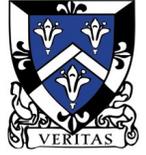




St. Thomas Aquinas Church

September 28, 2014, 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time



Pastor's Corner

In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus, via the parable of the workers in the vineyard, turns our world's framework for judgment on its head. It's not the principle of first-come, first-served that prevails in the Kingdom of God, but rather the principle that the last shall be first, and the first, last. Odd to our way of thinking, to say the least. But we mustn't think this means that we should consciously try to wait until the last hour of our life to turn to God—that's not the kind of being "last" that Jesus has in mind.

Perhaps we should turn to another parable or two in order to clarify. First, there's this Sunday's Gospel, which comes a few verses later in Matthew's Gospel. This parable too involves a vineyard (vineyards are a symbol of the Church—they are by definition for the making of wine, something which is the product of many different individual grapes, and also which has undergone the transforming process of fermentation). The owner of the vineyard has two sons, and he asks both to go work in the vineyard. One of them says "no," but then changes his mind and goes to work; the other says "yes," but then never goes. Then Jesus puts the question to the chief priests and the elders: "Who do you think does the Father's will?" They answer correctly, for it is obvious: the one who *initially* said no but then changed his mind. Jesus then says something which must have been truly shocking: "I tell you, prostitutes and tax collectors are entering the Kingdom of God before you."

The parable is an allegory: the son who says "no" but then repents of his disobedience represents the prostitutes and tax collectors, who believe in Jesus and love him, and turn away from their sins (the Evangelist Matthew himself was a tax collector, so he knew what he was talking about!). The other son, who gave lip service but then ultimately refused to obey, represents the hard-hearted chief priests, scribes, Pharisees, and elders: they were hypocrites.

Another kindred parable is that of the prodigal son: in that parable, the older son (i.e., the "first") never leaves his father's side *physically* but shows just how far he has wandered from the merciful ways of his father when he refuses to rejoice in the younger son's (i.e., the "last") return. He bitterly resents the father's gifts to his brother—won't even come in the house during the celebration! The father rightly says, "you are here with me always and everything I have is yours!" But it's not enough for the older brother to have the father's love; he needs to disown and exclude the younger brother.

It is pride and envy that make the first to become last—not the mere accident of precedence in time. And it is humility and gratitude—not coming afterward in time—that

lifts the lowly to the heights. Satan fell by his own weight, i.e., his pride, his boundless self-appreciation. It is recognition of our sins and weaknesses—and our genuine repentance of them—that makes us light, able to be raised up to friendship and communion with God and a home in the Kingdom.

The target of these rebukes from the Lord were most often the Jewish leaders—the Scribes and Pharisees and priests. But the truth he spoke is not only for them. The Gospels are not mere historical documents but things we now must pattern our lives on. The Church is called the "New Israel" and the New Israel is divided, too, just as the Old was—it is peopled by humble and arrogant alike. And we can just as easily be shut out of the Kingdom of God as the Pharisees could—and if we think we're not proud, as they were, we should remember that they were unaware of their own pride: it's the kind of thing that blinds us to ourselves, and requires the kind of sharp rebuke the Lord dishes out.

Being "last" can best be understood as reckoning all others as more deserving than oneself. Honestly, genuinely. Saint Paul did so. Without pious exaggeration, he calls himself "the foremost of sinners" in the Letter to the Galatians. And in 1 Corinthians he says the word of salvation came to him "last of all the apostles," as one "abnormally born," "unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God." He saw no good in himself that was not first a gift of God. Apart from Christ, he (rightly) saw his entire life as "refuse." Yet now the Church reckons him as one of the greatest of the apostles and saints. And so he who was last became first.

Who is absolutely the greatest sinner, and who greatest saint in truth, God alone can judge. But to follow the Lord's precept, it helps if we count ourselves the greatest sinner in our individual world (we all in a sense have our own world since we each have a peculiar perspective on things). We should all aim to be the last and thus a servant of all, that we might be dealt with mercifully. The key is in ascribing all the good in us to God, and being willing to splurge that good happily for our neighbors' well-being. — Fr. Peter

A word about our finances. Those who read the bulletin each week will notice that we're consistently \$2,000 below budget (this week we're over \$3K below). No pastor likes to talk about money, and I'm no different in that regard, but obviously no parish that fails to meet its expenses can survive for long. Collections are down all over the country, I know. And I know the causes are varied—one of which is the financial strain on many families. I say this here mainly to make people aware of the problem, in case they haven't seen the figures.



