



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

September 25, 2022 ▪ The Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

What Padre Pio can teach us about feeling unworthy

By Fr. Michael Rennier

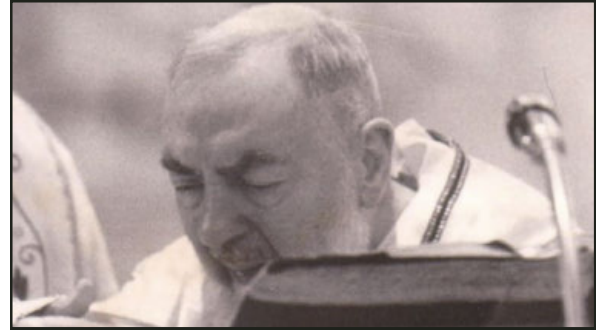
If we act like the person we want to become, we live our way to a holier life.

Like all of you, I hold in my mind a vision of who I would like to be. Most mornings, while the crickets sing in the pre-dawn, I slip out the door with my road bike, tuck a few necessities into my jersey pockets, and roll along deserted, tree-lined city streets on my way to early Mass. Some days, the cadence of the pedal strokes softly carries me, peaceful and calm. Other times, it's more like hunting, searching, escaping.

A few mornings ago, fog rose from the soccer field of the neighborhood park, the same field of grass where I've sat many an hour watching my children whoop and dance with their friends while a hapless coach tried to organize them into a proper drill to kick the ball. Like incense, the fog sanctified a scene that both revealed and concealed the backdrop of my daily pilgrimage.

In some sense, I know exactly what my place is in this world and who I mean to be – a husband, father, son, friend, priest – and I know how much I desire to be patient and kind, to think of others before myself, to find the right word to say to those who need to hear it.

In another sense, though, I have no idea how I'm doing at defining and fulfilling this personal vision. **If I'm not yet the person I want to be, I wonder how I'm supposed to get there.** It's all a haze rising from blades of grass and taken into the sky, an ever-shifting horizon of self-knowledge, of choices made and unmade.



My little cycling journeys are precious even if some mornings they're unsettling. The Mass is also a type of journey, one in which we accompany Christ through his Passion, death, and resurrection. The actor Shia LaBeouf, in describing his experience of attending the Mass, recently said that it feels like, "being let in on something that is very special."

Feeling Unworthy

I feel that specialness, and in many ways I feel unworthy, both of the daily bicycle ride and the Mass. I'm not quite sure what entitles me to experience either. I'm puzzled that God tolerates my presence.

LaBeouf had encountered the Mass because he's an actor who was learning to play the part of Padre Pio for a movie. In preparation, he watched the Mass. He had a priest explain to him how to act like a proper priest saying the Mass. He dressed the part. Learned the Latin. He acted it out. The funny thing is, over time, his acting took on an aspect of reality. **The Mass became real. It took him on a journey and changed his life.**

Perhaps, as we contemplate the struggle to grow into the very good, very devout, very happy self-images we create for ourselves, it's less about becoming worthy and more about simply showing up. Padre Pio himself, after all, wrote in a let-

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Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

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Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

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

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... Continued from cover

ter, "People who are or choose to be unworthy never have fear about being unworthy." The point is, I suppose, that even if we feel unworthy of the perfect picture we've composed for our lives, we shouldn't let that fear keep us away. Even if you're afraid, you act the part until it becomes real.

As he aged, Padre Pio's vision became so weak that he couldn't read the Mass prayers in the Missal anymore. However, he had memorized the Mass of the Dead and received permission from his superiors to pray it every day because he knew the words. He often fell into long silences during his Masses, not because he'd forgotten the words but because he became lost in thought, particularly in praying for all the souls in purgatory. He prayed that they would progress into the fullest version of themselves and enter Heaven, happy and strong.

People didn't like those long silences; even other priests complained. I wonder if those complaints ever made Padre Pio feel that he was a fraud. Maybe he was saying Mass wrong. Maybe he was unworthy. Or maybe he always understood with that fiery confidence of his that, even if he wasn't perfect, in making that daily journey of the Mass he had been let in on something very special.

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Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes

Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes resumed on September 20. The class will meet on Tuesdays from 9:30am to 11:00am in the courtyard hall and will continue with the series 'Our Catholic Life, Drawing Closer to Christ.'

