



### WELCOME TO VISITATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Love and Service to Others* 

779 S. York Street • Elmhurst, IL • 60126 • www.visitationparish.org

Daily Mass: Monday-Friday, 6:15 AM, 8:15 AM

Saturday Reconciliation: 3:00-3:45 PM

Regular Saturday Mass Hours: 8:15 AM, 4:00 PM (Vigil)

Regular Sunday Mass Hours: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 6:00 PM

**VISITATION PARISH MISSION STATEMENT** 

Visitation Parish, a Roman Catholic Community in the Diocese of Joliet-in -Illinois, seeks to draw all to Jesus Christ, revelation of the Father and font of the Holy Spirit, by celebrating the Sacraments, educating people of all ages in the Truths of the Catholic Faith, and reaching out to those who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually in need.

### PARISH AND PASTORAL STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: [MON-THUR] 8:30 AM-4:30 PM [FRI] 8:30 AM-12 Noon • Phone: 630-834-6700 Fax: 630-834-6711 • Email: welcome@visitationcc.org • Parish Website: www.visitationparish.org

Deanery Website: easterndupagedeanery.org

#### **VISITATION PASTORAL STAFF**

- Rev. Greg Skowron, Pastor, 815-791-6073 (cell) frgreg@visitationcc.org
- Rev. Tomy Chellakandathil, Parochial Vicar 630-834-6700 frtomy@visitationcc.org
- Dcn. Anthony Spatafore 630-204-2145 aspatafore1@comcast.net
- Dcn. James Eaker, 630-530-7596
- Dcn. Mike lozzo 630-567-4700 mike.iozzo@outlook.com
- Dcn. Michael O'Ryan [St. Peregrine Ministry] 630-530-2954
   visdeaconmikeo@gmail.com

### PARISH FAITH FORMATION/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

 Matthew Pozen, 630-279-7058, x502 matt.pozen@visitationcc.org

### **MUSIC**

 Barbara Masters, Parish Music Director 630-834-8190 barbara.masters@visitationcc.org

#### **OFFICE STAFF**

- Dan Sledz, Finance Director
   708-533-6471, dan.sledz@visitationcc.org
- Marek Latocha, Business Manager
   630-834-6700, x204, marek@visitationcc.org
- Anne Montgomery, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, 630-834-6700, x202
- Suzanne Noonan, Parish Secretary, 630-834-6700
- Teodora Kulikowska, Accounts Payable 630-834-6700, x206
- Susan Hemmersmeier, Communications Manager communications@visitationcc.org
- Cathy DeBernardis, Environment and Hospitality cathy.debernardis@visitationcc.org

VISITATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL Website: www.visitationelmhurst.org Phone: 630-834-4931/Fax: 630-834-4936

- Carrie Mijal, School Principal, cmijal@visitationelmhurst.org
- Katie McVey, School Assistant Principal kmcvey@visitationelmhurst.org



We'd love to have you join our flock!
To register with Visitation Parish, just go
to our website at
www.visitationparish.org
and click on the sheep.

### **ARMED FORCES PRAYER LIST**



We remember and pray for the protection of our military as they serve in our Armed Forces

U.S. Air Force

MSGT Kevin M. James (Andrews AFB, MD) SrA E4 Jacob Neimanas (Travis AFB, CA)

U.S. Army

PFC Michael Perrone (Germany)

MAJ Patrick Leen (IL.)

CPT Nicholas Keller (Ft. McCoy, WI)

1 LT Thomas J. Diwisch (Fort Bragg, NC)

SPC Stephen J. Taylor (Fort Riley, KS)

1 LT Francesca Cervone (Fairbanks, AK)

1 LT Nathanial A. Greenberg (Ft Leonard Wood, MO)

CPT Kathleen M. Donofrio (Fort Sheridan, IL)

U.S. Army National Guard

PVT Christopher J Slowinski (Ft. Leonard Wood, MO)

MAJ Joseph Doyle (ID)

CPL James Kotowski (Afghanistan)

U.S. Coast Guard

**CPO Patrick Kirby** (TX)

U.S. Marine Corps

**PVT Nicholas Acevedo (CA)** 

**CPT Kurt P. James** (Okinawa)

SGT David Byrne (MCAS Cherry Point, NC)

**PVT Dominic Tosto** (San Diego, CA)

PFC Skylar Stafford (Cherry Point, NC)

**United States Navy** 

LCDR Robert Aranha (United States)

## The Crypt of the Saints

Welcome to they Crypt of the Saints. A place to grow in your love of God, Mary and the Saints. A place to learn, reflect and pray in an environment of religious artifacts which inspire and console you. Individual holy cars for your personal prayer use or for those for whom you pray are available free of charge!

