

SAINT REMY CATHOLIC CHURCH

108 E. MAIN STREET, RUSSIA, OH 45363-9701

Phone: 937-526-3437 or 937-526-5326

E-mail: stremy@roadrunner.com • **Website:** www.stremychurch.com



OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday—9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Martin Fox.....Pastor (StRemyPastor@gmail.com)
Deacon Mike Meyer.....Deacon (mikem@bfvcatholic.org)
Mrs. Maria Hoehne.....Secretary (stremy@roadrunner.com)
Mrs. Carla Meyer.....Music Minister/Bulletin Editor (stremymusic@roadrunner.com)
Mrs. Karen Rosenbeck.....Coordinator of Religious Education (stremydr@roadrunner.com)
Mr. Mark TravisYouth Director (markedtravis@gmail.com)
Mrs. Gina Hoying.....Youth Director Assistant (mghoying@gmail.com)
Mr. Jack Swartz.....Maintenance Manager (theswartzs@roadrunner.com)

MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 P.M. • Sunday: 7:30 A.M., 9:00 A.M., & 11:00 A.M.

Weekdays, Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat.: 8:15 A.M., Wed.: 6:15 P.M.

First Fridays: 7:00 A.M.

Holy Days: vigil 5:30 P.M., 7:00 A.M., 11:45 A.M., & 7:00 P.M., except New Year's Day

JANUARY 30

New Parishioners: Please register at the rectory office as soon as possible.

Marriage: Diocesan guidelines require that you contact a priest at least 6 months in advance of the proposed ceremony. Pre-marriage instructions and NFP classes are required.

Baptism: Please make arrangements by calling the rectory office. A Pre-Baptismal Class is required and is offered four times per year. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics.

Confessions: Tuesdays: 9:00-9:15 A.M.

Wednesdays: 5:00-6:10 P.M.

Thursdays: 3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M. , 7:00 P.M.-8:20 P.M.

Saturdays: 9:00 A.M.-10:00 A.M., 3:30 P.M.-4:45 P.M.

Sundays: 10:30 A.M.- 10:50 A.M. ~ Check for any change in the schedule on page 1.

Anointing of the Sick: Call (937)526-3437 any time, day or night, in case of emergency.

Blessing for Expectant Mothers: First Sunday of the month after the 11:00 A.M. Mass.

Natural Family Planning Info: Kent and Heather Borchers, (937)451-8363.

Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration: Thursdays: 9:00 A.M.-8:30 P.M.,
with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 8:30 P.M.

Help for Unplanned Pregnancies: Connie McEldowney at Rustic Hope, Russia, (937) 526-4336; Elizabeth New Life Center, Sidney, (937)498-4425, www.elizabethnewlife.org.

BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, 12:00 P.M.

Pastoral Council:

Deanna Ball (937)570-5426
Angel Borchers (937)489-4655
Robin Caldwell (937)901-8337
Laura Counts (937)658-3687
Danielle Francis (937)418-9397
Levi Francis (937)248-9046
Nick Fullenkamp (937)369-1681
Joe Sapp (937)419-1407
Aaron Schmitmeyer (937)417-9411
Pat Sherman (937)638-9564
Mike Stueve (937)418-3324
Jeffie Voisard (937)621-4216

To reserve St. Remy Hall call:

Lynn Drees
(937)638-4259

SCHEDULES, EVENTS & DAILY READINGS

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 29—FEBRUARY 6

- 29 Sat:** 5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Robert, Medge, Danny, & Brian Richard Family
- 30 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Irvin & Lorena Grogean Family
11:00 a.m. Adrian, Bernice, Fred, & Ron Paulus, Mark McCalla, & Vic Siefring
- 31 Mon:** 8:15 a.m. Nick DeMange
- 01 Tues:** 8:15 a.m. Marion, Emily, & Philip Grillot
9:00 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)
- 02 Wed:** 5:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
6:15 p.m. Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus
- 03 Thurs:** 8:15 a.m. For Vocations
3:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
3:10 p.m. Children's Eucharistic Adoration
7:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
- 04 Fri:** **7:00 a.m. First Friday**—Living & Deceased Members of the Bob & Hilda Glynn Family
6:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
- 05 Sat:** 8:15 a.m. **First Saturday**—Evan Winner
9:00 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)
3:30 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
5:00 p.m. Francis Hoying
- 06 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
9:00 a.m. Frank & Anna Arling Family
10:30 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)
11:00 a.m. Conversion of Our Country

MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 5-6

SERVERS

- 5:00 p.m. Evan Smith & Gabriel Fullenkamp
7:30 a.m. Xavier & Samuel Phlipot
9:00 a.m. Felix Francis, Adam & Abe Hoehne, Ben Traxler, Zane Shappie, Jonah York
11:00 a.m. Levi Delaet & Mackenzie Rose

LECTORS

- 5:00 p.m. Lannette Neargarder
7:30 a.m. Marci Langenkamp
9:00 a.m. Pam DeLoye
11:00 a.m. Ann Delaet

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

- 5:00 p.m. Rose Pleiman
7:30 a.m. Tracy Schulze
9:00 a.m. Dan Poling
11:00 a.m. Josh Pleiman

USHERS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

- 5:00 p.m. John Grogean, Don Cordonnier, Doug Francis, Jeff Monnin
7:30 a.m. Roger Meyer, Max Bohman, Phil Stickel, Jake Borchers
9:00 a.m. Mark Harris, Joe Timmerman, Craig Borchers, Mark Hoying
11:00 a.m. Eric Voisard, Rodney Counts, Mike Stueve, Ken Elsas

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Scott & Rachel Phlipot, Jana Francis



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is held every Thursday, beginning at the conclusion of the 8:15 a.m. Mass, and ending with Benediction at 8:30 p.m.

WEEKLY RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Tuesday: 9:00—9:15 a.m.
Wednesday: 5:00—6:10 p.m.
Thursday: 3:00—4:00 p.m., 7:00—8:20 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00—10:00 a.m., 3:30—4:45 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30—10:50 a.m.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

- Knights of Columbus—3rd Monday of the month (February 21) at 8:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- Children's Adoration—every Thursday from 3:10-4:15.
- Pastoral Advisory Council—4th Tuesday of every other month (March 22) at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society—2nd Wednesday of the month (February 9) at 7:00 p.m. at the Russia Library.
- Catholic War Veterans—3rd Wednesday of the month (February 16) at 8:00 p.m. at the CWV Hall.
- Patriotic Rosary—will be prayed every Tuesday at 7:45 a.m., as well as on the 1st Friday of the month (February 4) following the 7:00 a.m. Mass.
- Blessing for Expectant Mothers—will take place in church following the 11:00 Mass on the first Sunday of the month.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

- This Sunday:** Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 Fourth Sunday
1 Cor 12:31—13:13 in Ordinary Time
Lk 4:21-30
- Monday:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 St. John Bosco
Mk 5:1-20
- Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3
Mk 5:21-43
- Wednesday:** Mal 3:1-4 The Presentation
Heb 2:14-18 of the Lord
Lk 2:22-40
- Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 St. Blaise,
Mk 6:7-13 St. Ansgar
- Friday:** Sir 47:2-11
Mk 6:14-29
- Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13 St. Agatha
Mk 6:30-34
- Next Sunday:** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 Fifth Sunday
1 Cor 15:1-11 in Ordinary Time
Lk 5:1-11

WHAT DOES FATHER FOX SAY?

Plans to strengthen the financial future of the parish. Last Tuesday, our Pastoral Advisory Council meeting went much longer than usual because we did a lot of business, which I will report on over several columns. First: the Pastoral Advisory Council approved a proposal made at a recent Finance Committee meeting to invest a portion of parish reserve funds in several “Catholic-values-compliant” mutual funds. Until fairly recently, the Archdiocese required that all parish reserves be kept either in a federally insured bank account, or else deposited with the archdiocese, where those funds are invested in various high-quality bonds. This longstanding policy aimed to protect you from a foolish pastor who might squander parish savings on unwise investments. The downside is that the archdiocese’s bond fund earns only 1.4%, and that is a very poor return.

