

Parish Neighbors Magazine

Surrounding Apple Valley

Feb/Mar 2021



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Dear Area Parishioners,

Time keeps moving on as we are already into February of 2021. The good news is that our days are now getting longer by over 2 minutes per day and spring is coming.

February also means that Lent is about here. Doesn't it kinda feel like it's been Lent like the past 12 months? With the lockdown, not seeing loved ones, not going out to eat or to ball games certainly has changed life for all of us.

Lent is about detaching but we have been forced to detach from many enjoyable things the past 12 months. Instead of 40 days in the desert it has been 400 days.

The pandemic has been forced on us and we are all having similar inconveniences and struggles. Lent itself is much different in that what we choose to offer up or detach from is more of our own volition.

The big questions I ask myself since this pandemic started is has it changed me? Am I a better person since March of 2020? Do I appreciate things more? Do I appreciate my family more?

I think I can answer in an affirmative way on most of the above questions. It has changed me and I do appreciate things a bit more and I am very thankful the good Lord has given me a family to love and be with.

I also think a lot more about those less fortunate, those that do not have families to love them. Prayers go out to all of those that are lonely as I believe is one of the saddest parts of all of this. So many people are lonely and suffering.

Perhaps this Lent we all can pray a bit more for those that are hurting out there.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Parish Neighbors as we are featuring the Brownrigg family from All Saints in Lakeville. They are a great, faith filled



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com

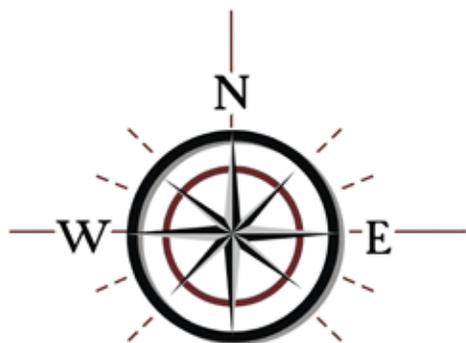
family. I wish we had the room to write more on them as there are many story lines from their lives that would touch and move your own hearts.

We also are featuring the Knights of Columbus 2nd Annual Pro Life Essay contest winners. We have 4 winners this year from our local 7th-10th graders. Thanks to the Knights, Principals, teachers, and all the students who participated.

God's Blessings to you and your families,

Pete Herold

Pete Herold
Publisher



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1. Where did the first Passover take place?

- a. Egypt
- b. Jerusalem
- c. Nazareth
- d. Hebron

2. What does “Mardi Gras” mean?

- a. Let’s party
- b. Abstain from
- c. Fat Tuesday

3. Lent is the 40-day period prior to Easter. What do the 40 days represent

- a. 40 years the Israelites spent in the desert
- b. The time Jesus spent in the desert
- c. Passover

4. The Easter Triduum refers to what?

- a. Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter
- b. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil
- c. Jesus, Mary & Joseph

5. Pretzels were a common food eaten during Lent. The shape that the middle portion of the pretzel forms is in the form of what?

- a. Cross
- b. Arms crossed in prayer
- c. Resurrection

6. Who provided the tomb for Jesus’ burial?

- a. Nicodemus
- b. Joseph of Arimathea
- c. Joseph, father of Jesus

7. Jesus first appeared to whom after His Resurrection?

- a. Mary, His Mother
- b. Mary of Magdala
- c. Martha & Mary

8. How many Stations of the Cross are there?

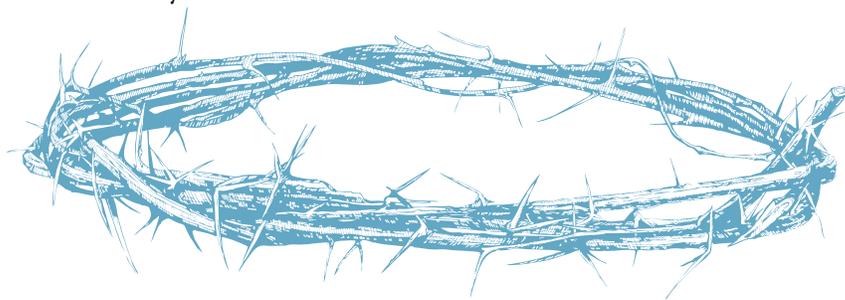
- a. 12
- b. 14
- c. 10

9. What did Mary Magdalene see when she looked into the tomb of Jesus?

- a. Jesus
- b. Angels
- c. The Apostles
- d. The empty tomb

10. What does the term “Paschal Mystery” refer to?

- a. The Holy Trinity
- b. Pascal Candle
- c. Death and Resurrection of Jesus
- d. Redemption



Answers: 1. a, 2. c, 3. b, 4. b, 5. b, 6. b, 7. b, 8. b, 9. b, 10. c



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Why I am STILL a Catholic

by Anonymous at ignitumtoday.com

“How is it that we do not die of love in seeing that God Himself could do no more than shed His divine blood for us drop by drop? When as man He was preparing for death, He made Himself our food in order to give us life. God becomes food, bread for his creatures. Is this not enough to make us die of love?”

~ St. Teresa of the Andes

“Why are you STILL a Catholic?” is a question that I have been asked time and time again, not in words, but rather in a tilt of the head and an eye roll.

Throughout my time spent in college as an undergraduate student, I watched a vast number of my close friends walk away from our Catholic faith for a laundry list of reasons, which ultimately led to the end of many friendships. I never judged them for the decisions they made to leave the Church, but I was not going to stop loving my faith, and being a practicing Catholic to make them feel better about themselves. It seems that being in my presence led them to judge themselves for their own choices and actions, and I guess their conscience simply could not handle it. And if I had to make the decision again to choose between their friendship and my relationship with Christ and His Church, I would still choose the latter without any doubt in my mind.

So many of the young adults around me were getting into a “hipper” faith, as they called it, a faith that they felt was more adapted to the modern age and the young adult lifestyle. Catholicism was an out-of-touch, ancient tradition with too many rules, and needed to be modernized and adapted to the present time. It was much more appealing to go to the mega church with prolific speakers and catchy music.

I was invited multiple times to attend these churches, and it was difficult time and time again to keep dodging my friends’ invitations because I knew that turning down their invites was causing a strain in our friendship. One of my friends insisted that I should come to her church because becoming Born Again is the next step of Catholicism, which is what her pastor told her, and another friend insisted that her pastor very much wanted to meet me, and that I needed to come to their young adult group that met on Friday nights.