The Crypt of the Saints contains 1,000 statues, icons and relics of Jesus, Mary and the saints. It also has a library with over 800 religious books for research or reading while you are there.

It is located in the basement of the convent, under the Adoration Chapel and is open every Sunday from 6AM to 1 PM.



### PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please keep these parishioners in your prayers, and all the sick and their families:

Fr. Miroslaw Stepien, Christina Wallace, Kevin Larson, Lenore Heavrin, Judy Scafidi, Joyce Masters

If you or a member of your family is ill or hospitalized and would like to be placed on our Prayer List, please call the Rectory office and let us know. The sick will be listed here, and prayed for by name at Sunday Mass. Names of the sick will remain on the list for two weeks, unless notified.

### **FLAMES OF FAITH**

Candles will burn perpetually this week before the Blessed Sacrament in the *Adoration Chapel of Our Lady, Mother of the Eucharist*, for the following intentions:

- For the repose of the souls in Ukraine
- For peace
- For Matt Toole



### MASS INTENTIONS

### **MONDAY, APRIL 18**

#### 6:15 AM

- +Therese Marie Reardon
- +George August Durante

#### 8:15 AM

- +Claire Guistolise
- +Wladyslaw Sosna
- +Maria Sosna

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 19**

#### 6:15 AM

+Leo Carr

Intentions of Fr. Greg Skowron

8:15 AM

+Celestine Schuster

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20**

#### 6:15 AM

+Mary Theisen

#### 8:15 AM

- +Antoni and Valerie Ryba
- +Czestav and Ludwika Ryba
- +Deceased friends and members of the Ryba family

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 21**

#### 6:15 AM

+Michael King

#### 8:15 AM

Intentions of Tom Stuefen

### FRIDAY, APRIL 22

#### 6:15 AM

+Suqing Huang

### 8:15 AM

+Richard Kukla

### SATURDAY, APRIL 23

#### 8:15 AM

Intentions of Matthew John

#### 4:00 PM

- +Raymond Gaumond
- +Gregory Gaumond
- +Anito DiNello
- +Anna David

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 24**

### 7:30AM

+John Heiberger

#### 9:30AM

+Chester Bogdanowicz People of Visitation

### 11:30AM

Intentions of Leo Flynn

### 6:00PM

+George Pakos

#### **Mass Intentions**

One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul. To have a Mass said, please stop by the rectory or call 630-834-6700

## **Young Children at Mass**

There's nothing quite as joyful as the sound of a crying baby to break the sacred silence of the Mass.

You might think this is written this in jest, but there is profound truth in these words. As one saying goes, "If you don't hear crying, the Church is dying." Or, as Pope Francis once put it in a much more poignant way, "God's voice is in a child's tears."

Please be patient with our young families. They are the future of our church!

### Earn Money For Visitation School When You Shop!

- Visitation School has earned more than \$14,000 over the years by collecting Box Tops with the help of our parishioners.
- Box Tops labels are found on many food and home-essential products.
- Each Box Top is worth 10 cents for our school.

#### Did you know the Box Tops program has changed the way schools earn money?

A new label has replaced the older Box Tops clips label.

Now, instead of clipping Box Tops off of packages and bringing them to church, please follow these steps to earn money for our school whenever you purchase products with the new label:

- · First, download the free Box Tops for Education App to your smartphone.
- Next, choose Visitation Catholic School as your donation recipient.
- Then, every time you purchase products with the new Box Tops label use the App to scan your receipt. The \$ your Box Tops have earned for our school is instantly added to our Visitation School Box Tops account.

\*Receipts must be scanned within 14 days of purchase.