More options than there used to be. A couple of months ago, I contacted Tom Twilling, the top finance person at the Archdiocese, to ask about alternatives. He told me the Archbishop had recently decided to allow parishes to invest a portion of their reserves in selected mutual funds. To explain, such funds usually invest in a mix of stocks and bonds, designed to produce far better returns, but this involves some greater risk. By risk, I don’t mean that the original investment would be lost, but that in any given year, the rate of return could be small, or even show a loss. Still, the funds he recommended all have done well, earning 10-12% a year over a ten-year track record. He recommended a fund operated by Fifth Third Bank called the “Catholic Value Fund.” As the name suggests, the managers of the fund avoid investing in any businesses that may be morally objectionable, such as abortion drugs or pornography. He told me that funds managed by Ave Maria Funds would also be acceptable. Right now, the parish has a little more than \$500,000 in reserve funds set aside for a rainy day. Although that is a big number, it represents about one year’s operating expenses. If, for example, we had to replace our church roof, we would easily spend most of this if we didn’t raise any additional funds.

Where are reserve funds are kept now. Some of our reserves are deposited in our U.S. Bank checking account. The majority of our reserves are deposited with the Archdiocese, invested in the bond fund I described above. Some people get nervous when funds are placed in the care of the archdiocese. However, as a matter of civil and church law, these funds are the property of St. Remy. We can claim them at any time, and there has never been a problem. Of the amount mentioned earlier, about \$60,000 belongs to our Cemetery Fund, which is supposed to provide reserves to safeguard the financial stability of the cemetery. However, for such a purpose, this is a totally inadequate amount of money. As a result, we rarely even tap this fund, paying cemetery expenses out of annual revenues instead.

Building a true endowment for the cemetery. Fifty thousand of the \$64,000 in the cemetery account will be invested in two Ave Maria funds. We will simply leave this money alone, for a long time, so it can grow. Like a retirement fund, if we let it grow, and add to it over time, in 30 years or so this cemetery fund will eventually become a kind of endowment. This would provide real security for the needs of the cemetery, generating a bit of income to offset cemetery maintenance, and taking pressure off the parish budget. Having a substantial cemetery fund gives the parish options when – many, many years from now – we have to obtain property for a new cemetery. The second recommendation was to invest \$50,000 of the parish’s unrestricted reserves in the Fifth-Third operated “Catholic Values Fund.” Again, the point is to strengthen the financial security and stability of the parish by enabling our reserves to grow at a better rate. At some point in the future, we may increase the funds we invest in this way, but we’re taking small steps in this direction, being very careful with your hard-earned dollars.

February 12 is when we’ll know more about Beacons of Light. That is when all the assignments of priests in the archdiocese will be announced. It appears likely to be a lot of moving around. Once we have this information, it will be possible to start some planning in advance of July 1, when St. Remy begins to be part of a new “family” of parishes. Meanwhile, the Archbishop has various people writing up specific guidance for pastors and parishes to take as we go forward. I call this the “roadmap,” and I think it will be very helpful to have. One issue that many people seem to have concern and anxiety about is how your weekly contributions are going to be spent. I anticipate all seven parishes’ Finance Committees will be meeting together, even before July 1, to review all financial information and to work out a tentative approach to those costs that will be shared by all seven parishes, including the priests’ pay and expenses. I believe if we have maximum transparency, this will allay a lot of concerns.

—Father Fox
 StRemyPastor@gmail.com
 (937)526-3437

LIVE YOUR FAITH



The family receiving the **TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE** this Sunday is Greg and Rose Pleiman. The family receiving it the week of February 6 is Scott and Rachel Phlipot. Please pick up the chalice from the table inside the rectory door after Mass on Sunday, and return it to the same place the following Friday.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING THE TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE AND RELATED MATERIALS INTO YOUR HOME? Please see the binder in the back of church to sign up. This is a great tool to encourage vocations in your home, as well as to pray for our priests and for more vocations.



