIKE & KAREN RELLIHAN)  
5:15PM NO CONFESSIONS/NO MASS

### Tuesday – October 15

7 AM BETTY EDGAR (GRACE THULL)  
5:15PM JUSTINE FORD (JEANNETTE GIANNONE)

### Wednesday – October 16

7AM SOPHIA E. BARTOLETTI (BARTOLETTI FAMILY)  
5:15PM ROY F. RHODES (RHODES FAMILY)

### Thursday – October 17

7AM HELEN CALL (BILL VOGT)  
5:15 PM JAMES GRAHAM (ROSE AMON)

### Friday – October 18

7AM BONNIE DONNALS (C. GALE)  
5:15PM WILLIAM F. LOGAN (LISA LOGAN & FAMILY)

### Saturday – October 19

8 AM VINCENZO GIANNONE (JEANNETTE GIANNONE)  
4 PM SPECIAL INTENTION FOR SHANA GRAY  
(ELLEN MATTOX)

### Sunday – October 20

7 AM JOHN MONTGOMERY (JOHN BUSCIACCO)  
10 AM CHARLES & MERCEDES NESBITT (KATHY FRANK)  
5 PM FOR THE PEOPLE





## Fostering the Gratitude of Lepers

I remember the first encounter I ever had with leprosy—with “lepers.” It was the summer after my first year of theology, and I found myself in India, volunteering with the awe-inspiring Missionaries of Charity, praying at the tomb of their foundress St. (Mother)

Teresa of Calcutta, and serving in some of the houses that Mother Teresa had founded for orphans and for the dying.

It was an eye-opening summer, to say the least. But one day, the opportunity came along to visit some of the work of the Missionaries of Charity Brothers up in Titagarh, about a 75-minute drive north from “Motherhouse.” [Fun fact: the Missionaries of Charity are more than just the sisters. There are in fact five branches of their order: the active sisters with which most are familiar, contemplative sisters, active brothers, contemplative brothers, and MC Fathers.] The work of the MC brothers in Titagarh was to care for a community of those afflicted by leprosy, also known as Hansen’s disease.

Despite my hesitation at the initial thought of visiting a modern-day leper colony, I decided to go. ‘Surely if they invite visitors, it means that they have some kind of precaution to keep us from contracting the disease,’ I thought. It was only upon entering the colony that we were greeted by a MC brother who systematically dispelled every stereotype I had ever heard about the disease. As it turns out, a full 95% of people are immune to leprosy. While scientists are still not completely positive how the disease spreads, they do know it has to do with prolonged exposure and breathing in the bacteria from the coughing or sneezing of an infected person. Leprosy, decidedly, is not spread through physical contact with lepers.

What was truly amazing, though, was what the brothers were doing for those who had contracted leprosy in the community around Titagarh. A large number of patients came to the brothers only for medicine: a long-term course of antibiotics which cures a person from Hansen’s disease, although it cannot reverse the nerve-damaged often already advanced in nature by the time the patient discovers the disease.

But besides these fortunate souls who still lived among their families, the brothers also provide housing for a whole host of people who had been ousted from their jobs and their families

because of the stigma the disease still holds. And in the colony, typical of the Missionaries of Charity, these men and women find a home where they can recover their sense of dignity and self-worth. Here they are given food and shelter, a community, and even work. The colony is built on a thin but elongated plot of land directly adjacent to the train tracks, and the members of the community maintain a garden and a fishery (which feeds them and a number of the other MC houses in Calcutta), a shoe-making and prosthetics shop (for those who have experienced amputations because of their advanced nerve damage), and a shop equipped with multiple looms. [Another fun fact: every sari worn by a Missionary of Charity is woven at the looms in Titagarh by these lepers, and they are quite proud of that!]

Gratitude doesn’t begin to describe what I saw in those lepers. Dignity had been restored to them. They were given a new life when everything they had known had been taken from them by a misunderstood disease. But safe in the walls of Titagarh, they were so supremely grateful for the care, the work, and the community that they were given.



