

# EPIPHANY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

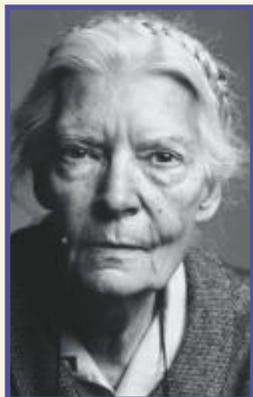
August 1, 2021



*Vision Statement: "To offer every person in our community a life-changing encounter with Jesus."*

# VEN. DOROTHY DAY

## LETTER TO AN AGNOSTIC, 1944



August 1944

Reading the eighth chapter of St. Teresa's autobiography recalled to me your objection to religion as being morbid.

This is quite a natural feeling on your part and it is a very common attitude toward religion. If those who spend several hours a day in prayer, and hours more in spiritual reading, as she did, in a wilful search for God, had these feelings, these struggles—how much more those who are scarcely

touched by faith or hope?

You know the reaction of my friends to religion, that it is a deliberate turning away from life. We Catholics know, with a supernatural knowledge, not with a worldly knowledge, that this is not so, just as we know the existence of God and love Him with our will, which is a power of our souls.

St. Teresa struggled for twenty years, she said, to avoid the occasions of sin. To know what she was talking about, what she meant by sin, it is necessary to understand the situation she was in.

She had entered the convent at the age of eighteen. The Carmelite convent was a large one, containing so many nuns that it was difficult to feed them all. It was the custom of the day to send unmarried daughters, widows, ladies who wished to retire from the world to the convent, and yet they did not retire from the world. There were a great many visitors. St. Teresa herself said that one of the reasons so many visitors came was to bring food to the nuns, and they received their callers because there was so little food in the convent that they needed to eke out their resources in that way. Later when St. Teresa was making her foundations of the reformed Carmelites, she saw to it that her nuns had enough to eat.

St. Teresa knew that she was far from leading the life she wished to lead when she entered the convent. She wished to give herself up wholly to God. She wished everything she did, every word she said, to tend to that end. But she was a gay creature. The story is that she went to be received in the convent in a bright red dress. She was full of vitality, life. She wished to live abundantly. The very qualities in her which urged her to give herself to God, drew her to her fellows. She

had an abundant love for them, an interest in them, and there was much time spent in conversations.

The more her life was involved with her fellows, the more she was drawn to them, the more she felt she was drawing away from God.

She was making little account of venial sins, she said; she was not avoiding the occasions of them. She felt that she was a sinful creature and said so many times in her autobiography. This does not mean anything scandalous—that the convent ladies sat around and received unseemly visits, ate or drank to excess (as the monks were accused of doing), or indulged in vicious talk or gossip.

But St. Teresa had so great a desire for perfection that any time engaged in idle talk (the most innocent idle talk) seemed to her to be deliberately stolen from God. She knew what she wanted, she knew that there was a better life for her, but she had a struggle to attain it.

She tells in this eighth chapter how she was kept from prayer:

The sadness I felt on entering the oratory was so great that it required all the courage I had to force myself in. They say of me that my courage is not slight, and it is known that God has given me a courage beyond that of a woman; but I have made a bad use of it.

She told, too, of watching the hour glass, of how she was filled with distractions, of what a constant hard struggle it was to force herself to prayer and spiritual reading.

And these struggles went on for twenty years!

"I wished to live," she wrote, "but I saw clearly that I was not living, but rather wrestling with the shadow of death; there was no one to give me life, and I was not able to take it."

This is the morbidness that you mean, I know.

If St. Teresa, with her knowledge and insight and the graces God gave her to go on struggling, felt that she was wrestling with the shadow of death, how one who knows nothing of religion must shy off from it every time the matter enters his consciousness!

The shadow of death she was talking of was the life she was leading, purposeless, disordered, a constant succumbing to second-best, to the less-than-perfect which she desired. But human nature will try to persuade us that the life of prayer is death, is a turning away from life.

As a convert I can say these things, knowing how many times I turned away, almost in disgust, from the idea of God and giving myself up to Him.

I know the feeling of uneasiness,

*Continued on Last Page*



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## FAREWELL AS PRINCIPAL



Dear Friends,

As I head into my final week at Epiphany Catholic School, I find myself filled with lots of mixed emotions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for



their passionate and ever-present support of our school. Epiphany Catholic School is a faith-based community that I have been so fortunate to be associated with for the past ten years. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve our community, and I pray that we have been true to our mission in the teachings of our Catholic faith.

What we do as a school cannot be accomplished without the backing and support of our Parish. It has always been one of my foremost goals to have a school that everyone can be proud of, including all of our Parish members. We could not function without each and every one of you, and I am confident that our school will continue to thrive well beyond my departure. Most importantly, thanks and gratitude must be extended to Monsignor Powell; his leadership and vision has charted a course that has enabled the success of this institution as a whole. I enjoyed our partnership, and I look forward to continuing our friendship well into the future.