Each Friday after class my friend would text me begging and pleading for me to just try it once, and one day I almost yielded to the pressure along with another one of my Catholic friends, who was also a practicing Catholic like me. As I was walking to my car across campus, I felt this sudden nudge to call my friend, and there was dead silence when she answered the phone, then a couple of breaths, and finally I said to her, “I can’t go, it doesn’t feel right to me,” and she responded with “I know, I feel like I’m cheating on the Church”. I told her how I felt the exact same way, and the night ended with us both not going to the other church. We lost a friend that night because of our decision, but we are both still practicing Catholics today, and she is even happily

married now after having been married in the Catholic Church.

So what is it that made me stay? How is going to another church cheating on the Catholic Church? The Catholic Church is the only church that holds the whole and complete truth, even though the other churches do hold parts of the truth. They have pieces of the puzzle, but it is the Catholic Church that has the complete puzzle together with all of the pieces. Any other church is an imitation of Christ’s One, Holy, and Apostolic Church as we have the true Body and the true Blood of Christ; the Real Presence in the Eucharist. How can I believe that the bread and wine actually transform into Christ’s Body and Blood, and then suddenly not believe that truth, and walk away from the Eucharist?

At every single Catholic Mass I know, believe, and understand that a miracle is taking place by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that the same sacrifice that took place at Calvary is being re-presented upon the altar (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1366). Christ appears to me in a tiny, white host veiled before my eyes, and it is because of the gift of faith that I truly believe He is present as He sits at the right hand of the Father in Heaven; Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity as True God and True Man, in His Glory. “The whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.” (Council of Trent (1551): DS 1651) By consuming the true Flesh and true Blood of Christ, we become living tabernacles that radiate the light and love of Christ to the world.

As the years have gone by, there have been new challenges that again and again lead to the question “Why are you STILL a Catholic?” and the answer is still the same: the whole truth is in the Catholic Church. I have been hurt, betrayed, and humiliated by people within the Church, those whom are supposed to be witnesses of Christ, and reflect the beauty of the Church; but ultimately, their behavior has nothing to do with my relationship with Christ, my Beloved Lord.

He has not only saved me from my sins by shedding His Blood on the Cross, and then rising as to give me eternal life, but He has never abandoned me by offering the precious gift of His Sacrament of Love. How is denying that through my Baptism I am forever a member of the Mystical Body of Christ, and refusing to accept Christ’s gift of the Eucharist, lead me to my ultimate goal of being happy with Him forever in Heaven? Walking away from the truth once we know the truth does not lead us to salvation, and if all of us Catholics truly believed in the Real Presence, we could never settle for anything other than the Catholic Church.

Conspiracy, What Conspiracy?

by Fr.Dwight Longenecker, reprinted with permission

Whenever times are uncertain—when the atmosphere is thick with lies and propaganda—it’s natural to look for certainty. We want truth, clarity and honesty. This makes us fall for conspiracy theories. A conspiracy theory offers us a grid that helps us understand what is going on. It gives us a structure and belief system into which everything fits neatly and we can make sense of the world. A conspiracy theory is a kind of alternative religion.

Our faith should be the thing that gives us a lens through which to view the world. Our faith should provide the framework—the structure into which everything fits and harmonizes and makes sense. Sadly, too many leaders of our Catholic faith have abandoned ship. They have given up with clear teaching and guidance and opted for the rubbery option of the “pastoral solution.” The present Catholic leadership, by their weakness, have contributed to the present situation of uncertainty, change and upheaval.

Conspiracy theories offer a solution. They offer a structure of understanding in difficult times of transition, stress and social unrest such as we are experiencing right now. So what constitutes a conspiracy theory? One of the main components is that it proposes an alternative version of the truth combined with powerful, shadowy figures who are behind the scenes pulling the strings of their puppets in order to usher some nefarious new situation in which they have total power. The other trait of a conspiracy theory is the ability of the believers to “connect the dots” and see patterns that nobody else can see. When this gets to an extreme situation it is sign of insanity. The film *Conspiracy Theory* and *A Beautiful Mind* illustrate this behavior.

When I was growing up in fundamentalist American Christianity we had visiting preachers who linked world events with a dispensationalist interpretation of Scripture. They regarded the prophecies in the book of Daniel and Revelation rather like fortune tellers. They made “connections” that most people couldn’t see. The ten nation European Union was the fulfillment of the ten horned antichrist beast in Revelation. The “Great Whore” seated on the city of seven hills was clearly the Catholic Church. There was supposedly a computer based in Belgium (the center of the European Community) that had the names and addresses of all Christians worldwide....ready for the coming persecution. The nickname of the computer was “the Beast.”

Well, time has moved on and the prophecies proved to be groundless. But that doesn’t matter. New conspiracy theories always spring up to take the place of the ones that are out of date.

Therefore, I have come to distrust all conspiracy theories. They’re understandable and sometimes amusing because they are so crazy, but they are also dangerous because they distract us from the truth. Just because we live in an atmosphere of lies does not mean following another lie is a good thing.

This atmosphere of lies is something I wrote about in my book *Immortal Combat* and I have written about it further in the book I have just completed: *Beheading Hydra-A Radical Plan for Christians in an Atheistic Age*. The atmosphere of lies is not solved by running after another extravagant lie of a conspiracy theory.

However—and this is a big however—something is not a conspiracy theory when the conspirators are out in the open talking about what they are doing, and there are plenty of things going on in our society today for which (if you talk about them) you may be blamed for being a conspiracy theorist. It is okay to acknowledge these things and we should talk about them, but we should remain balanced and calm and talk about facts not just wild eyed theories.



So let’s consider a few. Is there a group of people who are maneuvering for global domination and control? Yes, and it’s not a secret and they are not a secret. They publicize the fact that they are meeting. The United Nations is a global power group...the World Health Organization, the Global Economic Forum, the World Bank are just a

few. There are other international groups with globalist agendas...Planned Parenthood, UNESCO, World Wildlife Fund, The European Union, NATO. These groups and many more are not secret.

Do they have a plan for world domination? Yes. It’s called the Great Reset. Again, this is not a secret. They put out slick publicity materials about it. It was featured on the cover of *TIME* magazine. They are clear that they want to re-do the global economy. Biden’s Secretary of State John Kerry has said it will happen quickly. Biden is their man. The Democrat Party support it. This is not a conspiracy theory because it is out in the open.