My experience there and in the other MC houses in Calcutta made me really reflect on gratitude. I had never seen gratitude like I had there. These were men and women whose lives were literally restored to them because of the work of Mother Teresa’s followers. Though many did not understand Christianity, what they saw was the fruit that it bore in the world, in their world. And without a word of English spoken, they communicated to me—a simple volunteer—the

immensity of gratitude they felt.

In our Gospel for this weekend, Christ calls us to gratitude. We, like the leper who returned to give thanks, must be cognizant of the immensity of graces that come our way—and we must return to their source, our Lord, to thank Him. It’s why we come around this table every Sunday. Not because we always feel like it, but because we know how drastically different our lives would be without it.

So often, we think of gratitude as something we express for another’s sake. But gratitude changes us more than it changes the person we are thanking. It opens our eyes to the reality: that our world, our life, our faith is gift. And for all of that, and so much more, we give thanks.

*Father Michael Friedel is Parochial Vicar for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.*



October  
2019

## EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

### Third Dimension: Missionary Formation

What are the biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological foundations for the mission of the Church? To provide this reflection, I have compiled a sampling of different thoughts from the teachings of the Church on this topic.

### Question to Ponder:

It was not until the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles at Pentecost that they left the upper room and began preaching the Gospel. How can you open yourself to the workings of the Holy Spirit to more boldly proclaim the Gospel?

### Week Three Challenge Slowly, thoughtfully and prayerfully read the following quotes

*"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

Mt 28:19-20

*"The word 'catholic' means 'universal,' in the sense of 'according to the totality' or 'in keeping with the whole.' The Church is catholic in a double sense: First, the Church is catholic because Christ is present in her... Secondly, the Church is catholic because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole of the human race."*

(CCC 830-831)

*"In the course of twenty centuries of history, the generations of Christians have periodically faced various obstacles to this universal mission. On the one hand, on the part of the evangelizers themselves, there has been the temptation for various reasons to narrow down the field of their missionary activity. On the other hand, there has been the often humanly insurmountable resistance of the people being addressed by the evangelizer... Despite such adversities, the Church constantly renews her deepest inspiration, that which comes to her directly from the Lord: To the whole world! To all creation! Right to the ends of the earth!"*

St. Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi, 50 (1975)

*"The Holy Spirit is indeed the principal agent of the whole of the Church's mission."*

St. John Paul II, Encyclical Redemptoris Missio, 21 (1990)

*"In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19)... Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are 'disciples' and 'missionaries', but rather that we are always 'missionary disciples'."*

Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, 120 (2013)

*"Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."*

Matthew 10:8



## Why Society Needs More Eucharistic Adoration

It may seem like a bit of a stretch, but society needs you to spend more time in Eucharistic Adoration.

When I think of the direction our society is headed, it really makes me question how I'm living my life. I am constantly concerned and frustrated because it seems like no matter how many prayers I pray, or how many people I try to help, I feel like the downward spiral that our society has been in for a while now just keeps getting worse.

But in the midst of all this uncertainty, there is one thing I don't question: and that is my need to be, well, me. Yes, as a matter of fact, it starts with me. On a daily basis, I am repeatedly trying to figure out how to "fix" the people around me or "convert" the masses who have fallen away. I think, "If I could just change them ... if they could just see what they were created for ... then our whole society would improve" ... but here's what I've come to realize: It should never start with a "you" mentality; it should always start with me.

### Michael Jackson Calls for Change

Michael Jackson said it, or I guess sang it, well: "If you want to make the world a better place, take look at yourself and make a change."

A likable man in many ways, even Michael Jackson had many of his own demons and I'm sure, like all of us, could have made some changes within his own heart. That aside, I believe that he hints at something very crucial—and that is the need for self-reflection and growth starting with ourselves.

It's interesting because when you think about it, it seems counterproductive to self-reflect. Egocentrism is arguably one of the biggest problems of our society as a whole right now. Most people you meet have a view of the world that starts and ends with themselves. Many people say it's all about "number one," meaning themselves. But the beguiling thing is—most of the time, we only scratch the surface of who we really are.