Finally, I have been humbled beyond words by the expressions, kind words, gratitude, gifts and thanks that have been associated with my retirement. Everyone has been extremely generous to Sue and me; you have all gone way beyond our wildest dreams in my send-off. Thank you!

The surprise celebration at Rob Dob's with our staff was so very touching, and I appreciated the wonderful evening, comradery and fun. Thanks to all. Another huge thank you goes out to Erin Baker and the School Club for the fantastic retirement party held in June at Destihl. It was such a great turnout, and our evening with the Epiphany Community one final time was so special for me and my family. I am so excited about the custom club fitting, not that it's going to make me any better as a golfer, but at least I'll look good and in-style as I play the course sporting my new clubs!

While we do not know what tomorrow will bring, I will always look at my days at Epiphany Catholic School with thanks and so many fond memories. There is one thing I'm very sure of...not seeing these wonderful children, our staff, and our community on a daily basis will leave a huge void in my heart.

THANK YOU all so very much. May the Lord bless each of you, our Parish and Epiphany Catholic School. —Mike Lootens

# CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

## SACRAMENTS SCHEDULE

### Mass Schedule

Incense is used at 9:30am Sunday Mass. All Ministers have Gluten-free Hosts. 7:30 am Sunday Mass is Broadcast on Facebook at Epiphanyparish.com, with drive up Communion till 8:30am (Canopy). Covid-19 protocols remain in force at two Masses.

#### Sunday, August 1, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00pm Anthony Valone
  - 7:30am \* Kathy Albee
  - 9:30am Mildred and Norman Perl
  - 11:30am\* People of the Parish
- \*Masks and Social Distancing Required*

#### Monday, August 2, Weekday

Lector: Deacon Cleary and Karen Overby  
EME: Deb Willenborg  
7:00am Sally Leahy

#### Tuesday, August 3, Weekday

Lector: Kris Angles  
EME: Dorothy Meier  
7:00am Kenny Flener  
8:15am Ewa and Kevin Martin

#### Wednesday, August 4, Saint John Vianney

Lector: Chris Niebur  
EMEs: Lynda Arnold, Ed and Newze Nnakwe,  
7:00am Jerrett Fagan  
8:15am Eugene Michels

#### Thursday, August 5, Weekday

Lector: Jennifer Kamradt and Mike Lootens  
EME: Darly Menke  
7:00am David and Jane Hume  
8:15am John F Matuszek

#### Friday, August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord

Lector: Mathew and Katrina Kinate, Aidan McCoy  
EME: Aggie Hatch  
7:00am Margo Schmitt

#### Saturday, August 7, Votive Mass of the BVM

Lector: Steve Gruenwald  
EME: Barb Burdett, Mary C. and Keith Walljasper  
7:30am All Souls' Day Memorial Society

#### Sunday, August 8, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00pm Tom Van Deven
  - 7:30am \* Alfred and Patricia Kernes
  - 9:30am Tom Krause
  - 11:30am\* People of the Parish
- \*Masks and Social Distancing Required*

### Confession Times

7:30am M-F 7am,3pm SAT 7am,9am,11am SUN

# PARISH UPDATES

## CATCH UP HERE

### Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults (RCIA)

We will be starting our RCIA 2022 Class soon and would like to invite you to join us. RCIA provides a deeper look into the Catholic faith and focuses on what Catholics believe (and why) in an open and welcoming environment. These sessions are also opportunities for you to ask those perplexing and difficult questions you may have about the Church.

RCIA is a program for those who are searching and inquiring about the Catholic faith and way of life. It is typically offered for those who are not Catholic and wish to join the Church, or those that are Catholic but have not received the sacraments of First Communion and/or Confirmation, but it's also an excellent "refresher" for those who may have forgotten things or would just like a deeper understanding of our faith. All are welcome to attend.

We meet weekly starting in September through the end of April or early May. RCIA Sessions will be held on Thursday evenings starting at 7:00 pm in the new meeting room in the Rectory. At this time, we are not certain whether our meetings can be in person or virtual, but we'll know more toward the end of August. We're hoping for in person as the new meeting room in the Rectory is spacious and there is plenty of room for "social distance".

We will kick things off with a virtual introductory meeting using Zoom on Thursday, August 26 at 7:00 pm. We will cover administrative details, basic introductions, our calendar, necessary paperwork, questions & answers, etc. during this introductory meeting. We will need your email address in order to send out the invite for the Zoom meeting; please contact the Evangelization Team for more information or to let us know that you are planning to join us on this journey. Contact email: [evangelization@epiphanyparish.com](mailto:evangelization@epiphanyparish.com).