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MASS INTENTIONS

Sun, Sep 28	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00pm	Don Frame & Family
7:00am	Fr. Luke Turon O.P. (+)
9:00am	Jeannette Harnetty (+)
11:00am	People of the Parish
Mon, Sept 29	ARCHANGELS (F)
8:00am	Jack Vaughn (+)
Noon	Bill & Mary Reilly (+)
Tue, Sept 30	St. Jerome, priest & doctor (M)
8:00am	John & Mary Hanifan (+)
Wed, Oct 1	St. Therese of Lisieux, virgin & doctor (M)
8:00am	Fr. Luke Turon O.P. (+)
Noon	Poor Souls in Purgatory
Thu, Oct 2	Guardian Angels (M)
8:00am	Poor Souls in Purgatory
Fri, Oct 3	
8:00am	Don Frame & Family
Noon	Charles & Leota Schaumleffel (+)
Sat, Oct 4	ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (F)
9:00am	Poor Souls in Purgatory (+)
Sun, Oct 5	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00pm	Bob & Bette Mattingly (+)
7:00am	Eleanor Teeters (+)
9:00am	John Thomas Hanifan (+)
11:00am	Tim Young (+)

(Incense will not be used at 7:00am Masses; it may be used at other Sunday Masses, as well as evening Masses on Holy Days of Obligation.)

2nd Collections

This weekend: Muskingum Valley Right to Life

Parish Finance

Week of September 22, 2014

Envelopes (267).....	\$7,716.00
Loose.....	786.42
Total	8,502.42
Weekly Budget.....	11,538.00
Deficit ..	3,035.58

Thank you!

Please pray for the home-bound of the parish:

Margaret Gladys Abbott, Maxine Anders, William & Jan Barry, Josephine Basalla, Mary Battiger, Dorothy Beaver, Gertrude Bell, Ed Bowman, Madelyn Bronkar. Mathilda Clark, Mary Cowden, Michael Curtis, Ernestine Daily, Jeanne Dittmar, Ralph Dosch, Paul & Marcy DuBeck, Betty Fedor, Jenni Finnen, Claude & Beverly Foley, Marcia Fulk, Isabel Gilchrist, Mary Ellen Grafton, Nancy Hamler, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hartnett, Florence Herbert, Gabrielle Hinkle, Patricia Huck, Mary Imlay, Mary Carolyn Johnson, Eileen Johnston, Henry Long, David Macenko, Farida Mach, Josephine Marshall, Alice McGonagle, Betty Mercer, Michael Overstreet, Loretta Paynter, Patricia Perrone, Glenna Pfeifer, Alice Pitcock, Mary Polascak, Mary Postlewaite, George and Barb Ridenour, Barbara Schumacher, Charles & Mary Lou Scott, Loretta Sfliko, Theresa Tracey, Teresa Woods, Terri Woods

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, Sep 28

10:00 a.m. CCD (School)

Coffee and doughnuts after 9:00 and 11:00 (Rosary Hall)

Monday, Sep 29

7:00 p.m.: Children of God prayer group (Parish ctr.)

Tuesday, Sep 30

6:00 p.m. Rosary for Life (Church)

7:00 p.m. R. C. I. A. (Rosary Hall)

Wednesday, Oct 1

7:30 p.m. St. Monica Sodality (Church)

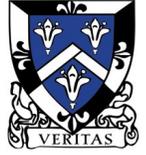
Saturday, Oct 4

8:00 a.m. The Beauty of the Feminine Women's Conference (St. Thomas Aquinas Activity Center)



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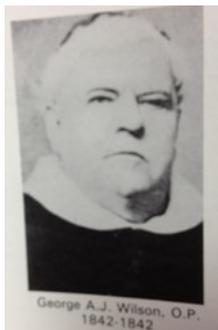
A History of St. Thomas Aquinas Church Part XVII - "The Poor You will always have with You..."