Did this globalist establishment see Donald Trump with his “America First” agenda as the main obstacle to their plans? Again—this is not a secret. For four years they did everything possible to get rid of him. Did they work together to rig an election to make sure he was finally thrown out? Here we must look for balance and ask for facts. The problem is, the establishment seem intent not to investigate the irregularities in the election. Senator Rand Paul and others are calling for the anomalies to be investigated

without claiming that they wish to overturn the election of Biden and without extravagant conspiracy claims.

To acknowledge the things that are out in the open is not to indulge in conspiracy theories. Are there rich, powerful people plotting to become more rich and powerful? Of course. That's what rich and powerful people do. That's what rich and powerful people have always done. Do they meet behind the scenes, control the finances, control the communications and manipulate people with bribes, blackmail and kickbacks? Of course. That's what rich and powerful people do. That's why they are rich and powerful. Do they work with other rich and powerful people making backroom deals, planning things in secret in order to gain more control and more wealth? Yes. This is not a secret. This is what rich and powerful people do. Are they in league with Satan, working his will in the world to control this world? Yes. Again. This is not a secret. This is what rich and powerful people do and what they have always done.

What should you do about it? For a start, be realistic. This is the way of the world. This has always been the way of the world. Jesus says it and the New Testament is full of it. There is the way of the world which is a way of power, wealth, violence and cruelty and there is the way of God's Kingdom. The Kingdom of Christ is not of this world and he said clearly that the citizens of this world would hate you and persecute you if you were his disciple. In fact if they do NOT hate you that is when you should begin to worry!

The second thing after being realistic is to ask yourself why you are following the conspiracy theory. You see, conspiracy theories can be a little bit self indulgent. By talking up the conspiracy theory we can make ourselves feel good not only because we have seen the light and have the answer, but because we can accuse all those bad people out there of being bad and that makes us feel good and we can also accuse all the people who don't follow the conspiracy theory of being dumb, blind lemmings and that also makes us feel good because it makes us feel superior.

The third thing is to ask what you can do about it. If someone starts talking conspiracy theories to me or is getting all upset about the situation in the church or politics I try to listen then I ask, "And what are you going to do about that?" This often makes them angry and I admit it is difficult for me to ask that question without coming across as supercilious and condescending, but it is an honest question. If you are in a position to do something about the evil, then get on and do it. Maybe that means you educate your children properly. Maybe it means getting involved in the pro life cause or getting involved in communications or politics. If you are called to do something about it, then working within your capabilities and within the law, get on and make a difference and kwitzyerbellakin.

The fourth thing is to remember that you are not a citizen of this kingdom anyway. Your citizenship is in heaven. This world is not your home, you're just passing through. Focus on your prayer life, your family life, the life of your parish, your school and your local community. That is where the reality is and that is where you will make the most difference. If some bureaucrat banker in Germany institutes some sort of new economic reality, well deal with it the best you can when it happens. If some do gooder politically correct person tries to force some crazy social agenda or some ungodly practice pray for the wisdom to discern what is right and the courage to do the right thing when the time comes.

The final bit of advice in these troubled times is check the news once a day then turn it off. Turn off the social media. Read a good book. Learn to play an instrument. Talk to your family. Take a hike. Create a garden. Get more exercise. Learn to cook. Enjoy life. There is enough evil in the world for today. Don't be afraid. Don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will have evil enough. Look at the birds of the air and the flowers of the field. They don't worry. They trust their heavenly father...

...but now I think I'm stealing material from the master.

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Why Does the LGBT Use God's Rainbow For Its Flag?

by Shari Abbott

Forever, the rainbow has been a symbol of God's promise. This dates back to the everlasting covenant God made with Noah and his sons. It was for all mankind. God promised that He would never again destroy the earth with flood waters and, as a sign of the covenant, God placed a rainbow in the sky. Read Genesis 9:8-17.

The LGBT Flag Is Not a Rainbow Flag

The LGBT flag might be called by the name of God's token of promise to all mankind, but it is NOT a rainbow flag. It is simply a multi-colored flag because the LGBT flag has only six colors. A rainbow always has had seven colors, and it always will, because God put the colors in the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. In the LGBT flag you will see a hot pink sex color and what is missing is the indigo color which represents peace in God's rainbow.

It's also interesting to note that seven is God's number of completion and perfection. There are six colors in the LGBT flag which is the number of man, an imperfect number.

Throughout human history, we find that things which are in opposition to God's will are often simply counterfeit copies. Such copies might come close, but they always fall short. All false religions have enough truth to sound good, but they teach subtle lies by twisting the truth. That was Satan's ploy in the Garden. He twisted God's Word, using subtle deception, and he created confusion and caused Eve to forget God's words and to sin.

Satan never presents himself in truth — as the accuser that he is. Instead, he is able to transform himself into an “angel of light,” and his minions are able to transform into “ministers of righteousness” (2 Cor 11:14-15), all with intent to deceive. They may “look” good, but they are nothing more than “copy-cat” appearances of that which is good, and their desire is to lead people away from the One True God who is all good.

Following the Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage (June 27, 2015), the White House “lit up” with the colors of the rainbow. But a rainbow always has, and always will have, seven colors not six. The White House “lit up” with the colors of the LGBT flag — only six colors! Another display of “falling short” of God's beautiful rainbow and God's number of perfection. With only six colors, which is the number of man, images of the colorful White House should be a reminder that we, as Christians, must endeavor to turn the hearts of the people of this nation to God. He is our only Banner of Salvation.



A rainbow's colors can be remembered through the acronym ROY G BIV, which are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. An observation about the gay pride flag is that it contains six colored stripes, not seven.

There are six colored stripes on the gay pride flag. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in favor of gay marriage came on a Friday – the 6th day of the week, in June – the 6th month of the year, and on the twenty-6th day of June. The number 6 falls short of what God desires.

Maybe This Year Will Be Better Than the Last

by Emily Claire Schmitt

Forgive my quoting what some claim to be the cheesiest band of all time, but I've liked Counting Crows since I was a kid. My dad had them mixed in on the long road trip play list, along with The Indigo Girls, Black Sabbath and Warren Zevon. I didn't realize that was a rather odd mix until I was older, and I didn't realize Counting Crows weren't cool until it was too late. So when *A Long December*, their mournful ballad to a New Year, came on the Christmas station a few weeks ago, I didn't change it.

And it's been a long December and there's reason to believe
Maybe this year will be better than the last
I can't remember all the times I tried to tell myself
To hold on to these moments as they pass

It felt fitting, the sense of melancholy, the regret for good times having slipped through your fingers, and the faint hope that maybe, maybe the next trip around the sun will be less painful.

