



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. - Mk 6:34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Our Lady of Peace Church Sunday, July 18, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN



My dear friends.

The Lord is my Shepherd

Our first reading for this Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jeremiah 23:1-6, comes from a difficult time in the history of Israel. The people have experienced defeat and deportation, and they long for redemption—and a word of hope from the prophet. The passage begins with a common theme, the failure of the leaders of Israel, leaders who were more concerned about their own wealth than the good of their people, leaders who made alliances with foreign powers, leaders who allowed the pure worship of the one true God to be mixed with the customs and religious beliefs of their neighbors. And so Jeremiah begins with a condemnation of the leaders, the shepherds of Israel. “Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: you have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds.”

And then, the message immediately shifts to a message of hope and anticipation. “I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the Lord.” The sense of this passage is similar to the Twenty-Third Psalm, which serves as the Responsorial Psalm following the reading: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.”

The words that Jeremiah delivers not only harken to the future. They are also a reminder of God’s original creative intention from all eternity. In the book of Genesis, after the creation of human beings, God says, “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it” (Gen 1:28). Thus Jeremiah enables the people to find comfort in that they will once again have a place where they can live in peace and fulfill God’s commands.

The early Christians would have seen the final part of the passage from Jeremiah as ultimately referring to Jesus Christ. “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; as king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give him: “The Lord, our justice.” As followers of this Lord of justice, Christians are challenged to continue the work Christ has begun, to bring justice to those who are deprived of it, to speak up for the voiceless, and to continue the re-creation of the world according to God’s plan.

In our gospel reading, Mark 6:30-34, the apostles have returned from their mission, and Jesus realizes that they need to have their spiritual batteries recharged. And so, he says to them, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” Nonetheless, the retreat didn’t last very long, because the people found out where they were staying and “hastened there on foot from all the towns.” Jesus shows himself to be the righteous and compassionate shepherd: “When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.” The challenge for us is not to allow our hearts to become hardened, not to be overwhelmed by the enormous number of people who are deprived of justice and do not have their dignity respected. Rather, let us show them that, because we are disciples of Jesus Christ, where to find the “verdant pastures” of justice and “restful waters” of peace that refresh the soul and give hope.

Mission Cooperative Collection at Our Lady of Peace

This year we have been assigned to the mission of the **Piarist Fathers in Central Africa**. In the Central African region, the Piarist Fathers, following the example of their founder, are responding to severe human and social crisis at all levels. In the English speaking part of Cameroon in particular, a civil war has been going on for four years. About 32,500 lives have been lost, 550 villages burned down, 3,000 people imprisoned and the worst of it is that about 1 million children have not been to school for four long years. The negative consequences of this war are enormous: malnutrition and hunger, fear and trauma, violence begetting violence, separated and displaced families with many orphans and widows. The only thing that is keeping the people alive is their faith. Despite all odds, the Church remains the only institution that is present to give hope to the people. It is therefore for the humanitarian, pastoral and educational needs of these people that we are making this mission appeal.

To assist with this mission appeal, please place your contribution in an envelope with your name and parish envelope number on it, and place it in the collection basket, or mail it in, any time during the month of July. Thank you for your generous support! Please make all **checks payable to Our Lady of Peace**.



Saturday, July 17-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Kenneth Reil*
by his wife & children

Sunday, July 18

8:00A *Joseph & Marie Bucci*
by Deacon Joe & family

10:00A *Henry Sikora*
by Jeannette & family

Saturday, July 24-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Agnes Dobosz*
by Sue Hastings

Sunday, July 25

8:00A *Marion Bak*
by Paul & Emily

10:00A *Deacon Albert Routhier*
by his family

DAILY MASS

Monday, July 19

8:00A *Frank & Bernice Perlowski*
by Michelle Turner

Tuesday, July 20

8:00A *Christopher Mascavage* 25th anniversary
by Mike & Sue Hastings

Wednesday, July 21

8:00A *Pat Caloon*
by their family

Thursday, July 22

8:00A *Helen Podlesny*
by Jane Sadowsky

Friday, July 23

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



KIDS NEED TO EAT DURING THE SUMMER!

Many of those who attend the Monday Community Meals come on foot so things that are small and easily carried are helpful. We can use **fruit bars, granola bars, fruit roll ups, boxes of raisins, juice boxes, boxes of gold fish crackers, pretzels, animal crackers and single-serving potato chips, peanut butter and crackers and cheese in small packages, peanuts in small bags, Rice-a-Roni & Knorr noodles, canned meals like Dinty Moore beef stew & Campbell's chunky soups, applesauce, and fresh fruit like bags of apples or oranges.** All easy to carry and healthy, too!



Big Brothers Big Sisters

BBBS of Franklin County is committed to serving children in need of positive role models by matching them with caring adults. Becoming a mentor is a rewarding and fun experience that benefits the lives of children in the local community.

We are always looking for volunteers eager to positively impact and child and improve their community at the same time. We have many children on our waiting list who are looking for a male-identifying adult volunteer. Contact Becky Hanna, program supervisor, at 413 475.2369 for more information and to discuss this possibility.

Our Lady's Window

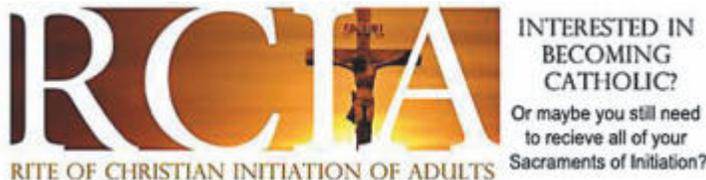
July 19 *Joseph & Guyla Rodovich*
by their family

July 20 *Christopher Mascavage*
by Mike & Sue

July 23 *Phyllis Choleva*
by her sister

REMEMBER A SPECIAL DAY!

Do you want to mark an anniversary, a graduation, a new job, a new baby, good health, thanks for a blessing, birthday or any life event with flowers by the cross or statues in the church? Call the rectory with your request.



Inquiry sessions will begin in early September. There is no pressure or commitment. If you wish more information, call Marguerite 863.2585 Ext. 103

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekend of July 11

Regular \$2,512.00
On-line \$734.00

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