



ST. MARY STUDENT PARISH

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

JULY 12, 2020
15th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

SOWN



“The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it.”

MATTHEW 13:23

“Lo sembrado en tierra buena representa a quienes oyen la palabra”.

MATEO 13, 23

Pastoral Perspective

CHOOSING THE CROSS

BY FR. MARK MOSSA, SJ - DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY



When I was in college I was an active member of the “Students for Life” group, and I was known to be quite outspoken on all life issues from abortion to euthanasia to war (the first Gulf War was happening then) to the death penalty. Members of our group butted heads with students on the “other side,” those who identified themselves as “pro-choice” in the abortion debate, and those who supported the war, which we believed to be unjust. This led to many lively debates. I think then such conversations were easier to have.

I forged an unlikely friendship during that time. It grew out of a discussion with a fellow student who presumed that since she was “pro-choice” and I was “pro-life,” that we should dislike each other. That didn’t sit well with me, and I told her so. What kind of pro-life person, what kind of Christian, would I be if I decided that she wasn’t worth my time, not worth getting to know, not a person of value because she espoused what I thought was a mistaken belief? Should I not at least come to know who she was, and why she believed it? Was I not meant to love her? No one should be so easily discarded. Such an approach would hardly affirm my identity as “pro-life.”

Too often today we follow the lead of politicians and ideologues by taking a stance against somebody instead of some injustice or evil. And, sadly, choosing not to do so can put us on the outs even with those whose beliefs we share about opposing such injustices. It will also expose us as Christians. This is why I have never chosen to belong to a political party. From a Christian perspective, I can’t ignore that each is fatally flawed. And today we see that party membership has become too much about identifying oneself against the other, and winning, rather than serving the common good.

I am not yet the great soul that I one day hope to be. Still, I found an observation by Fr. Richard Rohr in his book *The Wisdom Pattern* resonated strongly with what I’m trying to articulate: “. . . we could say that the greater the opposites we can hold together, the greater soul we usually have. By temperament, most of us prefer one side to the other. Holding onto one side or another frees us from the tension and the anxiety. Only a few dare to hold the irresolvable tension in the middle. It is the “folly” of the cross . . .”

It is so much easier to pick a side. However, in these days the hateful discourse we witness both within and outside the Church shows how easy it becomes to demonize the “other side.” And the great blindness that results, is that we begin to see all things through the lens of one issue, one ideology, one political party, instead of through the heart of Jesus Christ, pierced on that folly of a cross that Rohr speaks of. The cross should more often put us on the wrong side of things in the eyes of this world.

I think that Rohr is wrong about one thing though. I think that more than a few of us can dare to hold that irresolvable tension that inhabits the cross of the One who died for all. I think that more than a few of us must, if we are to overcome the deep divisions in our society. But it does come at a cost. Choosing the cross instead of choosing a side, choosing to love others rather than demonize them, will always be the more difficult choice, and none of us will do so perfectly.

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Congrats to Ben and Becky Blowers and the baptism of their daughter Charlotte.
- Congrats also to George Sczomak and Dominic Berkholz on making their first communion.
- Congrats also to Julia Berkholz, Sarah Conley, Lizbeth Jimenez-Lopez, and Saray and Wendy Pachecho-Ruiz who made their confirmation this past week.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM–2:00 PM Monday through Friday

During this time the office will be staffed to assist with scheduling, questions, donations, etc. You may also enter the church for individual prayer. Please enter through the main doors on Thompson Street.

Masks and social distancing are required.

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GRAD/YP EVENTS

GRAD/YP ZOOM PRAYER AND MEDITATION SERVICE

MONDAY, JULY 13TH AT 7 PM

The world around us has undergone immense change over these last few months and many are searching for what the new "normal" will be. On Monday, July 13th at 7 pm, please join us for a Grad/YP Zoom Prayer and Meditation Service. We will contemplate Jesus' challenge to 'lose one's life' and what that call means to each one of us in the face of this new normal. Starting around 6:45 pm, this Zoom room will be open for you to join in and catch up with the community. Then, around 7 pm we'll begin! Please note that to minimize the risk of getting Zoom-bombed, the room has a simple password: "GradPray".