Hold on to These Moments as They Pass

I was struck with a thought last night that left me unable to fall asleep. It was a simple thought: I'm 31 years old. I want to have kids at some point. But there were things I wanted to do before that happened. And I've lost a year. It was a silly, somewhat petty thought. After all, everyone has plans that change, everyone makes compromises, and they turn out fine. But some time around three am I felt robbed. I felt personally angry, as if this pandemic were a thing that God had done to me, in order to take away the few remaining years where I can pretend to be young.

But then another thought struck me, equally small. Once I have kids and I will never have this amount of quality time with my husband. When I shared this with him in the morning he laughed it off. *It's enough quality time to*

last a lifetime. But of course that isn't true. There's never enough time with your loved ones. That's precisely what has made the last nine months hard: separation from others. It may be, in a year or two, if I'm chasing around a kid, rushing to and from rehearsal, and also trying to write, I will remember this time with a strange fondness. The time I stayed home with my husband for nine months. And we did, more or less, nothing.

Goodbye to a Long Year

The uncertainty of this year was challenging for me. At the beginning, like so many of us, I thought lockdown would last a couple weeks, a month at most. Two months felt unthinkable. Then the finish line began to move away from us, farther and farther. My best friend was married in July, an event I thought for certain would be unaffected by the pandemic. Obviously I was wrong. And then, for a time, it seemed like this might never end. That was the scariest time of all: when projections were looking at years rather than months. And then, finally, science came through.

Hello to a Slow Transition

While the end of 2020 feels monumental, nothing fundamentally is changing. We still have a long winter ahead of us. If there is any real difference, it's one of hope. I hope that having a light at the end of the tunnel will give us the strength to behave responsibly. I also hope that this year encourages us to appreciate life a little more. 2021 doesn't need to be "our year." It doesn't need to be "the best year ever," or any of the other hyperbolic wishes we throw out on a typical December 31st.

It just needs to be more hopeful, healthier, and a little happier.

Have a happier New Year.

When Does Lent Start and End This Year?



The Lenten season will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 17th, 2021.

Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The Mass of the Lord's Supper for Catholics is on Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday, which is on April 1, 2021. Lent will end on Thursday, April 1.

The beginning of Lent is marked by many with ashes hence the name Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, and Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter Sunday, which is Sunday, April 4 this year. The observance of Lent spans 40 days, ending on the Saturday before Easter. You may be wondering how Lent can be 40 days if Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter? That is because the Lenten fast does not include Sundays, which are considered feast days (a celebration of the resurrection)—so the six Sundays before Easter are omitted from the 40-day observance of fasting.

The last week of Lent is called Holy Week and includes Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Friday, and Holy Saturday. Unlike Advent, which is a time of celebration and excitement looking forward to an arrival, Lent is observed in a more solemn way preparing for and reflecting on Jesus' sacrificial death. But at the end of Lent is Easter Sunday, and that is the most joyous celebration because our Savior Jesus Christ was resurrected and lives on. Because of his death and resurrection, we are offered new life to live as covenant children in the kingdom of God forever.



Brownrigg Family

Grace through the Sacraments

By: Michelle Nabors

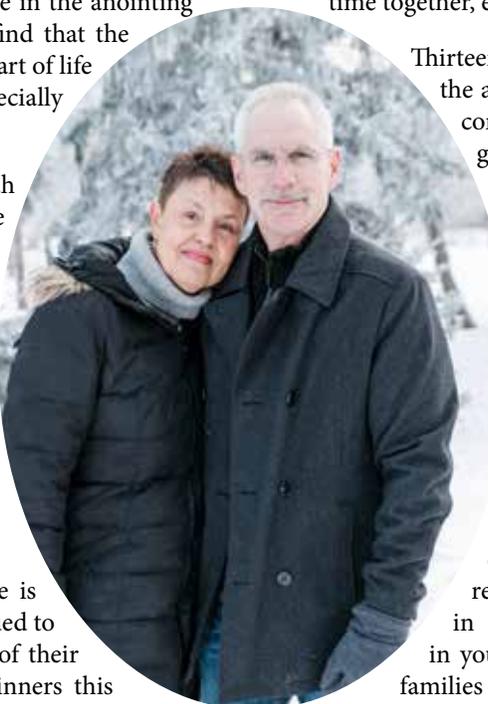
Photos by Mattson Photography

As Joe and Kathie Brownrigg look back at their life, the grace received through the sacraments is woven throughout their story. From a longing for the Eucharist, to the gift of marriage, to peace in the anointing of the sick, the Brownriggs have continued to find that the sacraments of the Catholic Church are a central part of life which can bring consolidation, joy, and peace, especially during the difficult times.

The Brownriggs adopted their daughters, Alyonah (Aly), and Valentina (Val) in 1999. They've experienced the joy of welcoming their first grandson, Ryker (2), into their family in 2018. When the girls were younger, the Brownriggs enjoyed travelling, including family trips to Florida, Wisconsin Dells, Washington state, Hawaii, Connecticut, and the Black Hills. The family enjoys time together, including watching the girls play sports and activities, enjoying moments at the house, and a tradition of Sunday dinner together.

As Aly and Val have gotten older and everyone is doing their own thing, Sunday dinner has continued to be a cherished time together. It is a foundation of their family, and although Covid has changed the dinners this past year, they have still sought creative ways to reach out to each other as family and keep the family strong. The Brownriggs model their

advice to “love each other” and “be grateful and enjoy every day God gives you” through making sure their family is strong and spending time together, enjoying the moments God gives them in life.



Thirteen years into their marriage, Joe and Kathie began the adoption process. During this time, their agency contacted them and gave them a short video of the girls. The Brownriggs say that after watching the video and learning more about the girls, they knew what God was calling them to: “We were going [to Russia] and those were our girls.” So on a Sunday, Mother’s Day, they travelled to Yaroslavl, Russia with two other families to meet and bring home their children. In the call to marriage and parenthood, they say, “Our life over the last 21 years has been a blessing beyond anything we could have imagined.”

They built a relationship with one of the two other families who travelled to Russia with them during the adoption, getting the kids together regularly when the kids were younger and growing in friendship. Kathie noted, “God puts people in your life for a reason.” And indeed He did as the families have supported each other, sharing adoption stories from Russia, and have supported each other through the ups and downs of life. They were given not only the gift of their

daughters but of new family friends who would be there for them for years to come.

