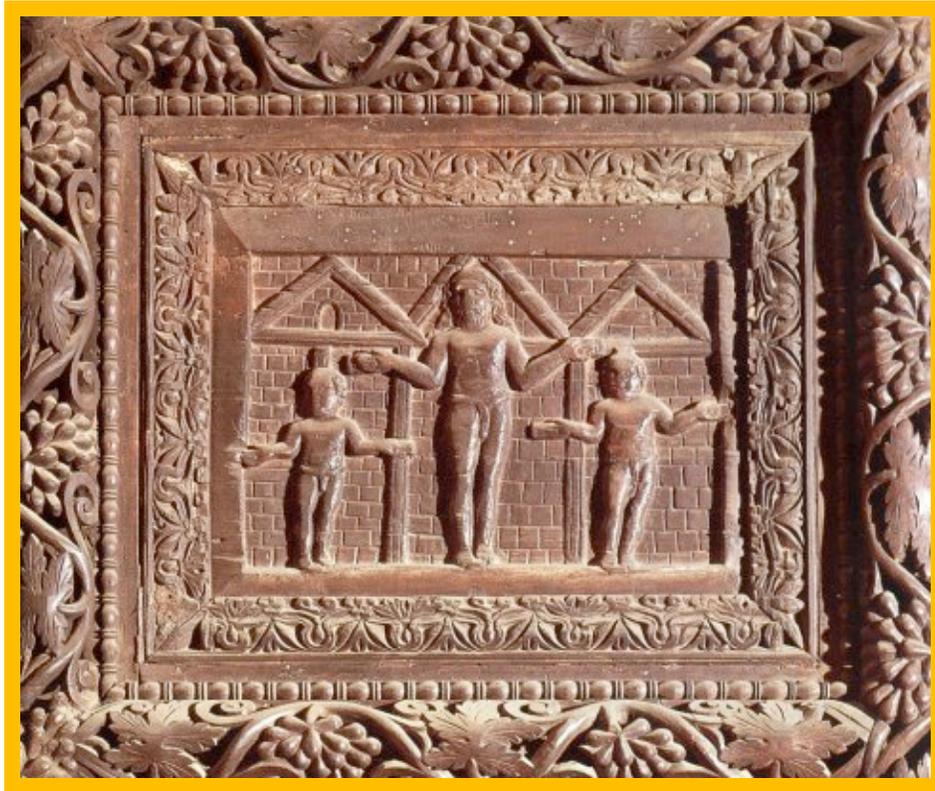


The 24th Sunday

September 13, 2015



Jesus Dies on the Cross along with the Two Thieves

This panel, carved in cypress (430-32), is one of the panels on the entrance door to Saint Sabina Church on the Aventine Hill in Rome. It is thought to be the earliest extant depiction of the crucified Christ. In today's gospel reading we hear Jesus say:

**Whoever wishes to come after me
must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.**

And tomorrow, the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, St Paul reminds us (in 1 Cor 2:2) that

**For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**

St Bernadette Parish

1343 Wheeling Road NE
LANCASTER, OH 43130-8701
(740) 654 • 1893
stbernaparish@yahoo.com

St Mary Parish

602 Marietta Street
BREMEN, OHIO 43107
(740) 569 • 7929
bremenstmary1@frontier.com

Our Parishes

FATHER THOMAS KESSLER pastor
(614) 634-0499
wnthomaskessler @ icloud . com

AT ST BERNADETTE

MARK SCARPITTI deacon
438-3970
dcm.mark @ frontier . com

JEFF CARPENTER deacon
681-9918
carpenter.277 @ osu . edu

ANN ESSMAN pastoral minister
653-9347
aessman001 @ att . net

STEVE HUBER facilities coordinator
654-3137
shuber57 @ yahoo . com

LIZ LATORRE liturgical music
243-1872
lizlatorre @ gmail . com

The St Bernadette Parish office is in the Mary Good Center, across the back parking lot from the school.
Hours are: 9 AM-2 PM, Mon-Thurs; 9 AM to noon, Fri.
1343 Wheeling Road NE, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701
(740) 654-1893