GRAD/YP VIRTUAL DROP-IN SCC

We also wanted to remind you of our on-going Grad/YP virtual drop-in Small Church Community! If you haven't heard of them or done one before, an SCC is a group that meets weekly to read the upcoming Sunday readings, pray, and reflect on how those readings relate to our daily lives. The group meets on Wednesdays at 7pm and is hosted on Zoom. If you are interested in more information, please reach out to Colleen McClain (colleen.a.mcclain@gmail.com).

EXPLORING THE FAITH THRU RCIA

Ever thought about becoming Catholic?

First, pray and reflect a little on this step. What has God been trying to say to you? Then, give us a call to talk. Our RCIA gatherings help people explore the faith, and learn more about building a deeper relationship with God.

RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), helps those who are considering adult baptism into the Catholic faith, those who may want to convert from another Christian faith, and those adult Catholics who want to complete their Confirmation.

Gatherings will begin in September (though we are not sure yet of our format). In the meantime, give us a call, or send an email.

Rita Zyber, RCIA Coordinator, rzyber@smspnewman.org 734-663-0557, Ext 230

Fr. Joe Wagner, SJ, RCIA Director, jwagner@smspnewman.org 734-663-0557, Ext 225

"Our hearts are restless until they find rest in you."

-- St. Augustine

PUBLIC SUNDAY MASS

SUNDAYS at 5:00 PM

St. Mary is open to the public for **5:00 PM Sunday mass** (in English). Our capacity is limited to 50 seats. Click here to reserve your seat:

<https://bit.ly/smsp-public-mass-reservation>

To protect the health and safety of everyone at the mass, please note the following:

- Reservations will be limited to registered parishioners.
- Since we do not have pews, seating will be 50 individual chairs.
- If you make a reservation for more than one seat, you will be sitting alone and you may not be sitting near anybody else on your reservation.
- The moving of chairs will not be permitted.
- We strongly discourage those with compromised immune systems or families with small children from attending mass.

Masks and social distancing are required.

LIVE-STREAMED SUNDAY MASS

We continue to live-stream Sunday masses as follows:

9:00 AM – English Mass

10:10 AM – Spanish Mass

Masses can be watched live on our website:

stmarystudentparish.org. You may also watch a recording of mass anytime after the mass has finished.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

SUNDAYS 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Communion will be distributed on Sundays from 11:30 AM-12:00 PM. If you arrive early, please wait in your car. The parish will remain locked until 11:30 AM. Enter through the William Street doors unless you require handicap accessibility through the Thompson side.

Masks and social distancing are required.

Faith Doing Justice

EXAMEN FOR LIFE DURING COVID-19

from the Ignatian Solidarity Network

The Examen is a traditional method of prayerful awareness that is a bedrock in Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit education. It's a short, easy way to reflect on your day and become more mindful about where you are experiencing grace or goodness and where there is room in your actions and life for growth. Especially in times of uncertainty and rapid change, taking time to reflect becomes essential.

What people don't often realize is that the Examen is exceptionally flexible and adaptive. It can be used to review your day or it can be adapted to hone in on a specific issue or focus. So in light of the new set of circumstances many of us find ourselves in with COVID-19, it is helpful to adapt the Examen to this unique situation.

To pray the Examen for life during COVID-19, visit <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/2020/03/14/examen-covid-19/>.

2020 CENSUS

The 2020 U.S. Census timeline has been shifted in order to better protect the health and safety of the general public and the U.S. Census Bureau employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Michiganders now have until October 31, 2020 to respond.** The Catholic Church in Michigan has promoted full participation in the count <http://www.micatholic.org/advocacy/2020-census/> because of the ramifications it has for individuals and local communities:

- The count influences legislative representation at all levels of government, where decisions about the common good and the most vulnerable are often made.
- The Catholic Church relies on an accurate census to more effectively serve those in need.
- Under-counting households leads to under-funding critical programs and services.

The Detroit News featured the Church's efforts <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2020/05/28/faith-leaders-2020-census-census-sundays/5280266002/> to increase census participation in an article about the partnership between the faith community and Michigan's 2020 "Be Counted" campaign.