If you happen to find any of the older Box Tops clips, you may continue to put them in the Box Tops collection basket located at the back of the church as long as they are not expired. Scanning receipts is the only way we can earn money on the NEW label.

Thank you for supporting the Box Tops program over the years. We appreciate everyone's participation and hope you will enjoy the new, more convenient way to donate money to our school whenever you purchase products with Box Tops labels. You really are making a difference!





### PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

### Please pray for all of those who have died, especially

### Marlyn Covelli, Therese Tarantino

"Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them."

### OFFICE CLOSED

The rectory will be closed on Easter Monday, April 18. We will re-open on Tuesday, April 19 at 8:30 AM

### ST. PEREGRINE PRAYER GROUP

Please join us in the Church on Thursday, April 21st from 7PM to 7:30PM.

Deacon Mike O'Ryan, assisted by Tim Koch, will lead the group in praying for those suffering from cancer and other chronic illnesses.

All are welcome.





It was very early in the morning on Sunday. The tomb stone was rolled away. Jesus was gone. All that was left inside were the strips of linen cloth. When John and Peter saw it, they were amazed. They did not understand all the promises the prophets wrote about Jesus yet. However, they knew he was alive. He had risen from the dead!



God, I thank you for bringing Jesus back to life.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

MONDAY, APRIL 18 Living in the Divine Will Pinewood Derby Workshop CRHP	8:45 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	PC MP PC
TUESDAY, APRIL 19	7.00 1111	10
Adult Choir	7:00 PM	PC
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20		
Craft Ladies	9:00 AM	MP
Faith Study	9:30 AM	PC
Children's Choir	3:00 PM	C
Prayer Quilt Ministry	1:00 PM	MP
SPRED	5:30 PM	MP
Choir Rehearsal	8:00 PM	C
THURSDAY, APRIL 21		
8th Grade Retreat	8:00 AM	PC
Prayer for Priests	8:45 AM	C
ENDOW	9:00 AM	PC
St. Peregrine Prayer Group	7:00 PM	C
School Board Meeting	7:00 PM	PC
Renewed	7:00 PM	PC

### **CMAA**

Thank you to everyone who has already shown their devotion to the works of the Lord with a gift to the 2022 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Every gift, large or small, is appreciated! If we all contribute as generously as our circumstances allow, we can meet our parish's CMAA goal of \$136,300

### eGiving

Visitation offers online giving! Give once or on a recurring basis and choose the fund you prefer. Just go to our website at www.visitationparish.org and click on the blue GIVE tab.



#### 2022 CRAFT LADIES

The Craft Ladies are back! Each Wednesday, the ladies will be making items for the November 5th boutique. We will be meeting at 9 AM in the lower level of the Parish Center. New members are more than welcome! If you have any questions, please call Diane Kimec at 630-833-6696



# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 24

7:30 AM Mass, 9:30 AM Mass, 11:30 AM Mass

2:30 PM Confessions begin and run throughout 3:00 PM Divine Mercy Mass

6:00 PM Mass

# Diocese of oliet



Blanchette Catholic Center 16555 Weber Rd. Crest Hill, Illinois 60403 www.dioceseofjoliet.org

April 2022

Dear Friends,

On the weekend of April 23-24, our diocese will take up a second collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Home mission dioceses are those dioceses in the United States and its territories that need outside help to provide basic pastoral services, such as the Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters and laypeople. These dioceses often face fragile financial situations, vast distances or difficult terrain. Nearly 40% of the dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home missions.

We are one Catholic Church. What happens to one of us, affects us all. As Pope Francis notes in *Fratelli Tutti*, "we need to develop the awareness that nowadays we are either all saved together or no one is saved." (Paragraph 137).

Let us remember our brothers and sisters in Christ in home mission dioceses so they may share fully in our Catholic faith.

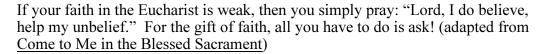
Paz y bien, Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks Bishop of Joliet

### THE ANSWER

HAPPY EASTER! The Lord is risen.