THE CINCINNATI MEN'S CONFERENCE will be hosting two amazing speakers this year: Jim Caviezel ("Jesus" from The Passion of the Christ), and Raymond Arroyo (EWTN and FOX News). Don't miss the opportunity to hear them

share their messages of strength and encouragement on Saturday, April 2 at the Fifth Third Arena on the University of Cincinnati campus. UC head football coach Luke Fickell will also be speaking at this year's conference, which is themed "Evil Prevails When Good Men Do Nothing." To order tickets, visit www.CincinnatiMensConference.com, where you can also view the promo video. Get your family and friends together to take in this amazing event!

THE SHELBY COUNTY PRO-LIFE ORATORY CONTEST is an opportunity for young men and women to develop their skills in defending pro-life positions. This contest is for all high school juniors and seniors who reside in Shelby County or who attend a Shelby County high school. It will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney on Monday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m. Contestants are to give a pro-life speech, 5-7 minutes in length, on one of four topics: abortion, doctor prescribed suicide, infanticide, or the unethical practices of embryonic research. Prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100 will be awarded to the top three contestants. Those interested are asked to register by Friday, February 18 by calling (937)658-3535 or emailing director@shelbycountyRTL.org. Rules and resources can be found on the RTL website at <http://shelbycountyrtl.org/oratorycontest/oratorycontestmain.html>.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY



Universal Intention: We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women, thanking them for their mission and their courage. May they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.



Just a reminder that this Friday, February 4, is **FIRST FRIDAY**. For the benefit of all the students, Mass will be celebrated at **7:00 a.m.** To honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus, please make an effort to attend Mass on this day if your schedule permits.



EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, St. Remy's will be having a prayer vigil in Church. Please prayerfully consider participating in this prayer vigil as we implore God's mercy upon our families, our parish, our country, and the world. Feel free to come at any

point throughout the vigil as your schedule allows.

The schedule is as follows:

- 6:00 p.m. ~ Scriptural Rosary & Confessions
- 7:45 p.m. ~ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with communal prayer of the Nine Offices of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 12:00 a.m. ~ Office of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 7:45 a.m. ~ Benediction
- 8:15 a.m. ~ Holy Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (First Saturday)



CRAIG STAMMEN WILL BE SPEAKING TO THE LOCAL QUO VADIS GROUP this Sunday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the Maria Stein Spiritual Center. Craig grew up in North Star, played baseball at Versailles High School, and now plays Major League Baseball for the San Diego Padres. He enjoys sharing his Catholic Faith with young people. Anyone age 18-30 is welcome to come and hear his motivational message.



OUR STELLA MARIA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS GROUP IS COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE NEEDY. Cinch sacks were donated by RACK, and the girls will be filling them with travel size toothpaste, shampoo, bath soap, lotion, and shaving cream, as well

as disposable razors, small combs, Chapstick, granola bars, meal bars, peanut butter crackers, and small bags of mints. If you would like to help the girls with this project by donating any of these items, please place your donations in the bins in the back of church by Monday, February 14. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



In your charity, please pray for eternal peace and rest for **JANE (SIMON) MONNIN**, who grew up in our parish and was buried here this week. May she rest in peace.

LIVE YOUR FAITH

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



This week's featured sponsor is **BUCKEYE FORD LINCOLN.**

Located in Sidney, they provide friendly service, precise attention to detail, and a superb selection of vehicles. If you need a new Ford model, a used car, a replacement part, or a quick oil change, give them a call at (937)498-4014 to see what they have to offer!

We extend a sincere thank you to all of the businesses that advertise on the back cover of our bulletin. Their sponsorship covers the church's entire expenses in printing the bulletins each week.