Visit <https://my2020census.gov/> now to fill out the 2020 Census, which will take approximately ten minutes to complete. The process is safe, secure, and confidential, and your response will help direct how billions of federal funds for local communities are distributed over the next decade.

RACIAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

This new column will feature resources in support of our mission to live a faith that does justice.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL AGAINST RACISM

For our Church, that we may celebrate and welcome the diverse faces of Christ in our community, our worship, our ministries, and our leaders, let us pray to the Lord.

For world leaders, that they may work to end the violence perpetrated by verbal attacks, deadly weapons, and cold indifference. May our nation and countries around the world become havens of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For our community, that we may receive the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of race, language, or culture, let us pray to the Lord.

For parents and educators, that we may teach our children how to resolve differences non-violently and respectfully and have the courage to model it in our own behavior, let us pray to the Lord.

For this faith community, that we may hear the call of our leaders to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to act together to end violence and racism, let us pray to the Lord.

For our public officials, that the Spirit of Wisdom may help them strive to work for equal education, suitable housing, and equal employment opportunities for all, let us pray to the Lord.

For solidarity in our global human family, that we may be vigilant in our protection of those who are most vulnerable and most in need, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have died, especially those who have died in the pursuit of justice, may they be welcomed into the great glory of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God, whose promise of justice sustains us, as we await your coming at Christmas, hear these our prayers that we might ready our hearts and our communities for the coming of Christ, our example in all things. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Financial Update

Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Year-to-Date Sunday Offering Report as of 07/5/2020



Sunday Offerings Budget Goal	\$969,000
Year-to-Date (YTD) Goal	\$16,750
Amount Collected YTD	\$20,928
Above (Below) YTD Goal	\$4,178

Sunday Offering Report as of 07/5/2020

July Sunday Weekly Budget Goal	\$16,750
Sunday 07/5/2020 (Week 1)	\$20,928
Above (Below) Weekly Goal	\$4,178

FINANCIAL UPDATE ON FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

Thanks to your generosity we surpassed our Sunday offering goal of \$1,020,000 by \$4,190 for a total of \$1,024,190. This is a slight decrease of \$1,372 from fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

We collected \$385,589 for the annual fund which fell short of our goal of \$440,000. However, we collected \$17,731 more than we did in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

ONLINE GIVING - NEW!

Many of you have signed up for online giving, which is a great help to us. Thank you. Some of you may be open to doing so. We recently introduced a new "online giving portal" through ParishSoft. This will eventually be the only online giving program that we will use. You can sign up and allocate gifts to particular funds here:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/smsp>.

Contact Kristen Gowman kgowman@smspnewman.org with any questions about this new online portal.



Thank you to those who have already contributed to this year's Diocesan Services Appeal. Our parish goal for 2020 is **\$97,785**. If you are still prayerfully considering your contribution, more information can be found online at <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/DSA>.

DSA is about so much more than money. DSA helps us all, as donors and beneficiaries, to move along the path of discipleship. Together, we can follow the Lord and witness to the salvation given to us in Jesus Christ.

How can we move along the path of discipleship together?

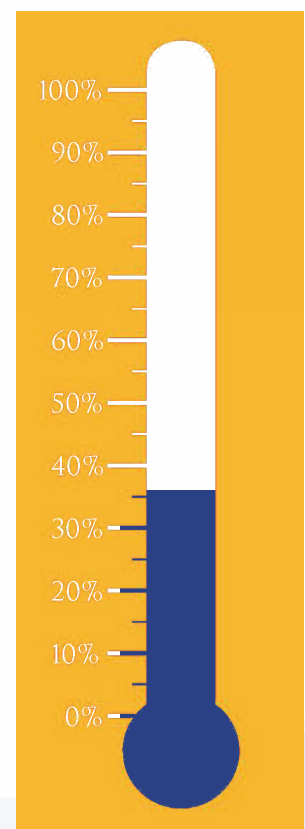
We can support our seminarians to get the best training they can have to be good and holy leaders of our church. We can care for our senior priests who have dedicated a life of service to the church and its people.

We can serve those people who are helping God's people who are most in need. When can assure that Catholic Charities has the resources required to make a difference in their lives, to provide the hope and help they need.