While Kathie was not raised Catholic, she and Joe raised Aly and Val in the faith, attending mass and praying together as a family. Throughout a difficult year for the Brownriggs as they experienced the death of family members, Kathie made the decision to go through RCIA and join the Catholic Church. After a number of Catholic funerals in a row, Kathie decided to officially join the Church, telling Joe, "I want to receive Jesus in the Eucharist before I die." Kathie went through the RCIA program and was welcomed into the Catholic Church, receiving her first holy communion and confirmation during the Holy Week celebrations in 2006.



The Eucharist has continued to gain increased importance in their lives. Joe recalls that over the years, they have heard stories of Protestants coming to the church out of love of the Eucharist. As they continued to grow in their own relationships with Jesus, the Eucharist has gone from being something done at mass to being "the heart" of faith and life, stating that "it's everything; it's Jesus!"

With the Eucharist having a special meaning to them, the Brownriggs have had a regular adoration hour at All Saints Catholic Church in Lakeville since adoration began at the parish. That time is a special time of prayer and quiet.

Kathie's battle with cancer has brought the family even stronger faith. During this difficult time, saints such as St. Jude and St. Peregrine

brought solace. Through the challenging experiences and uncharted waters, the Brownriggs have clung to a trust in God and quotes like, "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you" (St. Augustine).

Kathie received the sacrament of the anointing of the sick multiple times during her fight with cancer. Within the first week of her cancer diagnosis, there was an anointing mass at All Saints which Kathie and her family attended.

As the cancer turned more aggressive, Kathie needed a transplant surgery. Kathie was anointed in the ICU and says she knew that it was God's hand reaching down to her. She wasn't worried about dying and knew deep in her soul that she would pull through and this wasn't her time. She stands today as a testament, here by His hand, as she has been told it's a miracle she is still here.

When asked what advice they would share, one of the quotes was from Saint Mother Teresa: "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

The sacraments, prayer, intercession of the saints, and the prayers of the community have continually lifted the Brownriggs on their journey



through this life. Through these experiences, they have come to believe that truly "nothing is impossible with God" and the deep, consoling meaning of the words "Jesus, I trust in You!"

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Gospel Readings

February 14

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning the him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

February 17 Ash Wednesday

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

February 21 First Sunday of Lent

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

February 28

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

March 7

John 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me.*

At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

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March 14

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

March 21

John 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

March 28: Palm Sunday

Mark 15:1-39 (or Mark 14:1-15:47)

As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them one prisoner whom they requested. A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do for them as he was accustomed. Pilate answered, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" For he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate again said to them in reply, "Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted again, "Crucify him." Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him.

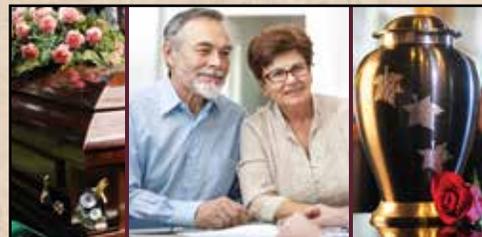
They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

They brought him to the place of Golgotha —which is translated Place of the Skull — They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him.

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

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Heart-Work of Lent

Here we are navigating through the “heart-work” of Lent once again. The season of reflection that often takes us beyond the ordinary achievements, signposts, and horizons of our spiritual lives. Reminding that it is time of prayer, sacrifice, rest, and reflection. The Lenten journey is intended to draw us closer to God and leave behind things that distance ourselves from him. Perhaps for you the challenges of the past 12 months—as some still face us—are making your heart work on its affections that much more this 40-some days.

Testing the limits and fullness of our humanity in body, spirit, and heart—and all their works, powers, and cares—the dusty trail of Lenten ashes linger. The divisive environment experienced over the past year that politics, power struggles, protests, and a pandemic pressed upon our wits, our wills, and our relationships hangs on. Yet, as we make our way through this journey, we place our trust in the providence of God as we hope in the promise to come — eternal life with our Lord. And, in the meantime, lest we forget, Jesus told his disciples what they would experience following his path: “I have said this to you that in me you would have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33).

Heart-work—to its credit—can help us prepare to undertake the tough challenges and consequences we face. Some of you, no doubt, encounter more trials and tribulations than others. Differences within the family, conflicts in the workplace, political scuffles, and lack of forgiveness in the culture today exist beyond measure. Nevertheless, we journey on through Lent to seek peace, solace and absolution through personal conversion and self-sacrifice—the affections of the heart. The beauty of Lent is that it provides the time for us to get back to the fundamentals, to reflect upon, pray for and work through our current challenges. Remembering that God has provided for us in the past and he will continue to provide the strength for his people to persevere through their most troublesome times. “A pure heart create for me, O God,

put a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:12).

Communicating to our Lord through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Lent gives the opportunity to act upon works of spiritual and corporal mercy in the context of our own lives. Virtuous acts result such as charitably allocating our time, talent and treasure as we carve out of our own resources for the sake of others (almsgiving). So often they come from prayerful requests and intentions we learn about, seek out, and find as we have conversations with God (prayer). And doing with less (fasting) and giving more of yourself as a gift to those that have straightforward or complex needs teaches us the value of sacrificial giving, which can be as important—if not more—during Lent as simply giving up something.

Fulfilling the two-fold theme of the heart-work of Lent that includes: 1) Embracing a spirit of repentance; and 2) recalling and renewing our baptismal promises as a child of God is not for keeping a scorecard on personal progress. Yet it may be helpful to engage in small-group discussions to share insights, carve-out at least an hour per week in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and encourage and assist others that need special attention due to some difficulties. Because we all want to grow in our Catholic faith, this liturgical season gives us that opportunity for recollection, detachment, and gift of self in trying to live as Christ taught. Through prayers, affections, and works of the heart, even more so on this dusty Lenten path, we can grow so much closer to God—in faith, in hope, and in love.

Deacon Gordon Bird

St. Joseph, Rosemount / All Saints, Lakeville
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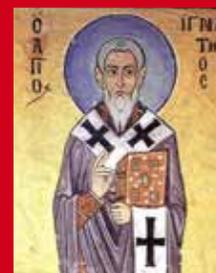
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greatest
when it is
hated by
the world”**



**St. Ignatius of
Antioch**

33 AD - 110 AD

**Cause of death:
Martyrdom**

Will the Unchurched ever come back?

Here are 15 characteristics of unchurched people:

1. They don't all have big 'problems.' If you're waiting for unchurched people to show up because their life is falling apart, you might wait a long time. Sure, there are always people in crisis who seek God out. But many are quite content with their lives without God. And some are quite happy and successful.