Please call on these businesses when you are looking for products and services.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO GROW CLOSER TO CHRIST THROUGH HIS MOTHER? "Schoenstatt" is a Catholic movement that strives to help people to live the Gospel of Christ through the example and guidance of Mary. It has helped many people to grow to a deeper understanding of our beautiful Catholic Faith. There will be clas-

ses to introduce and inform people about Schoenstatt at 4 local parishes. They include:

St. Michael's Chapel, Fort Loramie

*10 consecutive Sundays beginning January 30 from 6:15-8:30 p.m.

*Contact Rose Meyer at rosem@nflregion.org or (937)295-2891

Immaculate Conception Church, Botkins

*10 consecutive Tuesdays beginning February 1 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

*Contact Tim or Darla Dietz at (937)693-2753

St. Denis Church, Versailles

*Sundays beginning January 30 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

*Contact Susan Kramer at (937)423-0259

St. Mary's Church, Greenville

*Thursdays beginning January 13 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

*Contact Ginny Metzcar at (937)417-1305

The cost is \$10 to cover a book. Join us on Facebook or visit www.mountschoenstatt.org and select "Schoenstatt" and then "200 Questions" for much more information about this international movement.



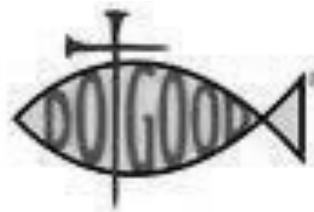
ARCHDIOCESE OF
CINCINNATI

It's time to kick off the annual **CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CMA)** in our archdiocese. This appeal funds 6 vital ministries, including Catholic Social Services, St. Rita School for the Deaf, retired priests, our seminary, evangelization, and campus, hospital, and prison ministries. To make your gift online, visit CatholicAOC.org/CMA, or text "DONATE" to (513)586-1978.



"**SURVIVING DIVORCE**" was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. The Petersburg Parishes are offering a 12-week video series on Tuesday evenings, February 1-April 19, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph Parish Life Center in Wapakoneta (attached to the church). Please call (419)738-2115 to register or receive more information. The cost is just \$25.

Please remember to pray for the people listed in the St. Remy Prayer Intentions Book located in the back of church.



DO GOOD RESTAURANT AND MINISTRY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AND PART-TIME HELP in the kitchen. If you are a teenager, retired person, or anyone in between who would like to further God's Kingdom through this

ministry, please email Karen Homan at karenhoman@dogoodrm.com or text her at (567)644-5255. Remember the Do Good's motto: "Brothers and sisters, while we are here, let us do good."

RUSSIA COMMUNITY NEWS



A CWV CHICKEN FRY will be held at their hall on Kelch Road on Friday, February 11, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and ending when sold out. All are welcome!



THE CLAIR C. NAVEAU GYM IS OPEN TO WALKERS Monday through Friday from 8:05 a.m.—10:40 a.m., as well as from 12:40 p.m.—1:25 p.m. on these days. Come in out of the chilly weather and stay fit!

CCD & YOUTH MINISTRY

Steubenville Update



The annual Steubenville Youth Conference for high school students will be held July 15-17. To reserve your spot for this popular event, please submit a \$50 check made out to St. Remy Church by January 31. **As of now, there are only 2 spots left!** Other spots may be added at a later date, depending on availability and interest. Checks may be turned in at the parish office during regular business hours or may be slid under the door to the office any time.

Stella Maria



High school girls will get together for their next Stella Maria event this Monday, January 31 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph Village Centre. The Stella Maria group is collecting items for the needy! Please see page 3 for a list of requested items if you'd like to help.

Brotherhood of Virtue



Brotherhood of Virtue for all high school gentlemen will be held on Monday, January 31 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at school.

Leadership Team



The High School Leadership Team's full group meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 2 from 8:00-9:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Village Centre.

Events for Girls



- ◆ Little Handmaids (grades 1-3) will meet on Monday, February 7 from 6:30-8:00 in the parish office basement.
- ◆ Daughters of the Immaculate Heart (grades 4-6) will meet on Monday, February 14 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.

