

From Pontiff to Pew (continued):

abortion, euthanasia or wilful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed" (ibid.).

Second consequence: respect and love for adversaries or for those who think and act in ways different from our own (cf. GS, 28).

Thirdly: the fundamental equality of all human beings, which demands social justice. The Document states: "Every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent" (GS, 29).

Finally, the Council Fathers exhort us to overcome the individualistic mindset and to adopt an attitude of responsibility and participation (cf. GS, 30-31).

Dear brothers and sisters, this vision of humanity as a "community of people" is a valuable legacy that the Second Vatican Council has left us. It helps us all to engage in personal and communal discernment, so that we may responsibly evaluate today's social and political projects, based on the criteria of the dignity of the human person, social justice and free participation in constructing the common good. For the future of humanity depends on each person's commitment to collaborate with God and with their brothers and sisters in building a more humane world (cf. GS, 30).

Christian Initiation

Are you searching for God (Or do you know someone who is)? Are you looking for a place to call home where you can learn about your faith and become a full flourishing member of a community? Were you baptized but never completed your other sacraments of initiation (you never received first Eucharist

and/or you were never confirmed? If so, please consider joining us for the period of inquiry when we will entertain your questions on Sundays, beginning October 11th. We will gather in the Elizabethan Suite to *break open the Word* (discuss the Sunday scripture readings) and answer basic questions that you have about the Catholic faith and the process of joining the Catholic Faith here at Visitation parish. If you know anyone who is interested in joining the Catholic faith, please invite them and join us on Sunday, October 11th. The Lord knew how it was important to discuss matter of faith on a full stomach, so we will be providing coffee, juice and donuts (or pastries).

From the Pastor's Desk

Autumn is in full swing: the leaves are beginning to change, school is in session, and we are nearly 3/5^{ths} of the way through the longest period of Ordinary Time within the Church's liturgical year. Speaking of liturgy, there are a few things that I have been praying about that I would like to discuss with you regarding our celebration of Eucharist. Most importantly, as you know I believe firmly in community building and that means talking with one another, especially before and after Mass begins. I do need to address the issue of talking at inappropriate times. These times are from the beginning of the announcements until the end of the closing hymn. I need to address this because the talking during the announcements and once Mass has begun has become a most serious issue. I am sorry that I need to remind some individuals that once the announcements have begun that it is the poorest of manners to talk while the reader is doing the announcements. I have noticed this; however, it has become so bad that after the last two Sunday Masses GUESTS have told me that they would unlikely return to one of the Masses because of the inappropriate talking that occurred, again both during the announcements and during Mass (even during the Eucharistic prayer). Please, if there is something that needs to be ABSOLUTELY needs to be said to someone during announcement time or during the Mass, please exit the nave of the church and go to the main vestibule of the Church. I have instructed the readers to pause if someone is speaking during the announcements. I have decided to do the same if someone is talking inappropriately during Mass. While I would be hard pressed to embarrass someone publicly, such a pregnant pause will draw its own attention to the offender. I ask you kindly please put neither me nor the readers in such a position.

Another issue is the *false start*. What I mean by this, before we stand for certain prayers, response, and songs, some individuals are chomping at the bit, with their hands on the pew in front of them, beginning to stand before the invitation to prayer has ended. An example of this is when the presider says, “Pray brothers and sisters (or pray friends) that this our sacrifice be acceptable to God our Almighty Father.” You respond, **ONLY STANDING AS YOU BEGIN THE RESPONSE**, “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands...” Please don’t rush standing at this time or any other. It is disruptive to the flow of liturgy that is supposed to be uniform. We are one, holy, catholic, and Apostolic Church. Please do not disrupt the unity of the flow of liturgy by a “false start.”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity to the poor during our recent spontaneous collection. We collected \$1485 which will be divided three ways between Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, and our parish poor box. While I am certain that you know of the good work that the first two charities do, I wanted to let you know how your donations help our own parishioners. One family required a necessary appliance and had no money for either repairs or replacement and we were able to help with that. Another required basic food needs for a month and we were able to provide for their small family. Both were most appreciative of your generosity and wanted me to convey their gratitude to you. As I said in today’s homily, the Lord loves a cheerful giver and you have proven your willingness to share with those who struggle financially. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness.

St Therese Church Johnstown will be holding their Annual Novena in honor of St. Therese of the Little Flower of Jesus starting Wednesday, September 23rd and will continue for nine (9) days. Masses will be held at 9AM and 7PM except on Saturday and Sunday, which will be Saturday at 9AM, 4PM, & 7PM and Sunday at 7:30AM, 10:30AM Healing Mass at 2PM and 7PM. The closing of the Novena will be Thursday, Oct. 1st.

2nd Annual Ice Cream Crawl Update - A quick update to everyone regarding the Ice Cream social that needed rescheduled, It will be held on Sunday, October 11th at 6 PM in the school cafeteria. More information will be in the upcoming bulletins, so please mark your calendars for this date if you are interested in attending!