### Communion to the Homebound

Communion to the Homebound is an important ministry to meet the needs of those who are unable to attend Mass, and is most rewarding. If you are a Minister of Communion to the Homebound, or desire to take part in this ministry, please contact Deacon Mark Cleary to take part in a short meeting to go over logistics, scheduling, and protocol. Please contact him directly by email, [mcleary08@comcast.net](mailto:mcleary08@comcast.net) or call 309-531-1062.

### Epiphany Youth Ministry

**High School Youth Group** meets on Sunday evenings to grow in our faith and have fun together. This weekend we're joined

by Dr. Emma Bucher, Psy. D., who will speak to us on Catholic Mindfulness. Come check it out! Parish Hall, 6:30-8pm!

**Slip N Slide Kickball**—All 6th-12th graders are invited to play slip n slide kickball with us Saturday August 7th! Come out for fun games and a pizza picnic from 3-7pm behind Epiphany.

**CCD - Religious Education** Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is OPEN! Forms are available in the parish office or at <https://www.epiphanyparish.com/youth-ccd>

### Decorating Committee

Epiphany parish is seeking new parishioners who are interested in joining the Decorating Committee for our church. We are also looking for a member who would like to lead the committee. The committee would be responsible for decorating the church for Easter and Christmas, in addition to taking care of the plants on the altar. Please contact the Parish office.

### Our Lady of Good Health Mass

Holy Mass of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary/Feast of Our Lady of Good Health will take place on Saturday, September 11th at 10:00am at St. Patrick Church of Merna. Mass will be followed by Eucharistic Procession, Holy Rosary, and Blessing of the Sick. The program will conclude with a communal luncheon serving Indian food. Watch the bulletin, website and Facebook page for more updates. All are welcome!

### Carmelite Spirituality

Do you feel drawn to Carmelite spirituality and want to learn more about the Carmelite way? On Saturday, August 7th at 10AM-12PM the "Carmelite Spirituality Group" will meet at Historic St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Bloomington. These meetings are the beginning stages, as we move toward forming a Third Order Lay Carmelite community. Lay Carmelites are called to live a life in full allegiance to Jesus Christ with our role models Mary our Mother, sister and Patroness, and Elijah the



Cover Art: *Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, 1410, Rinaldo da Montecroce National Library, Paris.*

prophet of zeal. If you are 18 years or older, and a Catholic in good standing, you are invited to attend the meetings held every 1st Saturday, as you discern the Lay Carmelite vocation that may lead you to profession as a full member in the Carmelite family. For details, contact / RSVP Lorrie Schmidt T.O.C. (Third Order Carmelite) at: LittlewayofCarmel@gmail.com

### Knights of Columbus Sponsoring Fellowship Event

Epiphany Knights of Columbus are hosting a fellowship event on Saturday Aug 21 from 4:30 PM- 7 PM. This event will be held in the drive in front of the school During this event, the K of C will provide food, games and live music performed by Andy Bordewick. The menu includes hot dogs, bagged chips, packaged cookies and beverages as well. Parishioners will be asked to bring their own lawn chairs. There is no cost for the event but donations will be accepted to help cover costs.

### Epiphany Greeter Ministry

If you have attended mass recently at Epiphany, I hope you were welcomed into our church by someone with a warm welcome and smile. That is one of the many functions of the Greeter ministry at Epiphany Catholic Church. If you would like to become a member of the Greeter ministry, we have scheduled two training sessions where we can walk through the purpose and functions of being a Greeter at Epiphany Church. The sessions are: Tuesday, August 3rd at 7PM in the church, Monday, August 9th at 7PM in the church. I am thinking that the training should last about 30 minutes and we should be able to answer any questions that you might have. For additional information, please look at the Epiphany Church website and go to the Liturgy link under "Get Involved" or you could contact Dave Schmitt at dgschmi4@gmail.com.

## PARISH CONTACTS

### Parish Office

(309)452-2585  
Epiphanyparish.com

### School Office

(309)452-3268  
Epiphanyschools.org

### Parish Staff

Fr. Eric Powell (Pastor)  
pastor@epiphanyparish.com  
Three Zero Nine-660-7860

Fr. Peter O. Okola, AJ (Parochial Vicar)  
Fr.Peter@epiphanyparish.com  
Seven Zero Three-626-8819

Deacon Mark Cleary (Baptisms)  
mcleary08@comcast.net  
Three Zero Nine-531-1062

Cindy Myers (Pastoral Team)  
Pastoral.assistant@epiphanyparish.com

Kara Esker (Youth, CCD, Pastoral Team))  
kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com

Domine King, Joyce Tellman (Office Staff)  
office@epiphanyparish.com; Angie O'Connor (Parish/School Books) business.manager@epiphanyparish.com

Sean and Jennifer Stevens (Music)  
music@epiphanyparish.com

### Parish Outreach

If you find yourself in serious economic need, Epiphany Parish and St. Vincent de Paul want to help. Email Orlando Lopez our Outreach coordinator at outreach@epiphanyparish.com.

