

July 25, 2021 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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JESUS TOOK THE LOAVES,
GAVE THANKS, AND DISTRIBUTED THEM
TO THOSE WHO WERE RECLINING,
AND ALSO AS MUCH OF THE
FISH AS THEY WANTED.

JOHN 6:11

It can be easy to just say, "Oh yes, this is the story of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, when everybody decided to share the bits of food they had." But how much of it is really about feeding the crowds? "Jesus said to Philip, 'Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?' He said this to test him, because he knew what he was going to do." It must have been very hard to trust Jesus, especially when the disciples often didn't understand him. This year has been challenging for us, too, to trust that God will provide, and also challenging for us to ask for help.

In the Rule of Saint Benedict, there is a chapter called "The assignment of impossible tasks." It says, in essence, that when your superior tells you to do something impossible, it is fine to go talk to them about it, but in the end you may still be asked to do this task. In what situations are we called to trust? When are we asked to act in faith or to do the impossible task?

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING?

Miracles are seldom as obvious as the multiplication of loaves and fishes. Many years ago, I overheard a family conversation in a restaurant at the end of a long holiday weekend. At the register was one of those collection jars saying, "For just fifty cents a day you can feed a child." The little girl asked her folks about it and they explained it. She said, "I have money left from my weekend, could I put it in the jar?" The parents said yes and let her go on the adventure for herself. She came back and sat down, and they chatted some more. She said, "If fifty cents feeds a child for a day, then I was able to feed one for three days, because I had \$1.50 left from the weekend." When we follow this child's example and go beyond the minimum, when we give all we can, we know we are doing the right thing, and we have understood the test that Jesus posed to Philip so long ago.

Today's Readings: 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18;
Eph 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the
anticipated date 903-769-3235

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Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."*

*Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!*

Would you be interested in spending an hour with our Lord in adoration?



Please contact Cathy Ellis at cathy.ellis@gmail.com. Cathy will need your name, and a one hour time slot on Tuesdays that you would be willing to come to the church and adore our Lord.



Patriotic Rosary for Peace in America
Due to conflicting summer schedules there will be no Patriotic Rosary in Aug. & Sept.



We will start back on Saturday, October 2nd at 9:00am.

To those blessed souls out there contemplating Scripture Study.

You are listening to the Holy Spirit; now, I hope you open your heart to His invitation. The greatest relationship I have enjoyed in my entire life has been with My Father, My Savior and My Holy Spirit; and, in some cases, great moments of understanding and clarity have resulted from the investigation (casual or formal) of various Scriptures. **The Holy Spirit is AWESOME!** The Scripture study, I would like to propose to those who respond, will be “structured” for research and investigation, while still aligning with The Magisterium. Many discoveries will be made through the participating and sharing of those who attend each session. *WE will benefit from The Word of God as shared by the Holy Spirit. God is good.*

Randy Munoz

July Second Collections:

24th & 25th: “Church in Africa.”

Cenacle of Life: Cenacle of Life devotion each Wed. from 3:30—4:30pm. Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. **Questions call Vicki 817-637-9382**

Legion of Mary— Pilgrim Statue: Thanks to a couple of parishioners, Our Lady of Fatima Statue was not in lockdown during Covid. **Now She is ready to visit your home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749 or Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953.** The Statue will be delivered to your home on the day of your choice and picked up at the end of one week. If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

The Holy Spirit Food Ministry would like to thank all our parishioners for their food donations. The large plastic bin is located by in the hallway by Bridget’s office. We are in the need of pudding, jello and fruit cups; pasta; canned vegetables and sauce.

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry. Call or email Bob Mailliard at 903-769-3963 or theduckdude@att.net



Thank you,
*Bob Mailliard; Bryan & Dolly Todd;
Stan & Terry Evans; Al & Evelyn Murfin
Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team*

NEW FAMILIES:

Please call the Church Office 903-769-3235 or email: holy.spirit2@yahoo.com to register as soon as possible. Active Membership is determined by three things: 1. Being registered in the parish 2. Faithful attendance at Mass on Sundays & Holy Days 3. The support of the parish through time, talent and treasure.

So, do you ever wish God would just talk to you sometimes?

You do? Great! Let’s get together and talk about it. (He already talks to you, you know. One way is through our Bibles.)

We would like to offer a weekly, on-ongoing course of Scripture Study for men only; women only or co-ed. And we need your input to determine exactly how, what, and when we will make this available to you. Please fill out the mini form below and drop it into the collection basket or email me (email address below). Please do not fill out the form unless you are serious about participating. After we tabulate and collate the information you provide for us, we will report our finding and offer suggestions for the “preferred” Scripture Study. The sooner we receive your input, the sooner we can announce your preferences and our plan to accommodate them. If you require any additional information please feel free to **contact randymunoz80@hotmail.com.** **Fill out the following info with your**

NAME: _____ **phone #** _____ **Place in collection basket or email Randy Munoz.**

When would you like to meet? (Check one day and one time)

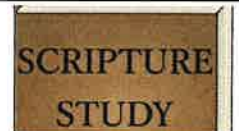
Sunday _____ Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____

Morning _____ Evening _____ **When Would You Like To Start Scripture Study** In July 2021 _____ Aug. _____ Sept. _____

Men only _____ Women only _____ Co-Ed _____

What would you prefer for a format? Structured (specific scriptures and formal study guides – Little Rock, etc.) _____

Unstructured (pick a book and go) _____



Pope establishes World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

By Vatican News staff reporter: Following the Angelus on Sunday, Pope Francis announced the institution of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will take place each year on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

Recalling the upcoming feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple – when the elderly Simeon and Anna encountered the child Jesus and recognized Him as the Messiah – Pope Francis said, “the Holy Spirit even today stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly.” The voice of the elderly “is precious,” he said, “because it sings the praises of God and preserves the roots of the peoples.”

