3rd Sunday of Easter

I am struck by how Jesus addresses the disciples in the 21st chapter of John. They have been fishing all night, and when the dawn comes, Jesus asks, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They hadn't caught a thing, so he tells them what to do to finally fill their nets. These children thought they knew best, but they couldn't get the job done until they listened to Jesus. Like a child who needs a parent, these early followers of Jesus were learning that real maturity of faith requires trusting in and listening to the Teacher.

The stewardship way of life demands of us a certain maturity of discipleship. Just as a child is not yet ready to be a parent, an immature disciple may not yet be ready to sacrifice regardless of the cost or understand the true value of his generosity. So every day, we are challenged and called to respond, sometimes even with little cost to ourselves. But each step, no matter how small, brings with it growth. We are growing not only in maturity, but in the ability to trust in God and how to listen for the call as well.

How mature are you in your faith? How much trust do you have in Jesus Christ? How often do you pause to listen to the instructions of your Teacher? The night is now over, and the dawn is upon you. Reflect on the visible fruit of your stewardship, and then listen for the words of Jesus.
Dear Friends in Christ,

“We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). “We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him” (Acts 5:32).

Our society extols individual rights, freedom, and power. Questioning authority is something all Americans can relate to. After all, our nation began in revolting against abuses of authority of the English king and parliament. However, human pride and selfishness can also lead us to reject even legitimate exercises of authority, especially when those would require some sacrifice on our part. In light of all this, the word and concept of obedience are unpopular.

We tend to feel that obedience involves submission to coercive force which requires us to act a certain way, whether we want to or not, or else we will be punished. Yet the word “obedience” comes from the Latin word which means “to listen.” A child trying to be good listens to his or her parents, trusts them, and wants to cooperate with their wishes even when the child does not fully understand why the parents are telling the child to do something. This is an apt illustration of the kind of obedience we all should have towards God. God loves us, sustains our life, is infinitely knowledgeable and wise, and so is worthy of our total attention, trust, love, and obedience. Yet God does not expect or want us to be like robots, obeying blindly, without thinking or feeling. God wants us to use our mind and ask good questions that help us better understand God’s will, so that we can do it with as much understanding and love as we can have under the circumstances. When we obey God we are given the Holy Spirit, God’s love in person, to live and love with God’s life and love. Only then can we hope to properly distinguish between demands of human authorities that we should obey and those we should not.

This weekend we kick off our 2019 Diocesan Appeal with a second collection at all Masses. If you were unable to pledge or donate this weekend, please use the envelope you received in the mail or one you can find in the vestibule of the church to make a pledge or donation. The envelope should show your parish, so that your parish can receive credit for your donation, as each parish is assigned a target by the diocese. Thank you for your generosity!

In Christ,
Fr. Dennis

Respect Life Corner
Word of Life

“Jesus, Lord of Life, transform the hearts of all elected leaders to recognize that infanticide is wrong and must not be tolerated. Open hearts and minds to recognize and defend the precious gift of every human life.”

Altar & Rosary Society

The Altar & Rosary Society meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the church hall at the Church of St. Mary in Elizabeth, but not in December, January or February.

Knights of Columbus

Fr. Ron Conro Knights of Columbus meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the church hall at the Church of St. Mary.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Bring the freshness of spring into your marriage! Detox from the daily grind of life. Spend a weekend away with your spouse talking about what really matters. Sign up for an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on June 28-30 in Rockford, IL; July 19-21 in Madison, WI or September 6-8 in Geneva, IL. For more information visit our website at: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888)574-5653.

Stewardship Report
April 27 & 28, 2019

Weekly Offering $895.00
Easter $250.00
Freeport Pregnancy Center Tithe April $179.00
Our Parish Community
There will be a second collection this weekend at both Masses for the Diocesan Appeal. If you forgot your envelope, please bring it next week.

There will be no religious education class this weekend. Have a great summer, but don’t forget that we do have Mass every weekend and it is your obligation to attend Mass even if you don’t have religious education class.

