

(Cont. from page 1) ordained – and his trials and tribulations had just begun. Often times when we really set our mind on following the Lord there is a temptation to think that everything should go smoothly now, after all I am serving the Lord. But our Lord never promised an easy path for His followers, and the lives of the saints bears that out.

Fr Vianney spend a couple of years as an associate and was then assigned as pastor of a small, rural, even backwater town called Ars. As it turns out, he would never leave it and the great Fr Vianney would become known forever as: The Curé of Ars (Curé is pronounced: cure-a and is French for pastor). There is a good story pertaining to his move to Ars. It was very foggy out and Vianney got lost (again!). He came across some boys shepherding sheep and they pointed out to him the way to Ars. He said in reply: you have shown me the way to Ars, I will show you the way to Heaven. He would prove true to his word.

Now remember that this was only shortly after the French revolution, which decimated the faith in France. When the bishop sent Fr Vianney to Ars he said to him: there is not much faith in Ars, you will have to bring it to them. When he arrived at Ars, then, a whole new batch of trouble waited for him and this good and holy priest, committed to the Lord, wasted no time. He went before our Lord and begged Him for the conversion of his parish. But he didn't stop there. He offered himself as a constant sacrifice for that intention. One of the things St John Vianney is well known for is his great fasting. He would sometimes go days without eating and when he did eat, it was usually just a boiled potato or two. He was attacked outright by the devil. At first he didn't know what the noises were that he heard so he asked the young blacksmith, a big strong, young fella to come and spend the night – thinking it was just some hooligans up to no good. Ah, yes, the young man answered, and I will bring my shotgun too. That night they heard a terrible beating on the door, noises like hooves outside, and the whole rectory was shaken. His poor would-be protector informed Fr Vianney that he would not be spending any more nights at the rectory. Vianney would later say that the poor chap was so scared that he plumb forgot that he even had his shotgun! These vexations would continue for years. He would sometimes hear Satan himself say: I will get you Vianney, I will get you. It shows what a threat a *good* priest is to the kingdom of Satan.

Fr Vianney was initially despised by most of the people of Ars. He is too demanding, they would say, he expects us to be saints. But he persevered – in spite of doubts, attacks by Satan and his own congregation, he persevered. He was a strong preacher and teacher of the faith. He was quite unrelenting in denouncing the immorality of his day. The Lord also gave the great Fr Vianney some special gifts to aid him. One is what's called the gift of reading souls. If someone came to confession and forgot something or left something out, Vianney would know – he knew people's sins even if they didn't tell him. Word of him spread and people came from all over France to go to Confession to this simple, humble, country priest. So many came that an extra train and stagecoach lines were put in to accommodate the crowds. The parishioners took up the task of maintaining lines in the church for those wanting to go to confession to him. Vianney would spend up to 16 hours in the confessional every day. By the end of his life, 1000's were flocking to his confessional. It shows the power of the sacrament. One fella was rather obstinate about going but finally gave in at the insistence of his wife. He went in, still somewhat on the grumpy side, and said: It's been a long time since my last confession. Vianney: how long? Thirty years. Add a little was Vianney's reply. The guy said 35; a little more Vianney said. The guy said 40 and Vianney replied: 44! The man had a pencil with him and did some quick arithmetic on the wall and realized the priest was right. It literally scared the hell out of him! He made a good confession and became a model Catholic. Miracles also occurred at his church. Someone would come to Ars lame or ill or injured and Fr Vianney would tell them to take it to St Philomena, to whom he had a special devotion. Many crutches, canes, and so on were left at the altar to St Philomena; Vianney paid the price. By the end of his life, the charity of the people of Ars had grown so much that visitors commented on it. This is the life of a good priest, who remained humble, convinced of his own misery, to the end. It shows us the importance of the fidelity and holiness of the priest. May God make me such a priest. Please pray for such priests. Today St John Vianney's incorrupt body lies in glass coffin in his old parish church of Ars.

God bless you. Fr Kuhn

Catholic Tri-Parish Community

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The parade of saints continues through August and I cannot pass up writing a little about the saint whose memorial was this past Tuesday, August 4th – St John Vianney, the patron of parish priests. As far as anyone seems to know, St John Vianney is the only *parish* priest to ever be canonized; there are, of course, many other priests that have been canonized – priests of religious orders, or specialized ministry, or bishops and popes. But

Jean Baptiste Marie Vianney appears to be the only parish priest ever canonized.

John Vianney was born in southern France in 1786, which means he grew up during the French Revolution (~ 1789-1799). The French revolution was very anti-Catholic, anti-religion really, and especially anti-clerical. He grew up, then, in the midst of a severe persecution of the Church. Mass was celebrated only in secret, generally at someone's home. The Vianney household was one such place where Mass would be celebrated in shrouded secrecy. It was a real danger to host Mass as the Vianney family did. This past week the Church also celebrated the memorial of several martyrs from the early Church. As hostility towards religion, and Catholicism in particular, continues to escalate in our own country, we will need to pay more and more attention to how the saints have dealt with this in the past.

