

Closed for six months, Beijing's cathedral reopens with 101 baptisms

By Agnes Pinard Legry

After six months of closure due to - at least officially - governmental measures to combat Covid -19, the Beijing cathedral reopened on July 16. It was a day of celebration in more ways than one: 101 people were baptized.

Harshly repressed by the government, Catholics in China have been given a beautiful sign of hope. The Beijing ca-



thedral reopened on July 16 after six months of closure, officially because of government measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The reopening of this place of worship was the occasion for a beautiful celebration: 101 people, mainly adults, were baptized, <u>Fides reports</u>.

Joy of the Community

"Emotion and joy were evident on their faces and those of the community, but also on those of the catechists, priests, nuns and lay volunteers who accompanied them on their journey of faith during the pandemic, overcoming a thousand difficulties," reports Fides. Archbishop Joseph Li Shan of Beijing told them: "Baptism is not just a ritual, but an inner conversion. Now, pursue a life of authentic faith, clothe yourself with a new spirit and a new identity, that of a Christian...you must be the light of the world and the salt of the earth, embodying Christ and witnessing to our Lord through love and works."

If this reopening is good news for the Church in China, it does not erase the numerous persecutions, vexations and bullying of which Christians are victims on a daily basis. Bishops and priests imprisoned in secret places without trial, others are forced to pray for the "martyrs" of the Chinese army, rewards continue to be offered by the government for those who denounce religious activities.

The faithful gathered outside the cathedral before dawn. They waited outside for hours – the baptisms were held at five o'clock in the evening – joyfully anticipating the opportunity to resume worship.

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PASTOR Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

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CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM Fr. Victor Bartolotta

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Confessions will be held Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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GROW AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

A friend of mine once convinced me to indulge in dessert by saying, "Strawberries are good for the body, and chocolate is good for the soul." Easily persuaded, I enjoyed more than my fair share.

Though chocolate may seem heavenly,



there's no better prescription for our souls than an active, engaged faith life. Picking up good holy habits will keep us spiritually healthy.

Here are four tips to help you grow in faith:

Read God's word

Consistently reading Scripture and other spiritual writings deepens our understanding of our faith. We can keep our favorite saint's writing near our beds to read a few pages before we fall asleep or when we awake. Or we can dedicate time each day to reading the Bible, whether following the daily Mass readings or using the Bible in a Year podcast, for example.

Befriend the Lord

Just as we regularly call or text our friends and loved ones, so, too, do we need to engage in real conversation with God. He unceasingly invites us to his heart, and we should accept it daily. A conversation with God could mean praying a decade of the rosary or just speaking our thoughts and feelings. God wants to hear from us. We need to talk – and listen.

Engage in Service

Whether it's volunteering at our local soup kitchen, reading at Mass or raking the leaves from our elderly neighbor's lawn, when we give our time to others, we are doing what Christ called us to do: acts of charity. The Apostle James wrote, "Faith, if it has no works, is dead." (Js 2:17) When we serve others, we live out our faith and serve Christ: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

Reflect on Your Life

Reflecting helps us learn from our mistakes, improve our character and notice God's blessings in our daily lives. We can pray with St. Ignatius of Loyola's Daily Examen, which prompts us to become aware of God's presence, grateful for his grace and hopeful for tomorrow. We should also periodically make the Sacrament of Reconciliation and examine our conscience prior to confession. Through God's holy absolution, we leave the confessional feeling pure and whole again.

Building up holy habits takes time and self-discipline. But this process helps us put our full trust in the Lord and to love him unconditionally, just as he loves us. And that's worth all the effort.