### Under The Surface

Who am I? Atheists, Buddhists, Christians, philosophers, Catholics, and many others have been pondering this question for centuries. To really know ourselves we need to look beyond the surface. I think all of us are very good at seeing ourselves with an aerial view. We paint a picture of perfection on the outside, but are not concerned with what is really under the surface. This mentality is the root of egocentrism in our

society.

None of us want to take a good, clear look at what is buried deep within, because if we did I'm not so sure we would like what we find. In fact, I know that to be true because I'm the same way. Very few are willing to take the plunge and see the brokenness within and then have the courage to make necessary changes. But if we all made those changes, wouldn't that really set the wheels in motion for an even better society?

### The Remedy

So what does our society really need? We all want to help our society by doing our part. Some of us are even willing to take these hard steps and start with ourselves—but what's step one? Here's where I get super Catholic. If it starts with me, then I need to become who God created me to be. Yes, that rhymed. Yes, that might be lame. No, this is not a poem, but is it true? Yes! St. Catherine of Siena famously said:

*"If you become who you were created to be, you will set the world on fire!"*

God created us to be world-changers, truth-seekers, leaders—but before we start critiquing and helping the world around us, we have to always start with ourselves.

In my previous article, "Why Adoration Is Essential for the Soul and Body", I listed some of what I consider to be the greatest benefits—including those for the body, mind, and soul—to being in the Lord's presence in Eucharistic Adoration. Here's the thing, no amount of blogs ever written could hold all of the abundant graces and benefits of being in the presence of Christ, but there is one correlation I want to touch upon in this article that I had mentioned in the previous one, and this is the good that comes from placing ourselves before the Eucharist in Adoration—and as a result, the good that is rendered in our society.

**Continued from p. 6**





## Continued from p. 5

### Necessary for Society, Necessary for Me

A better society starts with a better—more specifically, holier—me. So how does the Eucharist play a role in this?

From the beginning of our existence, we were made in the image of God. The beauty of spending time before the Eucharist is that what we see on the altar is the truest version of ourselves. We see the image in which God created us.

St. Augustine says:

“You are the body of Christ, member for member’ [1 Corinthians 12:27]. If you, therefore, are Christ’s body and members, it is your own mystery that is placed on the Lord’s table!”

(Sermon 272)

First, we see that Augustine points out that we are a part of something greater than ourselves—we are members of the mystical body of Christ. But then he goes on to explain the reality of our own personal mystery. When we come face to face with Jesus in Adoration, we behold the mystery of ourselves fully realized in Christ. If we have ever had any doubt about why God created us, the Lord comes to meet us in that doubt. He looks at us and we behold him.

### We Become What We Receive

In that exchange, our creator transforms us into an even truer image of ourselves and a reflection of him. Jesus sees the depths of us—even the parts that we try to hide—all of our brokenness and insecurities, and he fully knows us—and fully loves us—from that place. With Christ before us in Adoration, we can enter those broken parts of ourselves with courage, because we know that he loves us and is with us when we do!

Jesus reveals himself in Adoration just as he did at Emmaus in the breaking of the bread. He reveals to us our identity when we feast our eyes upon him in Adoration, and also when we take into our body his presence through Communion. What a mystery! And we, in turn, receiving the bread of life, become food for our broken and hungry world when we receive the Lord’s presence. And isn’t that exactly what our world needs?

The world doesn’t need more critics and overly-pompous Christians who make it their life’s goal to fix everyone. We need more Christians who are food for the broken and hungry in our

society—so that when others receive our presence, they come into contact with the Eucharistic presence of Christ! If we become what we receive, then we become broken bread for the broken world.

### Food for the World

“You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world.”

(Matthew 5:13-14)

The world needs you! You are irreplaceable and indispensable, and all the gifts you possess contribute to the betterment of our society. You are first called to become a saint, called by the Lord himself to an eternal life full of never-ending joy and happiness in heaven.

The beauty in becoming fully who we are in Christ is that it calls those around us to a higher way of life. It reminds our brothers and sisters who have forgotten this call upon their life as well. Encountering Jesus in Adoration changes the world—starting with us. When we see him and accept the grace he offers, we can become saints. During Adoration, our hearts become disposed to doing the will of Christ and our actions thereafter reflect his love and mercy.