We can make sure that our parish staff and parish schools have professional resources available. We can't do everything on our own here at our parish. We need the expertise of worship, and finance, and legal, and human resources professionals at the diocese that serve and support our parish ministries and operations.

Let's join together to make sure our seminarians, our clergy, our Catholic Charities workers, and our parish staff, catechists and educators and all who are engaged in the life of the church have the resources they need to do their jobs well, and help us form a strong Catholic community of disciples here at our parish.

\$35,578 RAISED



St. Mary Student Parish Staff

PASTORAL STAFF

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One of the best feelings in the world is knowing that your presence and absence both mean something to someone.

WEDDING BANS

August 1
Cherie Netzloff & Tyler Huss

August 8
Kerry Flannagan & Matthew Jackson

August 15
Maria Ciolo & Sean Shepard

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Harrison Morton, Orlando Averion, Zenaida Averion, Victoria Tomalia, Maryjo Lum, Ric Chapman, Art Lamey, Nathalie Ertel, Therese Sheffield, Dan Karczewski, Brianna Liker, Elpido Adrian, Marcelo Alvarez, Eddie Smith, Joan Lesneski, Daniel Leung, Francyn Chomic, Katie Bischoff, Mark Kintz, Benjamin Besa, Brian Weard, Joan Brown Alexander, Alicia Patterson, Shawn Brown, Jamie Ballew, Patrick Geary, Bob Schoeni, Rosemary Callahan, Ron Lesneski, Christopher Brown, Scott Alexander, Paul Schnackenberg, Wilmer Zhinin, Juan Ibarra-Gonzalez, Adam Lesneski, Stacey Simpson Duke, Walter Moilanen, Joanna Vuylsteke, Julia Zhinin, Wilmer Zhinin, Maria Ayauaca, Manuel Zhinin, Liz Groulx, Michael Patterson, Filiberto Zamorano, Nikolas Block, Rosemary Rodriguez, Sally Parrish, Cristina Magsino, Kate Hanson, Maria Delores Monicibas Aleman, Luis Mario Riano, Joesph Puttrich, Colin Beaumier, Monica Terhar, April Schack, Senir Rivas, Maria Hernandez, Hilda and Henry Willis, Joan Benzie, Joe Ladago, Jan Buhler, Brent Horvath, Alicia Patterson, Marianna Hann, John Burns, Pablo Angiano Flores, Christine Geoghegan, Shawn & Laura Brown, Christopher Brown, Trinh Piper, Cindy McPherson, Gloria Grisales, Aurora Kobalz, Dan Scheider, Amaris Bolanos Luna, John Lanzatta, Curran Lawrence, Fred Metry, Tom Forner, Brian Cronin, Phil Simmons, Charlotte Jenkins, Theresa Bontekoe Deprest, Nancy Harknett, Matthew Casey, Amby Gallagher, Sara Zuleta, John Dunne, Clifton Chippewa, Nic Steadman, Bonnie Dean, Debbie Nigh, Arthur O'Neil, Joanne Walle, Jim Wolney, Augusto Silvino Garduno Esquivel, Kaylah Misiuk, Paul McNamara, Rosemary Callahan, Terri White Kaufman, Joseph D. Schwartz, Annie & Justin Siciliano, Bryan Tucker, Fred Gibby, Cynthia Lear, Barb Garren-Stratman, Guillermo Foncerrada, Dianna Nati, Geoffrey Riches, Pedro Osorio Soriano, Maria Enriqueta Ramirez Flores, Elena Galano, Donna Osborne, Ernie Jones, Tina Jones and Bernie Lamey.

To add or remove a name: stmarys@umich.edu or call 734-663-0557.

Sunday Readings

JULY 12, 2020

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I Is 55:10-11
 Psalm Ps 65:10-14
 Reading II Rom 8:18-23
 Gospel Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

“The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.” May the soil of our hearts be receptive to the Word and carry it out though the presence of the Spirit.

JULY 19, 2020

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I Wis 12:13, 16-19
 Psalm Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16
 Reading II Rom 8:26-27
 Gospel Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

In his patience, the Lord allows both weeds and wheat to grow together, both saints and sinners to respond to salvation in the Kingdom. This Lord is good and forgiving, lenient to all, desiring repentance for our sins. May the Spirit assist us in our weakness.

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