Even as a boy, the young Vianney was drawn to the Catholic faith; he had a special proclivity for religious articles, prayer, the saints, learning the faith, and so on. He had a clear call to the priesthood even early in life but his father wanted young John to stay on the family farm and work with him. Fr Vianney was thus well into his 20's before he finally began to pursue seminary studies, which resulted in a number of difficulties. For one thing, as an older seminarian he was ridiculed by the other seminarians who were mere boys; but he bore it with great patience. The biggest difficulty he had was with his school work, academics. John had never had much education prior to seminary so, while he was far from stupid, he had a hard time with his academic work, having started so late in his studies. His main struggle was with Latin and all classes were taught in Latin at that time. He flunked his exams more than once. It turns out, though, that these academic studies led to a somewhat indirect tie of the great Vianney to the U.S. There was one seminarian, Matthias Loras, who was determined to help John with his studies. Young Matthias got so frustrated once, though, that he "boxed the ears" of the future saint. He was immediately sorry for it and begged Vianney for his forgiveness. This seminarian was eventually sent to the U.S. as the bishop of Dubuque, IA.

One other great obstacle to his seminary studies is that he got drafted into the military during Napoleon's reign! Not only that but he got so badly lost once when he was sent on some mission, that he simply could not find his way out or back. He ended up spending an entire winter with a very kind Catholic family but now he was a deserter! The situation was resolved when one of John's brothers volunteered to join the military in place of John, and the good Vianney was allowed to return to his seminary studies. At one point, though, his difficulties had become so great that he was about to give up. It was ultimately the efforts of his own parish priest, Fr Balley who both tutored and him and testified on his behalf, that got Vianney through seminary and ordained.

It's worthwhile to pause and consider all that he went through just to get

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19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ AUGUST 9, 2020

Liturgy Schedule			Location	Mass Intention
Mon., Aug. 10	10:30 AM	Funeral Mass/Dale Lynn	Elkton	
Tues., Aug. 11	7:30 AM	Mass	Flandreau	† Carol Parsley
Wed., Aug. 12	9:00 AM	Mass/Exposition/Adoration	Elkton	† Emmett Coughlin
Thur., Aug. 13	9:00 AM	Mass/Exposition/Adoration	Colman	All Parishioners
Fri., Aug. 14	9:00 AM	Mass/Exposition/Adoration	Flandreau	† John Evans
Sat., Aug. 15	5:00 PM	Mass	Elkton	All Parishioners
Sun., Aug. 16	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Mass Mass	Colman Flandreau	† Gary Hemmer † Jailyn Cartwright
CONFESSIONS - Elkton & Colman 1/2 hour prior to weekend Mass - Flandreau after weekend Mass				

MINISTERS OF SERVICE		Daily Mass Readings
ELKTON ~ SATURDAY, AUG. 15		Aug 10: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-9; John 12:24-26
Lect./Comm.: Mary Remund, Bill Fargen		Aug 11: Ezekiel 2:8-3:4; Ps 119:14,24,72,103,111,131; Matthew 18:1-5,10-14
COLMAN ~ SUNDAY, AUG. 16		Aug 12: Ezekiel 9:1-7, 10:18-22; Ps 113:1-6; Matthew 18:15-20
Lect/Comm: Kim Froke		Aug 13: Ezekiel 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-62; Matthew 18:21-19:1
FLANDREAU ~ SUNDAY, AUG. 16		Aug 14: Ezekiel 16:1-15,60,63; Isaiah 12:2-6; Matt 19:3-12
Lect./Comm: Les Heinemann		Aug 15: Rev. 11:19, 12:1-6,10; Ps 45:10-12,16; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56
Sacristan: Brenna LeBrun		Aug 16: Isaiah 56:1,6-7; Ps 67:2-8; Romans 11:13-15,29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Intention of the Holy Father for August:


We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Daily Readings can also be found on-line at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/>

Aug. 2nd

Our

Weekly Offering



Colman: \$1188
Elkton: \$2302
Flandreau: \$3811

Thank you!

STS. SIMON & JUDE

Needed: A person or a Team to lead the high school CCD students in the engaging LifeTeen curriculum. This curriculum has many resources and activities available for you to use. Contact Marietta (864-3182) or Laura (530-9428).

Quilting Group has disbanded. Please **do not** drop off fabric in the church basement for them anymore. Thank you to all who have given of their time and talent to make so many beautiful quilts over the years and to all who have given of their material resources.

Catholic Daughters Meeting
Monday August 10th
6:30pm rosary, 7:00pm meeting
Court Our Lady of Peace #1708 invites you join us for a **Zoom Meeting** at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89191049518?pwd=V0o5OWVGZEt3Qk9mL2ZWVU1BamVqZz09>
Meeting ID: 891 9104 9518 Passcode: 1708
OR Join us by phone at (312)-626- 6799
Meeting ID: 891 9104 9518 Passcode: 1708

ST. PETER

CCD Teachers Needed for grades 3rd-6th. Please contact Marcie at 605-530-2219. Thank you!

Altar Society Officers and Group Leaders Meeting: Wed., August 12th - 6:00 PM at the parish hall.



Welcome to:
Leighton Dee Miles,
son of Mary Miles and Logan Hawthorne.

We pray for God's blessings and grace that they continue to follow the way of Jesus Christ.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

We Remember - Dale Lynn
Funeral - Monday at 10:30 AM.
Visitation - Sunday, 3:30 to 5:30 PM without family present at Skroch Funeral Chapel in Elkton. May the Lord grant him eternal peace and give his family and friends hope and comfort.

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