Through this interior transformation, we can play our role in changing our society into a community in Christ as the mystical body. Don’t believe me? Open up Acts of the Apostles and read how twelve nobodies changed the world! Read about Saul, a man who murdered thousands of Christians, then converted after one encounter with Jesus, and from that one

encounter changed the world!

We have the opportunity to encounter the same Jesus everyday! So let him change you through the Eucharist first. Through you, he can change the course of our society. And remember, it only takes a few grains of salt to change the flavor!

*Taylor Tripodi is a 24 year-old cradle Catholic from Cleveland, Ohio aspiring for sainthood. Taylor graduated from Franciscan University, majoring in theology and catechetics and is now a full-time musician, traveling all over and spreading God’s unfailing love through word and song.*

## Stewardship Is Love

Stewardship is a grateful response to God's love for us. Think of the many blessings you have in your life. From your first deep breath in the morning, to a warm hug from a child, to the gift of healthy food, or a job to attend to each day. Think about the blessings we may take for granted, the fact that we can sit in a beautiful Cathedral for worship, while Christians around the world do not have such beautiful worship places. Think about the ability to receive the Eucharist without persecution or threats on us, many are not so lucky in this world. The fact is, we are incredibly blessed and we are called to share those blessings with others.

I was recently attending the International Catholic Stewardship Council Conference in Chicago. While I was there, I had many opportunities to speak with colleagues in stewardship offices across the country. Learning about their opportunities and challenges is not only insightful, but therapeutic. We are all trying our best to serve the church, the people of God, into growing and understanding that our relationship with Him is a direct reflection of many of the other relationships in our lives.

At the conference, I discussed with some colleagues what made this "stewardship thing" so hard. We came up with a variety of reasons but ultimately dwindled down the #1 reason is *love*. In order to love, one must be honest, humble, trustful, and vulnerable...everything that Jesus is so freely with us. Ultimately,

## 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.

### Hospitality

When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.

(Mt 25:35)

Think about this parish. How do you welcome the new face in the pew next to you? Do you smile or frown at the spirited child next to you? Do you extend a warm smile to the person sitting near to you? Hospitality, a pillar of stewardship, begins in the pews!

You are the welcome committee! Think about your first time in the pews. You may have noticed the beautiful sacred art or the impressive sounds filling the church from the organ, or the beautiful witness during Mass and celebration of the Eucharist. Did you notice those praying around you? Think of Sundays and the beauty that is found in the church, the people of God. We come from all walks of life, all demographics, cultures, and ages. It is a beautiful church God has made and we should be hospitable to all who encounter her— us, the people, the church!

stewardship is an act of love and trust. I trust that if I make *time* with the Lord a priority for Sunday and throughout the week, that the items that need to take priority will, and those that should not won't. I trust if I make an effort to *serve* or use my talents for the church, that I will notice a difference in myself and the community around me in which I serve- all for the better. I trust if I am willing to part with the \$10 toward meaningless purchases during the week and *give* that \$10 instead to the mission of the church, that I could turn something meaningless into meaningful.

We all are asked to love by sharing the abundant gifts we have been given. This isn't about the hardships of giving, or the sacrifice, rather the joy we receive from being generous:

for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

*Katie Price is the Coordinator for Stewardship at the Cathedral and the Director of the Center for Discipleship and Stewardship for the Diocese of Springfield, IL.*

## Stewardship Activity

### Stewardship of Prayer:

Everything we have is a gift from God, and the way we live our life is a gift back to God. Do you realize how much God loves you? How will you return that love to God this week through your prayer, service, or giving?

### Stewardship of Service

What talent can you share with the Cathedral? Think of what your interests and talents are and consider sharing those with us during the upcoming Season of Stewardship- kicking off Oct. 27th!

### Stewardship of Gifts- October 5th & 6th

Envelopes:	\$7,527.00
Loose:	\$3,884.85
Maintenance:	\$1,776.00

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Total:	\$13,187.85
September EFT	\$18,509.60