In 1843, Father Wilson became Provincial for the Dominicans, although he maintained his residence in Zanesville. Father C.P. Montgomery resumed the office of Pastor which he held until 1857. The building cost of the new St. Thomas Aquinas Church was forty thousand dollars. Fr. Montgomery was concerned about where this money would come from to finish paying for the building, not to mention the interior furnishings. Mr. William Mattingly aided the furnishing of the interior by giving three thousand dollars for this purpose. At its opening, the church was very bare and benches were used instead of the more substantial pews. On July 26, 1844, Archbishop John B. Purcell visited St. Thomas Aquinas to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on one hundred-five candidates. On September 3, 1848, sixty-four candidates were confirmed. The Archbishop again returned to St. Thomas on August 11, 1850 to confirm thirty-nine candidates.

Mr. Robert Harkins recounted in his account that the first plastering of the walls by Fr. Montgomery was plaster of Paris, which did not stay long. "He soon found it on the floor, and it was wheeled out. The second attempt 'stuck', and is still there yet (as of Mr. Harkin's writing of his reminisces). The last was put on June or July, 1851."

Bits of parish history of subsequent years reveal how money was raised to pay for the building. In 1851, the Catholic ladies of Zanesville gave a supper at Beard's Hall for funds for a new organ. The event was reported to be very successful and netted a total of four hundred dollars. Another supper was held by the ladies in 1852 and there was an exhibition in the basement of the church by Catholic school children. The children presented speeches and premiums were awarded. A series of concerts was given in the church during this interim. The poor were not forgotten in these fund-raising endeavors. There is an account of a supper for the poor, and the admission was and refreshments extra". The series of charity benefits continued through the Civil War.

In 1855, Mr. Mattingly donated a bell during the pastorate of Fr. Charles P. Montgomery. The bell was made in Cincinnati, weighing seventeen hundred pounds at the cost of \$1200. It stood three feet high and was forty-six inches in diameter. Mr. Harkins relates that at one time in the vestry room on the north side of St. Thomas the wall with the name of William Mattingly on it, testifying that he was a benefactor of the church.



George A.J. Wilson, O.P.
1842-1842



Charles Pius Montgomery, O.P.
1843-1837
1850-1860

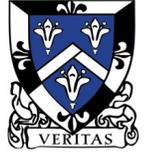
of a supper to raise money for twenty-five cents with "oysters ladies of the parish sponsored a through the decade preceding

dated money for the purchase Fr. Charles P. Montgomery. nati, weighing seventeen hun- It stood three feet high and was Mr. Harkins relates that at one north side of St. Thomas the wall with the name of Wil- that he was a benefactor of the



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Parish Life

Beauty of the Feminine Conference All women of Saint Thomas Aquinas parish and friends are invited to a day of fellowship, fun, food, and faith for women. Please join us for the 3rd annual *Beauty of the Feminine: Fruitful Vine Catholic Women's Conference*, this Saturday, October 4th, at the Saint Thomas Activity Center. Registration and breakfast 7:15am, and the first talk is 8:00am. The conference ends at 4:30pm. Cost is \$20 for those registering before September 27th; after that, \$25. Special fee for students and religious is \$10. Please send checks to the attention of Maria Horn at the parish office with "Beauty of the Feminine Women's Conference" in memo line, along with the names of those registering. For more information, call the parish office or visit www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1: 38).

IMPORTANT DATES FOR PARENTS

First Penance The Parent meeting for First Penance will be held Monday, September 29th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you have any questions, please call Melanie Von Gunten at 453-3301 extension 15.

Confirmation The Confirmation meeting for Parents that was originally scheduled for Monday September 15th was rescheduled and will be held on Sunday October 5th following the 11 a.m. Mass. The meeting will be held in the Parish Center and will be brief. If you have any questions please call Melanie Von Gunten at 453-3301, extension 15.

RCIA/Adult education. RCIA has started, and talks are open to any parishioners who wish to attend. Hardly anyone showed up last week, which leads me to think some forgot. Except for the occasional night off, we'll be meeting in Rosary Hall on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. Bring a Bible and a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (or some adaptation thereof—we're using the US Bishops Conference Catechism for Adults). This week's topic: the Triune God.