On May 11th and 12th your Knights of Columbus ask our mothers to register so that a rosary may be said in their honor by a Knight. You may sign up before or after the Masses on Saturday and Sunday. A momento will be given.

Help pregnant single mothers and make it easier for them to choose life! Leave new or slightly used items for babies and young children in this cradle. Cash donations accepted too. Place money in an envelope marked Knights of Columbus in the Sunday collection.

All are welcome to the annual Day of Reflection sponsored by the Holy Innocents Community of Secular Discalced Carmelites. “Carmelite Doctors of the Church” will be held Saturday, May 11th from 9am-2pm (Mass at 9am; breakfast and lunch provided). St. Rita Parish, Wahl Hall, 6254 Valley Knoll Dr. Rockford, IL. Basket Raffle, Retreat Fundraiser (with numerous baskets of treasures; tickets 6 for $5). Speakers are Father Brian Geary, Dr. Patricia Walters and Father John Gow. Free-will offerings and Reservations appreciated.

Liturgical Roles
Saturday, May 11 at 6:00 pm (SM)
Commentator........Tracy Heidenreich
Lector....................Tracy Heidenreich
EM.........................Larry B, Mary B & Mary Mi
Altar Servers..............Trent
Greeter.....................Floyd & Mary
Sunday, May 12 at 8:30 am (SM)
Commentator........Marilyn Gollmer
Lector....................Karla Grube
EM.........................Wendy, Steve & Deb R
Altar Servers...........Trevor & Parker
Greeter...................John & Edie D
Elizabeth Nursing Home–
EM.........................Nancy Walker

Readings for the Week
May 5, 2019
Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 5:11-14/Jn 21:19 or 21:14
Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59

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Phone (SM).................815-858-3422
Fax (SM)..................815-858-2622
E-mail (SM)..............smtp@rockforddiocese.org
Web......................www.stmaryelizabethil.org
www.facebook.com/stmaryelizabethil.org

Parish Office: St. John
Phone (SJ)..................815-591-2258
Fax (SJ)...................815-591-2259
E-mail (SJ).............st_john@frontier.com

Parish Staff : St. Mary
Rev. Dennis Morrissy........ (Pastor)
E-mail.....dorrissy@rockforddiocese.org
Direct voicemail.............(815)388-8844
Rev. Stanislaw Kos (In Residence)
Parish Secretary
Marilyn Gollmer............815-541-0354
Rel. Ed. Director & Bookkeeper
Norma Schwirtz, DRE,DYM(SM).............815-238-2317

Mass Schedule *
Weekday
Monday: No Mass
Tuesday: 5:00pm (SJ)
Wednesday: 8:30am (SM)
Thursday: 8:30am (SJ)
Friday: 8:30am (SM)
Weekend:
Saturday: 4:00pm (SJ) 6:00pm (SM)
Sunday: 8:30am (SM) 10:15am (SJ)

First Thursday: 8:30am-Mass, Holy Hour and Healing Service (SJ)
First Friday: 8:30am-Mass, Holy Hour & Healing Service (SM)
* Subject to change during holy days.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 9-10 am (SM), 3:35-5:45 pm (SJ) or call SM’s office for appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage
Engaged couples must call Fr. Morrissy to begin their preparation at least six months before their wedding date.

Sacrament of Baptism
Call Fr. Morrissy to begin preparation.

Sick or Hospitalized
Please notify Fr. Morrissy of family members who are ill or in the hospital.

Pregnant?
There are alternatives to abortion! If pregnant and in need of assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call If pregnant and in need of assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local The Elizabeth and Hanover areas are welcome to access the many Catholic videos and other materials available at www.formed.org. Simply go to the web site, click “Enter Code,” sign in using access code 94TGXM, put in the requested information to create a personal account, and from then on just “login” with your e-mail name and a password you created.

**All Parishioners and residents of the Elizabeth and Hanover areas are welcome to access the many Catholic videos and other materials available at www.formed.org. Simply go to the web site, click “Enter Code,” sign in using access code 94TGXM, put in the requested information to create a personal account, and from then on just “login” with your e-mail name and a password you created.

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