2. They feel less guilty than you think. They don't feel any more guilty about not being in church on Sunday than you feel guilty about not being in synagogue on Saturdays. How many Saturdays do you feel badly about missing synagogue? That's how many Sundays they feel badly about missing church.

3. Occasional is regular. When they start coming, they don't always attend every week. Giving them easy, obvious and strategic steps to get connected is important. Disconnected people generally don't stick.

4. Most are spiritual. Most unchurched people believe in some kind of God. They're surprised and offended if you think of them as atheists. As they should be.

5. They are not sure what "Christian" means. So you need to make that clear. You really can't make any assumptions about what people understand about the Christian faith.

6. You can't call them back to something they never knew. Old school 'revival' meant there was something to revive. Now that we are on the 2nd to 5th generation of unchurched people, revival is less helpful to say the least. You can't call them back to something they never knew.

7. Many have tried church, even a little, but left. We have a good chunk of people who have never ever been to church (60% of our growth is from people who self-identify as not regularly attending church), but a surprising number of people have tried church at some point – as a kid or young adult. Because it wasn't a good experience, they left. Remember that.

8. Something is generous. Because even giving 10% of your income to anything is radically countercultural, the only paradigm of giving they have is a few dozen or hundred dollars to select charities. I hope every Christian learns to live a life of sacrifice and generosity, but telling them they are ungenerous is a poor way to start the conversation. They are probably already more generous than their friends.

9. They want you to be Christian. They want you to follow Jesus, authentically. Think about it, if you were going to convert to Buddhism, you would want to be an authentic Buddhist, not some watered down version.

10. They're intelligent, so speak to that. Don't speak down to them. Just make it easy to get on the same page as people who have attended church for years. You can be inclusive without being condescending.

11. They hate hypocrisy. Enough said.

12. They love transparency. When you share your weaknesses, everyone (including Christians) resonates.

13. They invite their friends if they like what they're discovering. They will be your best inviters if they love what you're doing.

14. Their spiritual growth trajectory varies dramatically. One size does not fit all. You need a flexible on-ramp that allows people to hang in the shadows for a while as they make up their mind, and one that allows multiple jumping in points throughout the year.

15. Some want to be anonymous and some don't. So make your church friendly to both.



Are we “Building Back Better?” Not with an Apple!

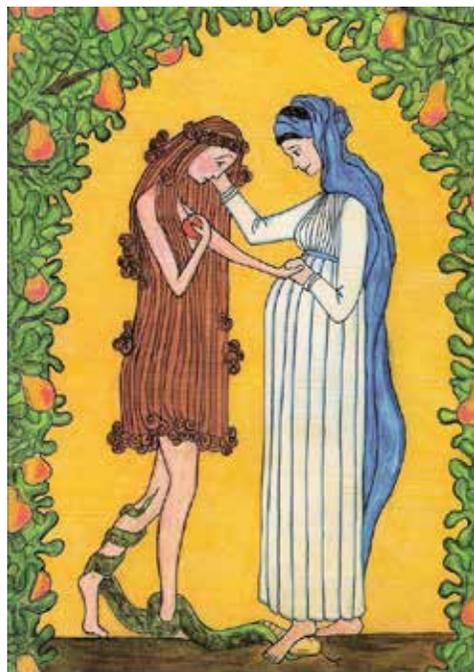
by Fr. Jim Perkl

A big “Reset” is indeed happening, but not as the world has been planning and thinking. For us who are freely choosing to follow Jesus, the Real Reset, as we know, will be happening on Ash Wednesday when people of every language, culture and nation will be coming to church with us. Receiving the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads, we will hear, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” It’s true. Each Ash Wednesday offers us a choice, as Eve is faced with the choice in the adjacent picture, to either hold on to the apple or to let it go. When we choose to place God’s Will at the center of our lives and activities . . . we drop the apple. Yet, we may be wondering . . . why do so many in our world choose their own will over God’s? Perhaps they have never seen in the lives of Christians, how in choosing to turn from sin and believing in the Gospel, our lives can be Wonderfully Reset, through our participation in Jesus’ Life, Death and Resurrection.

Nor has the unbeliever come to see how the Holy Spirit that follows from this Real Reset makes the way for us to enjoy once again the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

If these words (fruits of the Spirit) are not easily recognizable in today’s secular world, it may be because too many are choosing to hold onto the apple and their own will, rather than dropping it, to follow Jesus along the narrow path of God’s Will.

Looking back over the past five years, I see now what the Holy Spirit has been revealing to us over this time. Pentecost has revealed to the people of Mary Mother a well-worn path that all the Saints have followed into a fuller and more abundant life in Jesus Christ! So what’s happened here over the past five years?



- On Pentecost of 2018, the statue of Mary was welcomed to our Adoration Chapel for the new Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, the following day.
- On Pentecost of 2019, the crucifix was raised in our Church’s sanctuary to clearly proclaim God’s love and Divine Mercy.

- On Pentecost of 2020, the Holy Fiat + Family Icon was welcomed by Unity High School at Mary Mother.
- On Pentecost of 2021, the tabernacle will be moved from the side of our church and into the sanctuary.

• On Pentecost of 2022, in celebration of our Archdiocesan Synod, the Visitation Icon will be welcomed to illustrate our call to reach out and evangelize.

What has Pentecost taught us?

- The events of the past five years have taught us that the path that leads to the fruits of the Holy Spirit begins by first choosing Mary as our Mother. After all, she is pregnant and filled with Jesus!
- As children born of Adam and Eve, Mary next leads us to the cross where we are given the freedom to choose to drop the apple.
- With renewed freedom, Mary leads us from the cross into her Holy Family, where God’s Will reigns supreme.
- Aware that God is preparing us to be sent on mission into the whole world, Mary invites us to look to her Son at the center of all and to discover the gifts the Father in Heaven is giving for each of us to share.

Ash Wednesday offers us a wonderful opportunity to “Reset” the table and build back best with Jesus Christ and God’s Will reigning

once again at the center of our life and culture. As so many of us have discovered through Pentecost, our New Sacramental Life in the Spirit begins by first dropping the apple. Feel free this Lent! Take Mary’s hand with us. She will lead us to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to that new beginning our soul is thirsting to receive from Jesus.



Fr. Jim Perkl
Pastor of Mary, Mother of the Church

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Knights of Columbus

ProLife Essay Winners

7-10th Grade Students

We want to thank all of the students and teachers who were involved in our 2nd ProLife Essay Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #5569.