Events for Boys



- Soldiers of Christ (grades 7-8) will meet this Sunday, January 30 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at school.
- Knights of St. Michael (grades 1-3) will meet on Monday, February 7 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at school.
- Knights of Our Lady (grades 4-6) will meet on Monday, February 14 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at school.

Come to "Rosary and Doughnuts" Before School



All high school students are invited to come to church to pray the Rosary together before school on Friday, February 11. Please meet in church at 7:15 a.m. Following the Rosary, we will head to the parish office basement for doughnuts and beverages. Don't miss this great way to start the day with your friends!

High school students, save the date for our Saturday Service Day on February 26, including 8:15 Mass, breakfast, and service at Rustic Hope.

Life Information For Everyone

Unusual Announcement During a Football Game

The following information was taken from an article written by Cerith Gardiner and was found at www.aleteia.org.



During a recent football game, it was announced by Tom Hart that Kansas State's wide receiver, Landry Weber, would be joining the priesthood as soon as his college career is finished. The news was shared in a tweet by Darren Rovell, who pointed out that he'd "never

heard that line watching a football game before." However, the news is not overly surprising when you learn a little more about Landry's sporting and family background.

The 23-year-old comes from a family of athletes. His father, Stan, played football at Kansas State, and his big brother, Stanton, played for the Wildcats. His sister McKenzi got a volleyball scholarship to Kansas State at the same time Landry received his.

As a result, the family members have been highly invested in each other's sports progress and have encouraged each other over the years. What is especially beautiful to see is the way the siblings, in particular, have nothing but praise for each other—on and off the field.

Stanton shared with Kansas State's "The Collegian" when talking about his brother Landry: "He's incredibly insightful, smart, hardworking, and he's always doing the right thing and caring for people, and he's just an incredible person." This was echoed by the team's head coach, Chris Klieman, who pointed out: "He does everything right off the field, in the community, in the classroom, and that rubs off on young players. Young players can see the hard work you put in." But perhaps it is this cute anecdote by Landry's sister, McKenzi, that gives us a little more insight into the future seminarian's character: "So me and Landry both got on scholarship on the same day. I called him because I'm freaking out, I'm excited, and I call him and he says, 'McKenzi, that's so cool! We have to go get ice cream.' And he celebrated me for like fifteen minutes. It was awesome." However, McKenzi was totally oblivious to the fact that her brother had also received his scholarship, and when she asked him why he hadn't told her, he simply said, "I didn't want to take away your glory."

Well, now Landry will be preparing himself to give glory to God as he follows a new path, one that isn't very common among young men these days. It's a decision that will no doubt continue to be encouraged and supported by his family, since, as Stanton shared a few months ago, perhaps unaware of his brother's future plans at that time: "We always say 'God's got a plan that's always better than ours,' so I'm very interested to see how the rest of it plays out for him."

The Value of One Soul



"That which our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did and suffered for all men, He did and suffered for each one in particular; and He would not have thought it too much to do if it had been a question of saving only a single soul.

The salvation of a soul is, then, the price of the blood of God, the price of the death of God, the price of the greatest sacrifice that God, clothed in our human nature, could possibly make! This is incomprehensible! It proves that the dignity of a soul is beyond understanding—for God to abase Himself, for God to annihilate Himself, for God to sacrifice Himself, only to save that soul and make it happy forever!

As for us, who believe humbly and firmly all that God has revealed to us, let us learn, by the contemplation of God upon a Cross, what is the value of our souls. Let us not lose our soul; let us not prostitute it to creatures; and to make sure of our eternal salvation, which cost so much to the Son of God, let us beg of Jesus Christ Himself to take charge of it, to lead us in the right way and guide us always.

Such an inestimable treasure runs too great a risk in our own hands. Let us trust it to God and our Savior. Let us make Him the Master of our liberty, which we may so easily abuse, and the abuse of which may bring about such terrible consequences.

Once abandoned to the safe and infallible guidance of His grace, we have no more to fear. He loves us too much, He takes too much interest in our salvation, ever to lose the price of His blood and His sufferings."

~Father Jean Nicholas Grou

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