July 13, 2019

**The Priesthood of Jesus Christ**

*Jesus Christ has revealed in himself the perfect and definitive features of the priesthood of the new Covenant. He did this throughout his earthly life, but especially in the central event of his passion, death and resurrection.*

*As the author of the letter to the Hebrews writes, Jesus, being a man like us and at the same time the only begotten Son of God, is in his very being the perfect mediator between the Father and humanity (cf. Heb. 8-9). Thanks to the gift of his Holy Spirit he gives us immediate access to God: "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father! "' (Gal. 4:6; cf. Rom. 8:15)*

*Jesus brought his role as mediator to complete fulfillment when he offered himself on the cross, thereby opening to us, once and for all, access to the heavenly sanctuary, to the Father's house (cf. Heb. 9:24-28). Compared with Jesus, Moses and all other "mediators" between God and his people in the Old Testament - kings, priests and prophets - are no more than "figures" and "shadows of the good things to come" instead of "the true form of these realities" (cf. Heb. 10:1).*

*Jesus is the promised good shepherd (cf. Ez. 34), who knows each one of his sheep, who offers his life for them and who wishes to gather them together as one flock with one shepherd (cf. Jn. 10:11-16). He is the shepherd who has come "not to be served but to serve" (Mt. 20:28), who in the paschal action of the washing of the feet (cf. Jn. 13:1-20) leaves to his disciples a model of service to one another and who freely offers himself as the "innocent lamb" sacrificed for our redemption (cf. Jn. 1:36; Rv. 5:6, 12).*

*With the one definitive sacrifice of the cross, Jesus communicated to all his disciples the dignity and mission of priests of the new and eternal covenant.*

(Pastores Dabo Vobis, 13)

***Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Dear friends in Christ,

The diocesan priesthood is a precious grace emanating from the heart of the Holy Trinity. When people ask about my experience of serving as a parish priest, I am always careful to mention the gift that it is to the priest himself. It is a gift that demands much from the man who accepts the call.

In the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord Jesus sought to console those whom He was calling into service, *“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.* *For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”*

The weight of hundreds of souls fell upon my soul this week. On July 10th, my new title “pastor” took effect!

Of course, it is much more than a title. It is a spiritual reality and the grave responsibility for the care of souls. The Good Shepherd calls his priests to shepherd souls with the same zeal for their salvation that He has. The Heart of Jesus thirsts for the salvation of souls and He desires to place in the heart of his servant, the pastor, a share in that thirst.

The Church instructs its priests as to what that means, *“He is to be outstanding in sound doctrine and uprightness of character, endowed with zeal for souls and other virtues, and possessed of those qualities which by universal law are required for the care of the parish in question.”* (Code of Canon Law, 521) Such is the weight of the responsibility.

These are not just words on paper. They are a condensed description of what the Divine Saviour expects of his shepherds. It is also a promise He made to his Church. “I will appoint for you shepherds after my own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently.” (Jeremiah 3:15) You can see why it is so important to pray for your pastor.

Pray for his holiness, but also for his protection. Not only does he come with his own particular weaknesses, but the shepherd of the sheep is also the prime target of the enemies of God. Jesus quoted the prophet Jeremiah indicating the hatred of God’s enemies for the priesthood, “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed.” Our progress in the spiritual life, our advancement on the way to the Kingdom and our treading the path set before us by the Lord is accomplished together.

And heaven helps us. “O Mother of the Church, in the midst of the disciples in the upper room you prayed to the Spirit for the new people and their shepherds; obtain for the Order of Presbyters a full measure of gifts, O Queen of the Apostles.” (Pastores Dabo Vobis #82)

Blessed Mary, Queen of the clergy, pray for us,

**Fr. Martin Flum**

**Readings for the week of July 14, 2019**

Sunday:    Dt 30:10-14/Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 [cf.

 33] or PS 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [9a]/Col 1:15-20/Lk 10:25-37

Monday:   Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8 [8a]/Mt 10:34-

 11:1

Tuesday:   Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34 [cf. 33]/

 Mt 11:20-24

Wed.:    Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7 [8a]/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday:  Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27 [8a]/

 Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Ex 11:10--12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18

 [13]/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday:   Ex 12:37-42/Ps 136:1 and 23-24, 10-12, 13-15/

 Mt 12:14-21
Next Sunday:  Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 [1a]/Col 1:24-28/

 Lk 10:38-42

**CHILDREN IN PARKING LOT/GRASSY AREAS**

Reminder: VBS is this coming week, please be mindful when driving through the parking lot that the children may be outside and to please proceed slowly and cautiously.

**YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS**

**St. Michael’s**

Offertory Collection for July 6th & 7th $ 5,176.00

**St. Dominic’s**

Offertory Collection for July 7th $ 1,038.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday,      07/13/19     5pm  Rholand Hayden ****

Sunday,         07/14/19         8am     Conor Orsillo-Null

Sunday,         07/14/19       10am   Parishioners & their families

Sunday,         07/14/19   11:30am  Parish Volunteers

Monday, 07/15/19 8am Deacon John Shewmaker ****

Tuesday, 07/16/19 8am Louis Miller ****

Wed., 07/17/19 8am Apostolate of Heavenly Presents

Thursday,     07/18/19        8am      Parish Volunteers

Friday, 07/19/19 8am Louis Miller ****

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

For those who suffer from chronic illness especially, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Carol Carter, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, Brianna Daniels, Kathy Fisher, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Adam Lumpkins, Rachel Makle, Regina Nasatka, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, and Belinda Windsor, may they not grow weary under their burden but be strengthened by the love God has for them.

**She wants YOU for the Blue Army!**

"I am the Lady of the Rosary, I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask for pardon for their sins. They must not offend Our Lord any more, for He is already too grievously offended by the sins of men. People must say the Rosary. Let them continue saying it every day."

These were the first words of Our Blessed Mother in her apparition to the three children in 1917 at Fatima, Portugal.

To respond to Our Lady's message, our parish is preparing to start a Blue Army Prayer Cell, which is part of the World Apostolate of Fatima. Beginning this fall, the prayer cell will meet weekly, initially engaging in a formation period to learn more about the message of Our Lady of Fatima, and how to respond to that message. Our response will be through prayer, penance, and sacrifice in reparation for sin and for the conversion of sinners. This group will be an opportunity to foster a relationship with Our Lady, to pray together for the salvation of souls, to support each other in our daily response to our Lady's requests, and to form holy friendships. ALL are invited and encouraged to join.

How can you refuse the request of the Blessed Mother? To express your interest in the Blue Army Prayer Cell, contact: joanna.mason@wyomingcatholic.net.

**Singers Needed!**

Are you a confident singer with a desire to serve God and His people? St. Michael Parish is in need of volunteers to lead the singing as a cantor (without accompaniment) Saturday evenings at the 5 PM Mass. We hope to have a few cantors who will rotate thru the month. Basic training will be provided, and music selections will be made for you; all you must do is come and sing! Previous cantoring experience is not required.

Volunteer cantors (who will be accompanied on the organ) are also needed for the 11:30 AM Mass on Sunday. If you think you could be a good fit for this ministry, please inquire! Contact Joanna at evangelization.stmichaelbaden@gmail.com.

**ST. MICHAEL’S MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Saturday, 07/20/19 5pm**

**Rosary Leader:** Alice Williams **Lector**: Cheryl Kerwin

**Server:** April Luzano EMHC: Joseph Sobnosky

Sunday 07/21/19 **8am**

**Rosary Leader:** Ron Smith **Lector**: Jeanine Wilson

**Server:** Dan Wilson **EMHC:** James Holly

**Sunday, 07/21/19** 11:30am

**Rosary Leader**: Kevin Mondorff **Lector:** Chris Patterson

**Server:** Taylor Nickens  **EMHC:** Maureen Ingle

** Please pray this week for the success of our**

**Vacation Bible School!!!**

Mon – Fri, July 15th – July 19th from 9am to noon.

**A hearty THANK YOU**

**to all of the Volunteers in the Parish and Mission**

 How grateful we all are for the many volunteers who helped with the parish dinner! We also would like to thank all of those who are helping with Vacation Bible School. And there are those who have been working behind the scenes on so many projects at St. Michael and Dominic churches, including grass cutting, gardening, mechanical work. electrical repairs, plumbing repairs, concrete framing and installation, painting, food pantry and clothing closet, as well as so many other tasks that beautify and restore the property of the parish and mission. Thank you to all of you who are making such a great difference by employing your talents in service to the family of God.

"Pray, pray a great deal and make many sacrifices, for many souls go to Hell because they have no one to make sacrifices and to pray for them. "

*-Our Lady of Fatima*