## OUR DEARLY DEPARTED GRANT ETERNAL REST, O LORD!



**Lois Haas, 1930-2021**, mother of Gregory, Daniel, Mark, Chris, Denise, Joan, Stephanie, Janet and Rita.

## SHARING IN THE MISSION THANK YOU!

### Gifts from Our Parish Family

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E-giving.....	\$7,119
Special.....	\$916
Parish Endowment.....	\$400
School Endowment.....	\$411
Capital Improvement.....	\$105
<b>Weekly Budget</b> .....	\$24,500
YTD Budget (4 weeks) .....	\$98,000
YTD Income.....	\$96,886
YTD Balance.....	(\$1,114)

of weariness, the feeling of strain put upon the soul from driving it, instead of abandoning it to God.

And how any one can persist in the search for God without the assistance of the Church and the advice of her confessors, with the experience of generations behind them, I do not know.

The thing you do not understand is the elemental fact that our beginning and our last end is God. Once that fact is accepted, half the struggle is won. If we wish to go on struggling, not to be content with the minimum of virtue, of duty done, of "just getting by," then we should account it a great honor that God has given us these desires, to serve Him and to use ourselves completely in His service.

You do not see this, you do not believe it. Every now and then, when you think of religion in your busy life, you end by turning from it with aversion.

You are very young, scarcely twenty-one, and you have not yet really felt the need, the yearning toward God. You have not been in such agony and misery that you turned to One whom you knew not and said: "God help me!" Or if you did, you were ashamed of doing it afterward, feeling it to be cowardice to turn in misery to a God in whom you did not believe.

I felt this despair when I lay in jail for fifteen days (after demonstrating for the rights of political prisoners), contemplating the fundamental misery of human existence, a misery which would remain even if social justice were achieved and a state of Utopia prevailed. For you cannot pace the floor of a barred cell, or lie on your back on a hard cot watching a gleam of sunlight travel slowly, oh, so slowly, across the room, without coming to the realization that until the heart and soul of man is changed, there is no hope of happiness for him.

On the other hand, you have not felt the ecstasy, the thankfulness, the joy, which caused the Psalmist to cry out, "My heart and my flesh rejoice for the living God." "My soul longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord."

St. John of the Cross, who lived at the same time as St. Teresa and was her good friend, tells about the different stages of prayer and how the first state is the purgative state. He explains how though we feel this joy and this longing of God, a joy which is so sweet that even the remembrance of it is a constant spur to us, still our own imperfections give us constant suffering and unease, and the struggle for the spiritual life is a wearisome one, and that we must not expect to find ease in prayer.

He makes us understand this distaste, this recoil from religion. This lethargy comes from a consciousness of the im-

manence of the struggle, the fact that it is unceasing and will go on to death, and we often think that sheer thoughtless paganism would be a relief.

You do not know how long I struggled. How I turned to God, and turned from Him, again and again; I, too, felt that distaste, I, too, felt that religion had a morbid quality.

It is the struggle of the flesh against the spirit. It is the struggle of the natural man against that in him that is Divine. (I am going to write you later about the flesh and the spirit, the sensual and the spiritual, for you have an entirely wrong idea as to what Karl Adam calls "the antitheses with which Christianity is concerned.")

I can understand what you mean by morbid, and can understand how no matter how often you are drawn you are also repelled. If you only knew, and could in intellectual humility submit yourself to the rule which makes all so plain and clear!

We have "a rule of life" which is easy to follow, provided we listen to the wise counsels of such people as St. Teresa, St. Francis de Sales, de Caussade, Father Considine. I mention these names because they are the first ones that come to mind who have been of help this past year.

St. Teresa understood that weariness of the soul; St. Francis tells us to be gentle with ourselves; de Caussade tells us to abandon ourselves to Divine Providence, and Father Considine tells us to have more faith in God as a kind Father who is so above our Earthly fathers that he will forgive us all our sins, even the greatest, who will not give us a stone when we ask for bread.

We are taught that our souls never exercise just as our body does, otherwise it will never be healthy and well, and if it is not in a healthy state, of course we feel morbid. And prayer is that exercise for the soul, just as bending and stretching is the exercise of the body. It is intellectual pride, the arrogance of youth which makes the physical act of prayer difficult.

You submit yourself to the dogma of Communism, you accept the authority of Karl Marx and Lenin, you accept the philosophy of Communism and know while you accept it that you are accepting a "hard saying," that in all likelihood you will be persecuted for this acceptance.

Perhaps the main trouble is that to you Christianity is too simple. To you Christianity is the accepted thing, so you rebel, and knowing that your rebellion deprives your soul of life, you turn on religion and call it morbid.





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