For more information call Barbara Townsend at 727-867-3605

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Registration Deadline: October 1, 2022
www.dosp.org/culture-of-life-conference

COURAGEOUSLY
Living the Gospel



September 25, 2022

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 6:1a, 4-7 | 1 Tm 6:11-16 | Lk 16:19-31

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Don't let the purple garments and fine linen throw you. We who are fortunate enough to not have to think about our daily needs being met don't have to be dressed in fancy clothing. But it would not hurt to reflect for a moment on the unsettling parable of Lazarus and the rich man. Why? As Amos reminds us in the first reading, complacency isn't an option. Perhaps one of the simplest elements of this teaching of Jesus is the fact that the name Lazarus comes from the Hebrew name Eleazar, which means "God is my helper," or "God will help." Lazarus had no one on earth to help him and so he trusted in God completely. Although this may not be easy for us to do, it is what God asks of us. This coming week, seek to know the Lord better through studying his word and seeking him in prayer more often. Allow him to walk beside you.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Who is "Lazarus" today? He could be the homeless person who smells of cigarettes and hasn't bathed in a while, or the mentally ill woman who shouts at us as we walk by. Today's readings challenge us to move out of complacency and judgment and, instead, see the poor as human beings deserving of dignity and care. Unlike the rich man in today's parable, we still have time to reorder our priorities and find ways to close the "chasm" between rich and poor. As Pope Francis said during the Mass for the World Day of the Poor in 2021, indifference is not an option. The Church "asks us not to turn aside, not to be afraid to take a close look at the suffering of those most vulnerable." Then, act. Today's psalm tells us all we need to know: "Blessed he who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry."

ACT If you encounter someone in need on the street, consider giving away socks, a gift card to an area restaurant, or simply offer a nod and a smile. Then perhaps seek volunteer opportunities near you.



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

Matrimony

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

Baptism

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

Office Hours

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



Special Mass Times

All Souls Day, November 2 and on Thanksgiving, November 24, Mass will be at 9:00am and there will be no 8:00am Mass.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 24, Weekday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Laura Sapia (Dec)

Sunday, September 25, The Twenty-sixth Sunday in OT

8:00 a.m. Leonard Moore (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Romane Farrell (Dec)

Monday, September 26, Memorial of Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

8:00 a.m. Marlene Romani (Dec)

Tuesday, September 27, Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

8:00 a.m. Lyliane Corvington (Dec)

Wednesday, September 28, Memorial of Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, September 29, Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

8:00 a.m. Edward J. Mirek (Dec)

Friday, September 30, Memorial of Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Richard Hill (Dec)

Saturday, October 1, Memorial of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Jane King (Dec)

4:00 p.m. Jim Lawler and Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, October 2, The Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Gerald F. Daley (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Lyliane Corvington (Dec)

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

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

09/25 • Rev. Robert J. Schneider

09/26 • Rev. Vincent Suparman, SCJ

09/27 • Msgr. Dacien Dee

09/28 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

09/29 • Nicholas Gunn, Seminarian

09/30 • Rev. John S. Hays

10/01 • Rev. Kyle Bell

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

SALESIAN SISTERS MISSION APPEAL



As part of the Diocesan Mission Cooperative Plan, a Salesian Sister of St. John Bosco will speak at our Parish **this weekend** on behalf of their foreign mission ministries.

The Salesian Sisters are a worldwide Community counting over 11,000 Sisters spreading the Gospel on the five Continents, in 97 countries. Many of their Sisters work strictly in mission areas affected by great poverty, diseases, political unrest, violence, war and other difficult conditions, such as, areas of natural disaster and refugee camps.

The Salesian Sisters were founded by St. John Bosco in 1872 and started their mission work in 1877 when they departed from Italy for the farthest tip of South America called Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Ever since, they have continued to provide missionaries for Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific Islands and other places not yet evangelized or in need of re-evangelization.

Their Congregation was specifically founded for the service of poor youth; consequently, most of their ministries will have an educational thrust. They are grateful for the opportunity of sharing their mission work here at Blessed Trinity and of benefiting from your generosity.



The Blessed Trinity Choir has begun rehearsals! Previous or recent singers are certainly welcome; but now is the perfect opportunity for new members to join as well! No auditions! No interviews! Only a love of music and the desire to be part of this wonderful ministry is necessary. If you have ever considered singing in the church choir, NOW is the time!

Rehearsal for Adult Choir will be Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the Music Room in the Ministries Center, and the Contemporary Group will meet in the church on Fridays at 3:00pm.



St. Vincent de Paul Training Event

You are invited to our St. Vincent de Paul training event. Join fellow parishioners to learn how we can help care for those less fortunate through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We are sent to see Christ in the poor, to visit the Poor, to see the depth of needs, to

respond to needs, to provide in-person help, to be a voice of the poor, and to give witness to Christ.