The Eucharist is the sacrament of hope, for Jesus assured us before He ascended into Heaven that He would come back to us: "I will not leave you orphaned: I will come back to you." The way He chose to come back and to dwell with us always is through the Holy Eucharist, the fulfillment of His promise: "Know that I am with you ALWAYS even to the end of the world."

The glorious Resurrection of Our Lord continues in the glory of the Blessed Sacrament BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE OUR RISEN SAVIOR DWELLS, pouring out His life, His light, and His love to all who come into His presence.





On that first Easter morning, when Mary Magdalene and others went to the tomb and found it empty, they were frightened and confused because: "They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they put Him."

Mary Magdalene's question is easily answered at Visitation. He is in our Adoration Chapel waiting for you. The following hours are most in need a partner:

Tuesday 11AM to Noon, Tuesday 8-9 PM Wednesday 2-3 PM Thursday 2-3 PM Friday 1-2 AM, Friday 8-9 PM Saturday 1-2 PM, Saturday 5-6 PM

Please contact the Adoration Committee by leaving us a message at <u>VisitationAdorationChapel@gmail.com</u> and volunteer to be a Registered Adorer. You can also contact Joan Taylor at 630-530-8963 or Owen & Gail Hilding at 630 573 0033 if that is more convenient.

# 2022 VISITATION ARTS ALIVE PRESENTS:



Thursday, April 28th - 7:00 pm Friday, April 29th - 7:00 pm Saturday, April 30th - 7:00 pm Valentino Center Gym 851 S. York Rd. Tickets - \$10.00 each at the door

Visitation Catholic Church April 17, 2022

# **Easter Flowers Donated By:**

Alicia Amacio

Mr & Mrs Patrick Brachmann

Dr & Mrs Brian Reardon

Mr & Mrs John Bolger

Mr & Mrs Joe Cicinelli

Mr & Mrs Santiago Rivera

Mr & Mrs Kevin Ahern

Mr & Mrs Pat D Alessandro

Mr & Mrs Richard Bronge

Mrs Rosemary Heiberger

Mr & Mrs Richard Walenda

Ms Geraldine Sczygiel

Mr & Mrs J Terrence Grisim

Mr & Mrs Edward Lavin

Dr Janet Lee Dews

Mr Jeff Bronge

Mr & Mrs Stephen Stefely

Mr & Mrs Phil Pekron

Mr & Mrs Henry Shurba

Mrs James Bauernfeind

Mr & Mrs Donald Leali

Mr & Mrs Timothy Mondi

Mr & Mrs William Pransky

Mr & Mrs Timothy Sarkisaw

Mr & Mrs Craig Ostling

Mr & Mrs John Sliwa

Mr & Mrs Brendan Hill

Mr & Mrs Thomas Hickey

Ms. Helma Lindblade

Ms Tagumpay Fabicon

Mr & Mrs Robert Meagher

Mr & Mrs Joseph Hajek

Mr & Mrs Robert Murphy

Mr & Mrs Greg Stallmann

Mr & Mrs Kevin Calkins

Mr & Mrs Carl Verdone

Mr & Mrs Michael Curtin

Mr & Mrs Steven Moreau

Mr & Mrs David Hoechbauer

Mr & Mrs Christopher Murphy

Mr & Mrs Anthony Melone

Mr & Mrs Michael Deardurff

Mr & Mrs Todd Jackson

Mr & Mrs Craig Heiss

Dr & Mrs John Stafford

Mr. & Mrs. Marion Synowiec

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Colandrea

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Osgood

Mr. & Mrs. Ismael Fabicon

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey David Esposito

Mr. & Mrs. Lester Dlugon

Mr. & Mrs. William Poole

Mr. & Mrs. Keith McGrath

Mr. & Mrs. Hannibal Ferrera

Mr. & Mrs. Boguslaw Lyczewski

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bauers

Mr. & Mrs. Graydon Megan

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Robbins

Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Cavallaro

Mrs. Lucille Dominiguez

Mrs. Julia Granato

Mrs. Noreene Damolaris

Mrs. Sarah Galvin

Mr. & Mrs. Vincenzo Liotta

Mr. & Mrs. William Higgins

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ruff, Jr.