The elderly, he continued, “remind us that old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between the different generation, to pass on to the young the experience of life.”

The elderly must not be forgotten: The Holy Father said he instituted the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly because grandparents are often forgotten, and we forget this wealth of preserving roots and passing on “what the elderly have received. He emphasized the importance of grandparents and grandchildren getting to know one another, because “as the prophet Joel says, grandparents seeing their grandchildren dream,” while “young people, drawing strength from their grandparents, will go forward and prophesy.”

Prayer for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

I thank You, Lord,
For the comfort of your presence:
Even in times of loneliness,
You are my hope and my confidence,
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family
And for having blessed me with a long life.
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,
For the dreams that have already come true in my life and for
Those that are still ahead of me.
I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith,
Make me a channel of your peace,
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me,
To never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,
That the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.
Send Your Spirit, O lord, to renew the world,
That the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,
The poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness
And help me to live life to the full
In each moment that You give me,
In the certainty that you are with me every day,
Even until the end of the age.

Amen.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 21 July 2021 Edition
(Submission date: 16 July 2021) Submitted by Randy Munoz

The Holy Spirit (From: <https://mycatholic.life/the-my-catholic-life-series/My-Catholic-Faith/the-holy-spirit/#:~:text=Jesus%20established%20the%20Church%20and%20bestowed%20the%20Spirit,Apostles%20in%20the%20upper%20room%20behind%20closed%20doors.>) (Continued from last week... 3/4)

Jesus established the Church and bestowed the Spirit upon the Apostles who were His first bishops, and Peter the first pope. This bestowing of the Holy Spirit is seen in John 20:22, in which, the resurrected Jesus is appearing to the Apostles in the upper room behind closed doors. ... “He breathed on them and said to them ‘receive the Holy Spirit...’” It was especially with this act that these Apostles were given what they needed to begin their ministry and, in part, to begin to establish “Sacred Tradition.” ... Tradition is the word used to specify the teaching action of the Holy Spirit in every age. ... Jesus did not give us a 500-volume book of the law addressing each and every question that would ever arise in the areas of faith and morality. He gave us the Holy Spirit, and most specifically, He gave the unique gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and their successors to teach us and to lead us into all truth in every day and age when questions would arise. This is Tradition, and it is quite an ongoing gift! ...

The Sacramental Liturgy is the most powerful way that God is present to us right here, right now. **The Liturgy is a work of the Holy Spirit where the entire Trinity is made present.** In the Liturgy, we use words and symbols through which God shows up and is made manifest. We do not see Him with our eyes, but He is there. He is there in His fullness, veiled by the liturgical action itself. ... the greatest of these actions is the Most Holy Eucharist. In the Eucharist, we have a unity of Heaven and Earth. God comes to meet us, to descend to us, and we encounter Him. This is done by an action of the Holy Spirit alive within the Church. ... it’s a joint action of the Church and the Holy Spirit, and this mutual activity brings forth the very real presence of Christ our Lord. ...

We need God’s help to pray. It’s an interesting reality. ... true prayer is something that must be a response to God. ... there is a difference between “true prayer” and “prayers that are said.” True prayer is when God, by an action of the Holy Spirit, speaks to us and draws us by an interior calling. God the Holy Spirit takes the initiative by way of an invitation. And we, respond to God calling and speaking, and this begins a process of prayer. Prayer is communication with God, and the ultimate form of communication we have with God in prayer, is surrender and love. It is in this high form of prayer that we discover God acting in our lives and transforming us (an action of the Holy Spirit). The Holy Spirit “intercedes for us” insofar as the Holy Spirit acts on us, transforming us into a member of Christ Himself, so as to present us to the Father in Heaven – the intercession is our transformation in Christ. ...

The Holy Spirit is also very much alive in the activity of the Church. It is the Holy Spirit who gives charisms – spiritual gifts given to someone for the good of the Church. It’s a spiritual quality or ability to offer some service to the Church. Charisms could be as amazing as being prophetic or healing the sick, or they could be as ordinary (but necessary) as being able to organize activities within the Church in an exemplary way. The key to a charism is that it is for the good of the Church and the spreading of the Gospel. Charisms are especially necessary for the apostolic and missionary activity of the Church. As members of the Church, we are called to evangelize by spreading the Gospel far and wide. To do this effectively, and in accord with God’s plan, we need His grace and action in our lives. We need special charism (gifts) to accomplish this responsibility. ... The saints are the great witnesses of God. God’s light and goodness shine on them and through them for all to see. It is especially the Holy Spirit who enables great saints to be shining examples of God’s love for all to see. (To be continued...)



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