Varia

Life Chain The 13th Annual National Prayer Chain to raise public awareness and to lift our prayers to God to end abortion will be held on **Sunday, October 5th from 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** We will line the streets of Maple Avenue. Parking and sign-pick up at Dr. Kevin Colopy's parking lot (across from Taco Bell). Please come and publicly pray with us for life, while we still have the freedom to do so. If unable to stand for that length of time, feel free to bring a lawn chair. Life Chain is a national pro-life event and is sponsored locally by Muskingum Valley Right to Life. Please feel free to call Helen at (740) 454-7529 or Bernie at (740) 454-1882. Please join us for an hour of prayer.

The Knights of Columbus breakfast will be offering hot breakfast in Rosary Hall after all Sunday Masses. There is no cost for the breakfast, but donations will help support Heartbeats of Muskingum Valley to purchase a new ultrasound machine. Come out and support this great cause.

Sign Language Classes On Mondays at St. Nicholas starting at 5:30 pm in the Parish Office. Classes are through the Main Street entrance. All skill levels are welcome, beginners to advanced.

Altar server training! Woo-hoo! Finally! Altar server training (for servers of all school-ages) will be Saturday, October 4, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. I kindly request some parental presence for the duration (not necessarily the same parents for the whole time, but at least someone at all times).

Youth Group Sunday, October 5th teens will participate in the Life Chain (a quiet prayerful hour in support of the Pro Life Movement) held on Maple Avenue. Students should meet at Dr. Colopy's Office on Maple Avenue (across from Taco Bell) at 2:15 p.m. We will travel to Tom's Ice Cream immediately following the event. Permission slips required if we are transporting the student to Tom's.



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Catholic Community News & Events

Breakfast with the Bishop Friday, October 3, 2014 7:45 - 9 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High Street, Columbus. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Speakers for the event are Bishop Frederick F. Campbell and Jodi Pfarr, Minneapolis, MN, *Bridges Out of Poverty* certified trainer, advocate, and teacher. All proceeds from the breakfast will support the programs and services of CSS. For tickets or event sponsorship call Peggy Welch at (614) 857.1254 or visit the website: www.colscss.org.

Healing for the divorced A Catholic Divorce Survival Guide Training will be offered Thu., Oct 2, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Grove City. Keynote Speaker is Rose Sweet, author and frequent speaker on divorce and annulments. Registration fee: \$45. Contact the Marriage & Family Life Office of the Diocese at familylife@colsdioec.org or at (614) 241-2560.

Diocesan Family Rosary Day will be celebrated this year on Sunday, Oct 12, at 3:00 p.m. at Saint Joseph's Cathedral. Bishop Frederick Campbell will preside. Success for this celebration requires your prayers, but also your material support. Please consider making a donation of \$20 or more. All contributors will be named in the Family Rosary Day program booklet. Printing deadline is Sep 19, so please respond by then to have your name included.



Checks should be made out to Diocese of Columbus, and all donations should be sent to: Family Rosary Day, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215.

—Deacon Thomas M. Berg, Jr., Chancellor of the Diocese

Around the Diocese

The 8th annual Diocesan Marian Dinner will be Wednesday, October 8, at 6:00 p.m., at the Bryce Eck Center at St. Andrew's, 3880 Reed Road, Columbus. Come for an evening of prayer, friendship, learning, and discerning about vocations for women. Presentations will be given by Bishop Frederick F. Campbell and Sr. Eileen Fitzsimmons, O. Carm. To register or get more information, call (614) 224-2251.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

The October session of the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club will feature a special address by the Most Reverend Frederick Campbell, D.D., Ph.D., who has served as Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus since 2004! This event will be held on Friday, October 10th (NOT on the usual first Friday due to the Bishop's schedule).

Join us for this special opportunity on October 10th at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus! Holy Mass begins at 11:45 am followed by lunch and Bishop Campbell's address until 1:00 pm. No reservations necessary. \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! For information on the many activities of Columbus Catholic Men, go to ColumbusCatholicMen.com or contact John Schechter, CMLC President at jschechter@sbcglobal.net

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

will be having their 69th annual convention on Saturday, October 25, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Grove City (3720 Broadway). The theme of this year's convention is "Blessed are the Poor," and speakers include Valerie Horton, Maggie Weeks, Brooke Gaberle, and Bishop Frederick F. Campbell. Registration fee is \$30; fee for the Pre-convention dinner is an additional \$20. Registration forms available online at dccw.colsdioec.org. Questions can be addressed to the DCCW office at (614) 228-8601 or by email at dccwmailbox@colsdioec.org. *Reservation deadline is October 1.*