Mrs. Nancy LaPaglia

Mrs. Agens Gaw

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kroll

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lucchese

Nadine Dillon

Michael & Christine Mazzulla

Sandra Feffer

Mr. & Mrs. William Burke

Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Arcaro

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Serio

Mrs. Norma Jean McEllin

Dr. & Mrs. Gerard Aranha

Mr. Richard Connelly

# Easter Flowers In Memory/Honor Of:

Mark Betterman

Cel Schuster

Kramer & Carnivele families

Carmen Romeo

Charles F. Lindblade

Blanche Reburn

Vernetta Wede

Arlene Fiala

Donald McEllin

Christopher Philip Kasky

Brother Dan

John Heiberger

Joseph Hornicak

Raun Ryan Castellano

Margot Bartler

Dennis Doyle

Reedy family

P DeBenedictis

F. DeBenedictis

Fred Gaetto

Adrian Dominican Sisters

Eraci Family

Mary O'Sullivan

T.O. O'Sullivan

Anthony & Thelma Arbino

Tony Arbino

Forrest & Dolores Pagel

John Finger

Marge Klenck

John Riegler

Blanche Reburn

Arlene Fiala

## **Easter Flowers In Memory/Honor Of:**

Sylvester & Dolores Adamski

Roy & Jennie Wasielewski Ann & Louis Pentis

Samantha Jourige Frances Padelik

Mr & Mrs R Mazzolini

Leo Mazzolini

Mr & Mrs Phil Mazzolini Mr & Mrs Jean Lech Mary Elizabeth Clink

Donald Nega

Bill and Jeanne Clink

Olaes Family

Abbot Kevin McGonigle

Stefano Favuzzi Irene Barbato

Deceased members of Pencyla & Udovich families Deceased members of Vanosky & Tremback families

Ehmann and Lowery Families

Jeffrey Marek

Deacon Dominic and Rose Cuzzone

Eugene and Bernice Marek

Mario Salazar Mariann T. Blass Elizabeth Presta Paul & Sherry Morris Judith Flynn Haggerty

John Foley Bob Hillary Barbara L Hilan

Deceased members of the Deckert, Halka, Eastham &

Storm families

Philip and Bernice Nalepa

Deceased members of the Cwiklik and Ryba families

Pearl Kotulski Alice Byrne Tim Dolan James W. Ryan Dr Sal Nigro

John & Nancy Kopriva Flynn & Carroll family Ostling & Deak families Judy Haggerty & Allen Ryan

Havanna Suarez Harold Ostung Dorothy Kulpaka

Unborn & aborted babies

Maureen Cox Maureen Ohler Havanna Suarez Harold Ostling Maria Rady Anthony Rady

Edward Sadowicz Lamberg Family

McGlynn & Novak Families

Maureen DeGeorge

John & Rosemary Gellinger

Ted & Elaine Krajewski John & John Jr Korpan

Robert Campagnolo Mae K.O.

Connie Hiello Rosa Sarno Michael Sarno Louisa Hiello

Alex & Albino Bender

Deceased Cronin & Ginie family

Clare & Jim Caulfield James F. Waldon Anna Liotta Luigino Bastone

Alfredo & Benita Sandoval Szuberla & Mech families

Vee Geeham Alice Geeham

Our daughter, Amanda Clery

Arthur Borsa

Ed & Loretta Machnikowski John & Edith Leonard

Deceased members of Cruz, Dela Cruz & Terrado families

Harry Doyle

Deacon Dominic Cuzzone

Rose Cuzzone Herb Klotter Antoinette Klotter Martin & Nancy Barr Brian Walden

Daniel J. Wasylean Ahern & Curtin Family Charles Lindblade Camille Melone Lucille Pagano

Allen & Pat Brinton's 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary

New Catechumen, Aditi Paul

Deceased members of the McGawley and Brinton families

James Cervone
Pat Calcagno
Julia Calcagno
Charles Lindblade
Mary & Daniel Laurino
The Jim Kinsella family

Susan Opesky
Jackie Opesky
Mary Pat Evans
Edward John Evans
Gloria Fay Kari
David A. Kari
Edward Louis Evans
Janan & Bud Kroeger
Shirley & Richard Borel

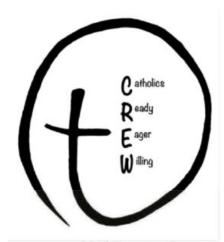
Betty Dunne

Sharon & Dean Johnson

Barbara Scarpelli & Michael Ray Tregler, Sr.