Veronica Szczygiel, Ph.D., is the assistant director of online learning at Fordham University's Graduate School of Education

Thoughts Worth Sharing



July 31, 2022

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23 | Col 3:1-5, 9-11 | Lk 12:13-21

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Is it me, or does every popular waiting-room magazine feature an article on "how to declutter" in six easy steps? I always read those first, then add them to the unsightly pile of magazines on the end table. The constant, if futile, quest to declutter comes from a deeper place than a desire for a clean house. It feels so liberating to let go of those things that we no longer need. Today's readings challenge us to look not just outward, but inward, at what distracts us from what really matters. Paul exhorts us to "seek what is above," letting go of earthly concerns or habits that get in the way of our relationship with God. By putting on a "new self" through prayer, the sacrament of reconciliation and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, we will become "rich in what matters to God."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Personal-finance writers often divide people into two camps: Savers or spenders. I'm definitely a saver! I dutifully contribute to my 401K, stash unexpected windfalls into my savings account, and carefully budget. On the rare occasions when I go out to dinner, I struggle with choosing what to order: It's a high-stakes decision! Fiscal responsibility is a good thing, but today's parable challenges me to be just as diligent about investing in my relationship with God, my family, and the people I encounter. We are blessed with so many opportunities to "seek what is above": It may mean spending the first 30 minutes of the day in prayer, reading books or articles that help us grow spiritually, or joining a parish Bible study. Or even taking a friend to dinner and picking up the tab! In doing so, we are investing in this life – and the next.

ACTION Take a look around your house and donate items in good condition to a charity in your community. And then ask the organization if they need any help with a summer yard cleanup or simple tasks around the facility – these are easy ways to involve the whole family in serving others.

This Week in Worship



Are You Hoping to **Receive One of the Seven Sacraments** With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4 Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 30, Memorial of Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 4:00 p.m. Dorothy Young (Dec)

Sunday, July 31, The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. Bernie Repeta (Dec) 9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners 11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (Dec)

Monday, August 1, Memorial of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 8:00 a.m. Carole & Walter Huff (Liv) 63rd Wedding Anniversary

Tuesday, August 2, Memorial of Saint Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop Ernest Gariepy (Dec) 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 3, Weekday in Ordinary Time Mass for Vocations 8:00 a.m. Linda Mays (Dec)

Thursday, August 4, Memorial of Saint John Vianney, Priest 8:00 a.m. Joseph J. Ciminera (Dec)

Friday, August 5, Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome 8:00 a.m. Ann Deakins (Dec)

Saturday, August 6, Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord 8:00 a.m. Patricia Lewis (Dec) 4:00 p.m. Jim Lawler & Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, August 7, The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. Fausto Reyes (Dec) 9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners 11:30 a.m. Rosemary Smith (Dec)

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

- 07/31 Rev. Timothy Williford
- 08/01 Rev. Joseph Pellegrino
- 08/02 Rev. Leonard Piotrowski
- 08/03 For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life
- 08/04 Rev. Jose Colina
- 08/05 Rev. Curtis V. Carro

08/06 • Rev. Kazimierz Domek

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Pray for Someone New Everyday

Special Donations

Flowers are donated in honor and in loving memory of our loved ones. For more information, please contact our parish office.



Our flowers for the altar this week are given in honor of Carole and Walter Huff's 62nd wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

The week of July 17, flowers were donated in loving memory of what would have been Vince Heffern's 88th birthday.





Faith Formation Classes

Registration has begun for our fall Faith Formation classes. Please look for the registration form in the bulletin. Please complete and return it to the parish office no later than August 31 to register.

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St. Anthony's Prayer for Peace of Mind

O holy Saint Anthony, your deep faith in Jesus Christ comforted your heart, especially during times of trial and distress. Help me grow in faith, so I may experience peace of mind and heart in my present needs (Here mention). Free me from undue anxiety, needless worry, and burdensome fears. Grant me sure confidence, unfailing trust in God's loving mercy and daily serenity. ~ Amen



Our Goal \$74,741



Thank you for your prayerful giving!



Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving

The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on Sunday, August 21st at 3:00pm. This event honors couples throughout the diocese who celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2021 or 2022, as well as those celebrating 50 or more years of marriage.

Please RSVP to the parish office by Monday August 8th.