The Respect Life Ministry at Saint Joseph's Church judged the entries this year and we want to thank them for their hard work in doing so.

This year's essay was a bit more challenging as we asked them "If the Hyde Amendment should be overturned? The Hyde Amendment has been in existence since 1976 and has been approved on a bipartisan basis since then.

We are blessed to have great young ProLife minds today in our local community. Please pray for them that they continue to think and find ways to advocate for our unborn children who do not have a voice.

Congratulations to Taylor (10th grade) and Chelsea (8th grade), each winning \$250 from the Knights, and to Bella (10th grade) and Bethel (8th grade) each winning \$100 from our Knights of Columbus. We will also be asking each winner to donate 10% of their winnings to their favorite charity.





Taylor Radaich

9th - 10th Grade • 1st Place

Should the government make all working Americans pay for abortions?

Last year, as a freshman, I attended the March for Life at the Minnesota capitol building. The experience gave me hope, but also a sense of urgency for the dire situation facing many unborn lives. During that time, my family was on a journey through our adoption process. We were hoping to adopt a newborn baby, but we were also helping support mothers who needed another parenting choice for their babies. This past fall, we received a priceless gift, my adopted baby brother, and life has since been that much sweeter. What if all Americans had the chance to support life with their tax dollars, instead of blindly funding abortion giants like Planned Parenthood? What if the government left this choice up to everyone?

We are very lucky to live in a country that gives us freedom. Freedom of religion is one right that we often take for granted. The early Christians were often killed for their faith, and had to practice their religion in secret to prevent capture. Today, we attend church as a part of our daily lives; we get dressed up and often take the day off to spend time with family. The United States protects our right to freedom of religion in the Bill of Rights; an addition to the Constitution that gives us our fundamental human rights. The United States cannot take away, control, or suppress anyone's religion or religious beliefs. We are free to be Catholic, Lutheran, Muslim, or to practice any other form of religious worship.

I believe that the Government cannot make all working Americans pay for abortions. I see this as a violation of my religious rights. As a Catholic, I believe that life in every stage is precious, and that life begins at conception. It seems unfair that I should have to pay for something that



Knights of Columbus'

goes against the very core of my Catholic faith.

The sad truth is that many Americans are unaware that their tax dollars are indirectly paying for abortions and funding the abortion industry. Most people assume that the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal tax dollars to be spent on most abortions, means that their money will never fund an abortion. This is not true. The Hyde Amendment only applies to federal funds, meaning that state funds can still be put towards agencies like Planned Parenthood, which earns billions of dollars each year. There are also exceptions; the federal government can directly give taxpayer dollars to abortion agencies through federal healthcare programs. The fact is that our tax dollars are either directly or indirectly funding abortions on both the federal and state levels.

In my opinion, it should be up to the citizens of the United States as to what organizations we would like to support. This way, people who want to affirm and support life can give their hard-earned tax dollars to adoption agencies, pregnancy support centers, and pro-life charities. There are so many resources in America to support vulnerable mothers who have few options for parenting their children. By giving these organizations the support they need, pro-life options could be the first thing that struggling mothers turn to. I believe in the good inside of people. If people are given the choice, more support can be given to the mothers and fathers that need our help.

I often look at my new baby brother and remind myself how lucky he is. What if his birth mother didn't have access to pro-life resources? What if she had made a different choice? Freedom of choice is a powerful thing. It can bring an end to the horrors of abortion, and usher in a new age where all life is treated as the most valuable treasure. If people feel like they have a choice, they will take it. It is time to raise our voices to fight for those who have no voice. It is time to look past our differences and unite, as a church and as a human race, to fight for the most vulnerable of our generation.



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15010 Glazier Ave. # 201 • Apple Valley, MN

ProLife Essay Winners



Bella Lamers

9th - 10th Grade • 2nd Place

Everyday, 125,000 children are killed worldwide, for no reason other than inconvenient timing. Mothers give up their own babies, so they won't be burdened with the duty of birthing them. Instead of letting a loving family care for their child through adoption, scared women turn to what they feel is the only option. Am I describing a dystopian novel set one hundred years in the future? Sadly, no. We are living this reality today, where the slaughter of children is legal in a medical procedure called abortion. The government currently has a ban on federal funding for abortion called the Hyde Amendment. Should this Amendment be lifted, so that taxpayers must financially support abortion? In my opinion, The Hyde Amendment should stay in our constitution for good, for three main reasons: Freedom of religion, personal conscience, and the exceptions regarding consent.

A basic human right, exemplified in the First Amendment, is freedom of religion. This relates to the Hyde Amendment in one major way. Abortion is against many religions. For example, while members of the catholic church are allowed their own opinions, many reject the idea of abortion, because we believe life begins at conception. The first amendment states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ... " If someone forced a catholic to witness or commit abortion, they would be limiting their right to exercise their religion. The same is true for using tax money to pay for abortions. To force a taxpayer to pay for abortions they don't believe in through their taxes is to prohibit the exercise of their beliefs, which, by the First Amendment, agreed upon by our forefathers, is illegal.

As well as being against certain religions, paying for abortions can be against a person's moral conscience. The belief that a fetus is, in fact, a human life, is very partial to the person. Sometimes, even within a religion, opinions on the matter of abortions are greatly varied. If a

person believes that life begins at conception, it might hurt their conscience to pay for the procedure that ends that life. For those who believe it is a sin to fund such procedures, it would be morally devastating to be forced to do so. People should be able to choose to pay for such a controversial procedure, so they can do what they believe is morally correct.

Currently, The Hyde Amendment has a few exceptions. Federal funding for abortion is allowed in cases of rape, incest, or endangering of the mother's life. This, in my opinion, completely changes the Hyde Amendment to be much more pro-choice friendly. I, as a pro-life catholic, believe that abortion is wrong no matter what, and that although, in the case of rape, it isn't always the women's choice to have intercourse, it is the women's responsibility to choose life for her child, while her child can not choose life for themselves. However, many people with pro-choice mindsets base their beliefs on the fact that the women doesn't always choose the child, and that they should have the right to dictate their lives, as well as their child's life. Under The Hyde Amendment, however, abortion can be federally funded in special cases, such as rape, incest, or if birthing the child endangers the mother's life. This might help some pro-choice believers agree with the Hyde Amendment, because the women who don't get federal support to get an abortion, did have a choice, and chose to have intercourse.