Jozef Kaleta Lucas Kaleta

Jean & Emil Gregory



# C.R.E.W.

Join the C.R.E.W.! Catholics, Ready, Eager, & Willing A mini- service camp for Visitation Parish students currently in 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade. C.R.E.W. is an <u>overnight</u> service experience for you to discover how much fun it is to help others while living out God's command to love one another. Wed. June 8 (5:30 p.m.) – Thurs. June 9 (9:00 p.m.)

\*\*\*All parents are required to volunteer for this event in order for your child to participate. You must have taken or take protecting God's children by May 15.

Applications and more info are available on the Visitation parish web site.

Applications are due at the rectory office no later than Fri. April 22.





# Thank you!

Box of Joy by the Numbers



God bless you for your generous participation in the Box of Joy 2021 season. Here is a breakdown of the accomplishments made possible by compassionate Catholic like you:

106,276 children received a Box of Joy Eight countries served: Columbia, El

Salvador, Haiti, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic

- 1,124 participating organizations, including 208 schools, 487 parishes and 429 groups!
- 48 participating states
- 172 participating dioceses across the U.S.
- 228 Drop-Off Centers
- 855 screening center volunteers

# **Visitation Parish Casserole Ministry**

The Visitation Casserole
Ministry will be distributing
tins on the second weekend
of each month and collecting
casseroles the fourth
weekend of each month.
Please note the schedule
below:



 Tin Distribution
 Casserole Collection

 April 9/10
 April 23/24

 May 7/8
 May 21/22

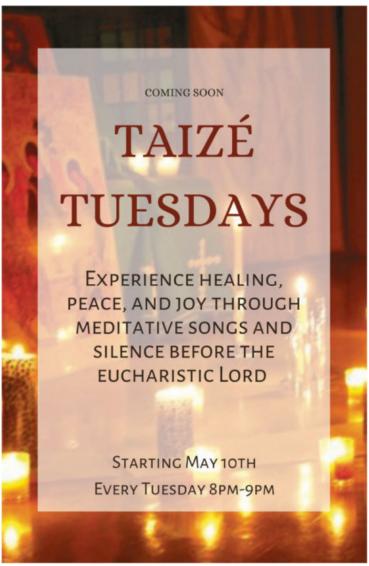
 June 11/12
 June 25/26

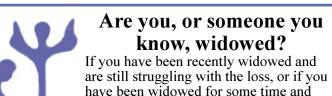
 July 9/10
 July 23/24

 August 13/14
 August 27/28









need something to get you "over the hump" because you seem stuck in one spot, this program is designed to help you move on with life while still treasuring your past and its precious memories.

This unique retreat/workshop will be held at **St. Julie's Parish**, **Tinley Park**, **Illinois**. The Joyful Again! program is for both men and women (all ages) who have been widowed and are still trying to find hope and new joy in life. -- All are welcome.

What: Retreat/workshop for Widowed Men & Women

When: June 25 & 26, 2022 (2-day program) Where: St. Julie's Parish, Tinley Park, Illinois

For further information, call: 708-354-7211. e-mail us at joyfulagain7211@gmail.com

website: www.joyfulagain.org

### The History of the Papacy --- Article 29

By Matt Pozen – Director of Faith Formation

Last week we looked at the iconoclast controversy of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, which began in the Byzantine east in 726 AD after the emperor in Constantinople issued a decree ordering the destruction of all icons and other artistic depictions of Christ and the saints. During the 50 years of this controversy, the church in the west, guided by the courageous teaching of the popes, put up a strong defense against the iconoclast heresy. Finally, in 787 AD Empress Irene, working with Pope Hadrian I, convoked the seventh ecumenical council in the Church's history, the Council of Nicea II, which reaffirmed the use of icons in Christian worship and devotion. This would be the last time that Constantinople and Rome would work closely together to bring unity to the one Church, for subsequent events would gradually lead these two centers of the Church further apart. (In a few more weeks we will discuss the schism of 1054 AD, in which the eastern and western halves of the one Church broke communion with each other, resulting in the Orthodox Churches of the east and the Roman Catholic Church in the west.) Nicea II would be the



last council recognized as truly "ecumenical" (universal) by the eastern orthodox churches, whereas the Roman Catholic Church, over the centuries up to the present, would go on to convoke another 14 councils that it would consider "ecumenical".