PAGE 5

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

What We Store in the Barn

I once knew a godly woman who had truly tasted the bitterness of this earthly life. This woman knew pain. She knew sacrifice. She knew hard labor and loss, including the death of a cherished child. She worked each day at a low-paying job, waiting patiently for her 65th birthday, when she could retire and devote herself full-time to her grandchildren. She crossed off the dwindling days on her calendar like a first grader waiting for Christmas.

Ninety-eight days before she was set to retire, she died suddenly. Her name was erased from the schedule at work and penciled over with that of her replacement hire.

All things are vanity.

I think we all know someone like this, don't we? If the details aren't exactly the same, the outline of the story is: someone labors "with wisdom and knowledge and skill," in the words of Ecclesiastes. And what profit comes to him? Sorrow and grief all his days. The proverbial barn filled with harvest and left to rot.

But I'll let you in on a secret: this isn't a sad story. I've only told you part of it.

This woman heard, daily, the voice of God, and against it she never hardened her heart, whatever news it brought her. This woman loved as hard as she worked. Every action was a form of evangelization. To talk to her was to feel the embrace of Christ.

As much as she waited for that retirement that never came, it was never the harvest in her barn.

This is what it means to be a true steward: to seek what is above.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



St. Alphonsus Liguori August 1

Saint Alphonsus was born in 1696, in Marianella, in the Kingdom of Naples. He received an exceptional education through private tutors and was conferred degrees in civil and canon law at 16. He practiced law for 8 years before he turned to the Church. He was ordained a priest in 1726.

Saint Alphonsus was a brilliant preacher, he was able to connect with ordinary people and his teaching and sermons were marked by his compassion. In a time of restrictive Church rule, where fear of God was truly fear, Saint Alphonsus taught about God's redeeming love. He also had a special devotion to Mary, praying to her for intercession and including devotions to her in his teaching. He wrote extensively, more than 100 books which have been through thousands of editions. His books are still available today and have been translated into more than 60 languages.

In 1762 Saint Alphonsus was made a bishop by Pope Clement XIII, however, he was eventually allowed to resign his post because of his ill health. He was paralyzed for a time from rheumatic fever in 1775, and had rheumatism so severe it was deforming, bending his head so far forward that his chin rested on his chest.

He died peacefully at the age of 90 in 1787. He was canonized in 1839 by Pope Gregory XVI, and in 1871 he was named a doctor of the church by Pope Pius IX. In 1950 he was declared patron of moral theologians by Pope Pius XII.

Please Pray for Our Sick and Homebound

Arnold, Barbara Bestow, Shawn Brown, Bob & Beverly Brown, Buck Brown III, George Brown, Shaquita Cary, Joan Chavez, John Christ, Kathryn Comeau, Teresa Daniels, Joshua Deacon Lionel Roberts Detore, Alice Devyn & Donna DeZarn, Vickie Doiron, Gary Doyle, Maureen Feltes, Chuck & Lauren Ferrara, Antoinette Fitzgerald, Dan Forbes, Monica & Tom Fr. Jim Klima Garcia, Jose M. Genereux, Carol Gregg, Joan Griffin, Lynda Butler Grimberg, Carol Hawkins, Ashlyn Hawkins, Barbara

Helbig, Len Hoffmsn, Bette Holley, Gerry Huff, Walt & Carole Irvin, John and Marsha Lanigan, John Lashley, Diana Lawler, Matthew LeVan, George Lewis, Cynthia Light Dolan, Kristen Lynd, John Maharne, Cecile Maitland, Steve Manning, James McAfee, Riley Membreno, Mary & Gus Mesick, Phil & Nancy Meyer, Patricia Murdock, Cheryl Murdock, Evan Nicholson, Maria Noguez, Armida O'Farrell, Louise Oliphant, Brian Parmigiani, George Parmigiani, Valerie Phillips, James Preeper, Helen

Privitera, Sandy Privitera, Peter Quinn, Timothy Roberts, Deacon Lionel Romani, Angelo Shelby, Ron & Montez Smith, Anita Stankiewicz, Cy Storey, Barbara Thompson, Susan E. Thuline, James Vishnisky, Wayne Walsh, Thomas Youngman, Kyle Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



PAGE 7

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