You are invited to the Ozanam Orientation, Saturday October 8, 2022 at St. John Vianney Parish Hall. Training begins 9:30am and runs until 2:00pm. Lunch will be provided, there is no cost.

Please call or text your RSVP, or any questions to 727 488-5604.



Keep in touch with us!

TEXT BTSP TO 84576

OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:

btsp.flocknote.com



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Competing Like a Steward

Picture it: family game night. What are you playing? Monopoly? Clue? Chess? Poker?

Whatever your game of choice, I'll bet the night is a lot more fun when everyone tries their best to win. Sure, no one likes an obnoxiously competitive opponent — but if we're being honest with ourselves, it's actually more annoying to face off with someone who just doesn't care. A little competition gives the activity a pulse. It keeps everyone interested. It speaks to the worthiness of the endeavor.

We are told to "compete well for the faith." These are confusing words, perhaps, since cutthroat competition doesn't jive with the spiritual ideals of submission and humility. So why is God asking this of us? He isn't setting up some kind of cosmic contest to reward the smartest, strongest, and fastest among us with His mercy and grace.

Competition doesn't have to mean aggressive self-interest. It doesn't have to mean ferocity and lack of principle. Competition can — and should — mean witness. Think of the Olympics. There's a competition that isn't a conquest or a performance but rather a testimony — a feat of strength! A celebration of ability, hard work, and effort. Does anything glorify God more than that?

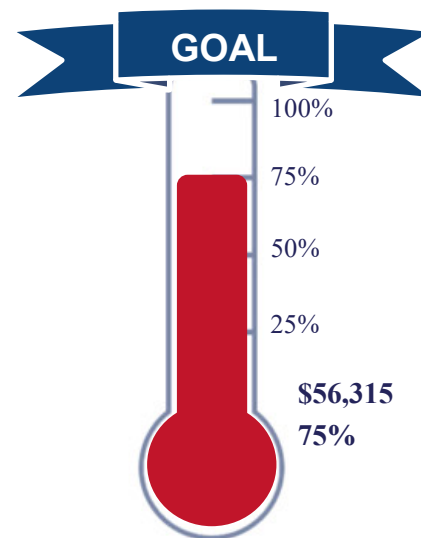
Let's strive to be competitive, but with the competitive nature of an everyday steward: that which seeks the good of all running the race.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



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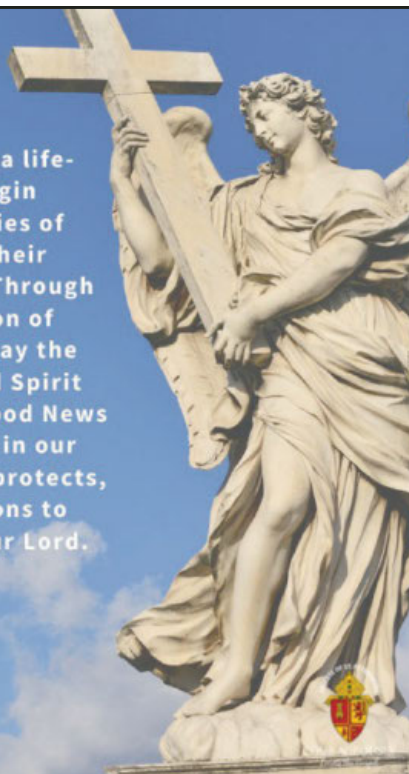
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PRAYER FOR MEDIA MINISTRY

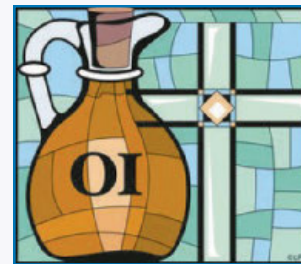
St. Gabriel the Archangel, delivered a life-changing message to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We pray for our media ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, that their message will also be life-changing. Through the intercession of St. Gabriel, patron of communicators and broadcasters, may the ministries of Gulf Coast Catholic and Spirit FM be successful in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. May we be generous in our support of media that strengthens, protects, and promotes our faith for generations to come. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Ashlyn
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Holley, Gerry
Huff, Walt & Carole
Irvin, John and Marsha
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgeessner, Marie
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew

LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
O'Farrell, Louise
Oliphant, Brian
Parmigiani, George
Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Privitera, Sandy
Privitera, Peter
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Romani, Angelo
Shelby, Ron & Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Theissen, Robert
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Wanize, Tom
Youngman, Kyle
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

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

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



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