As relations with the Byzantine Empire soured, the papacy looked to the north more and more for the protection and stability it needed in the midst of the chaotic changes of the early Middle Ages. The king of the Franks, Clovis, had converted from paganism to Catholic Christianity around the year 500 AD, and he ordered his subjects to do the same. This did not exactly bring about true conversion to the faith, especially in rural areas, so in the 7<sup>th</sup> century it was Irish missionary monks who began to truly evangelize the Frankish (French) people. As the armies of Islam crossed from north Africa and conquered Spain in 711 AD, they even surged into France. Thankfully, at the battle of Tours in 732 AD, Charles Martel, leader of the Franks, was able to stop the Muslim advance near Paris and push them back into Spain.

Meanwhile in England, ever since Pope Gregory the Great (d. 604) had sent Benedictine missionaries to convert the Anglo-Saxons, the Church there had grown and thrived. By the early 700's the Church in England was sending its own missionaries back to continental Europe to evangelize the barbarian peoples of Friesland (Holland) and Saxony (northern Germany). In 719 AD, an English monk named Boniface traveled to Rome to get the pope's blessing for his mission to Germany. Pope Gregory II (d. 731) consecrated him as bishop and sent him with a letter of protection to Charles Martel of the Franks, that he might support Boniface on his mission. In 732 AD, Pope Gregory III (d. 741) conferred on Boniface the "pallium", which is the small woolen stole worn around the neck by archbishops (also known as metropolitans). This gives them the authority to found dioceses and appoint local bishops, thus enabling a more rapid and thorough building up of the Church in newly evangelized regions.

In 741 AD, Charles Martel died and his son, Pepin, became leader of the Franks. He immediately began working with St. Boniface on a series of synods to bring reform and better organization to the Church in his realm. The problem was that Pepin, like his father, was not of the royal line descended from Clovis, and therefore could not claim the title of king, even though he was the one exercising true leadership. So in 750, Pepin wrote to Pope Zachary with the following question: "Who is the true king, the one with the name or the one exercising true leadership in the realm?" The pope responded that it was not the name that made one king, but rather the exercise of leadership and power. Armed with this papal sanction, Pepin was elected by the Frankish nobility as true King of the Franks. He was then anointed and crowned aby none other than St. Boniface himself, thus conferring God's, and the Church's, blessing. This event marked the beginning of what became known as the Carolingian dynasty in France.

In 752 AD, the pesky and powerful Lombard tribes that controlled northern Italy began to move south into papal realms and threatened Rome itself. The new pope, Stephen II (752-757), decided to cash in on the favor that his predecessor had done for Pepin. He traveled north to the French court and begged Pepin and his armies to come to the aide of Rome. Pepin agreed, and after marching south and repelling the Lombards, he gifted to the papacy the whole region of central Italy, in perpetuity! This became known as "The Donation of Pepin", a key step in the establishment of the so-called "Papal States" that the popes would rule as kings for the next 1000 years. In return, Pope Stephen anointed and reaffirmed Pepin as King of the Franks, and even further, gave him the title "Patrician of the Romans". Thus the papacy turned away from its traditional ally in the east, the emperor in Constantinople, and threw in its lot with the rising kingdom of the Franks. This move greatly offended the Byzantines, who saw themselves as the true patrons of Rome. Next week we'll see how this tension increased when Pepin's son, Charlemagne, became king in 771 AD.

#### Readings for the week of April 17, 2022

**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b

-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12 or, Lk 24:13-35

**Monday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15

**Tuesday:** Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18 **Wednesday:** Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35 **Thursday:** Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48 Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14

**Saturday:** Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15

**Next Sunday:** Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn

20:19-31-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12 or, Lk

24.13-35

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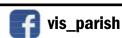
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