In conclusion, I feel the Hyde amendment is right for many reasons. It protects religious beliefs as well as personal ones, and saves people from being forced to go against their moral values. It also provides support for those who didn't have a choice, in the case of rape, or whose life is endangered by childbirth. I do not think the population should be made to pay for abortions, and I hope, for the sake of future generations of unborn children, that The Hyde Amendment stays in place for many years to come.

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Chelsea Herold

7th - 8th Grade • 1st Place

Should the government make all working Americans pay for abortions? Well, the simple answer should right away be, "no". This is an easy answer for me as I can't imagine ever wanting to end an innocent life. However, I realize not everyone in America feels this way or agrees with me. I think the better solution would be to put taxpayers money towards helping women have their babies. The more money that goes to Planned Parenthood will equate to more abortions. We don't want that.

Allow me to explain what the Hyde Amendment is and what it does for Planned Parenthood, the number one abortion industry in America. The Hyde Amendment is a 44 year old ban on federal funding for abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or threat to a woman's life. The nation's largest organization, Planned Parenthood, uses taxpayers money for "women's healthcare". Planned Parenthood listed its four main services in this order: abortion, birth control, morning after pill and STD's.

Now, I'm going to give an explanation of my own. I think that there would be SO much more violence and riots if they decide to take a controversial and sensitive part of so-called healthcare and basically force us Americans to pay taxes and give support towards it. At this point, I feel as if the government is ASKING for chaos. I don't think they should care about women not being able to afford something unneeded and immoral like abortion when there's other things that people ACTUALLY NEED. For example, a home, food, and water. Everyone deserves a chance to simply live a normal life. If a woman can't afford an abortion, that may be lame for her, but there are people who can't even afford basic human necessities and they need help more than these women yet the government still cares more about the ability for women to abort their children. Why can't the government focus on things that'll help the earth



Knights of Columbus'

become a better place?

If we start focusing more on problems like people living in poverty, it could be saving so many people's lives. The government gives Planned Parenthood 500 million dollars a year. If they would use that money for better things like helping people in poverty then maybe those people could finally live in a safe home. They would be able to eat a meal, hydrate themselves, and sleep comfortably knowing that they're gonna be okay.

The world is unfair and a lot of the stuff I had said may never come true for a long time, but we shouldn't become comfortable with this fact. We shouldn't give up. We still need to try and pray until the world lights up with positivity. God wants to see His people together as one big family, but politics shifts us further away from that. Although politics are important, people still abuse their right of free speech and distance themselves from people they disagree with.

I think abortion is selfish. It damages the image of humanity. One day, the world will and MUST have an awakening and agree that abortion is wrong. Think about how many more people will be regretting so many choices they have made in their past. It will damage their mental health. I personally think it's very similar to how slavery was. It all ties in with depersonalizing someone. The biggest disadvantage for all of the unborn babies is the fact that they are so young in age that they have not developed a voice yet. That is why pro-lifers have to stand up for them because we simply have the ability to.

I will never support an industry that kills. Murder is immoral. Therefore, abortion is as well. That is why the government should absolutely NOT force us Americans, specifically those who are on the right/good side: pro lifers, to give our money to a business that runs off of murdering innocent children and brainwashing women who feel that they have no other choice.



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ProLife Essay Winners



Bethel Biniam

7th - 8th Grade • 2nd Place

My name is Bethel Biniam. I'm currently in 8th grade and attending St. Joseph School. In this essay I'm going to be talking about abortion. Now, people have many different opinions, and I'm just going to speak what my thoughts on abortion is, and if working Americans should pay for abortions.

First things first what is an abortion? An abortion is a procedure to end a pregnancy. It uses medicine or surgery to remove the embryo or fetus and placenta from the uterus. There are two different kinds of abortions, a medical abortion. Which is a series of two drugs designed to end and then expel a pregnancy within the first 10 weeks. Next, there is a surgical abortion, there are a few different types of surgical abortions depending on how far along how far along in the pregnancy is. Most involve the use of a suction device inserted into your dilated cervix to vacuum out the pregnancy, lastly after the pregnancy is removed, a doctor may use a scalpel to scrape the inside of the uterus to make sure everything was removed. This procedure is done by a licensed healthcare professional. The decision to end a pregnancy is completely up to the person. Now where does the money for abortions come from? In 1976 Congress passed the Hyde Amendment, which excludes abortion from the comprehensive health care services provided to low-income people, by the federal government through Medicaid.

The Hyde Amendment is a legislative provision barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except to save the life of the woman, or if the pregnancy arises from incest or rape. Every year, worldwide, about 42 million women with unintended pregnancies choose abortion, and nearly half of these procedures, 20 million, are unsafe. Some 68,000 women die of unsafe abortion annually, making it one of the leading causes of maternal mortality (13%). Of the women

who survive unsafe abortion, 5 million will suffer long-term health complications. Unsafe abortion is thus a pressing issue. Both of the primary methods for preventing unsafe abortion—less restrictive abortion laws and greater contraceptive use—face social, religious, and political obstacles, particularly in developing nations, where most unsafe abortions (97%) occur. With all this information, why do women still turn to abortion. A survey in 1987 about abortion patients stated, their decision to have an abortion; the mean number of reasons was nearly four. Three-quarters said that having a baby would interfere with work, school or other responsibilities, about two-thirds said they could not afford to have a child and half said they did not want to be a single parent, or had relationship problems. Or course, adoption is a choice that certain women who don't wish to keep their babies enter into happily. Some women find abortion to be anathema and rule it out among their options for an unwanted pregnancy. And for women considering abortion who ultimately settle on adoption, the process often benefits everyone involved. Of course, adoption is not a reasonable option for all pregnant women. Some girls and women would imperil their health if they carried a baby to term. Many pro-abortion-rights people believe it is immoral to compel a woman to carry a pregnancy she does not want, especially if that pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. And some studies show that abortion is medically safer than childbirth. Each year almost half of all pregnancies among American women are unintended. About half of these unplanned pregnancies, 1.3 million each year, are ended by abortion. Now my real and honest answer to, if working Americans should pay for abortions, is no. I do not think that working Americans should pay for abortions. Why may you ask? Well as I said earlier, everybody is entitled to their own opinions. With this being said, everyone has their own beliefs. Some Americans don't support abortions, while others do. Everyone has their own opinions and beliefs, and it should be their choice if they want to support and give money to abortions or not. Therefore the American peoples tax money shouldn't go to abortions.



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Schools: Unity High School (Burnsville), Faithful Shepherd (Eagan), All Saints (Lakeville), St. Joseph (Rosemount)