AT ST MARY BREMEN

BEN FACTOR liturgical music
b_factor @ lancaster . k12 . oh . us

JIM SCHMELZER maintenance
committee chair

TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER religious education
(614) 371-7702
schmelifox @ earthlink . net

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.
Hours are 9 am-noon, Tues; 2-4, Mon & Thurs.
602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107.
(740) 569-7929

AT BOTH PARISHES

DARLENE YENRICK business manager
654-1893
businessmstbparish @ yahoo . com

KATHY KEHNAST pastoral coordinator
654-1893
stbernaparish @ yahoo . com

ANGIE & KENT KERNS religious education
654-2588
kwkerns @ gmail . com

AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

PAM ELTRINGHAM school principal
654-3137
peltring @ cdeducation . org

BARB HUBER school secretary
654-3137
bhuber @ cdeducation . org

Saint Bernadette School is located at
1325 Wheeling Road, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701
www.stbernadetteschool.com
stbernanlan @ cdeducation . org.

The Sacramental Life

BAPTISM

To have a child baptized you must register and attend a class as a couple (unless attendance just isn't possible, in which case some discussion with Kathy Kehnast will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. The next session will be Wednesday, Sept 16. Try to take the class before the child is born. If you are expecting, call Kathy to register for the class.

Please don't ask if you "have to go." This is an opportunity to meet together with parents of children about the same age as your little one; they are in the same wonderful boat as you are.

At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic. Both godparents need to be practicing Christians, at least one a practicing Catholic Christian. If you don't attend Sunday Mass regularly, there is something you can do about it: Start coming to Sunday Mass.

PENANCE

The priest is available for Penance

- at St Bernadette Sat afternoons at 3 and Thurs evenings at 5:30, and
- at St Mary Bremen on Sunday at 8 AM.

In addition to Advent and Lenten Penance Services, every Catholic priest is available whenever there is a need. We are beginning to provide Penance opportunities for parochial school children several more times during the year so that they will learn the beauty of frequent confession. The Church's law requires us to receive the sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

THE ANOINTING AND CARE OF THE SICK

The Sick receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick when dangerously ill, facing major surgery, or suffering from the ravages of old age.

We celebrate the sacrament communally at a Sunday Mass before Advent and during the Easter season so that we can all pray with you for "health of mind and body." And, we are happy to bring Penance, Anointing, and Holy Communion to the homes or hospitals of the sick or shut in. It is very helpful to call the parish office to let us know before a hospitalization or when it has been too long since the sacraments were last available.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Couples wishing to marry should contact the parish office six months before they wish to celebrate the sacrament. Why so long? Because this sacrament, not just the ceremony, requires serious preparation. And the Church needs to be involved in that preparation.

The Church wishes to support couples through the years of their married life. For this reason our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. The point of such programs is more than simply to put stress on the duties of marriage. To learn more about these programs, watch the weekly bulletin.

Confessions & Weekday Mass in the Deanery

But call ahead to be sure!

confessions	the parish	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
8 AM Sunday	Bremen St Mary		8:20 AM				
5:30 Thurs & 3 Sat	St Bernadette	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	
4- 5 Saturday	St Mary	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
5:30 Saturday	St Mark	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
½ hour before Mass	Sugar Grove St Joseph	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	
4-4:45 Saturday	Logan St John	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM

both our parishes

YOUTH: A YOUTH MINISTRY !

Soon to begin: *YOUTH* a new program for all our high school students at our two parishes. Exciting young adult leaders are organizing an exciting program for youth in our parishes. In the meantime, pray for this ministry.

FORMING GOD'S CHILDREN IN THE FAITH

Catholic parents, whether in Catholic schools or PSR or home-schooled, should bring (*not drop off*) their *children* (at least by kindergarten) *to participate every Sunday in Mass*. Those not enrolled in Catholic school should be sure to enroll in PSR religion classes. We only mention that it is a serious moral obligation and that failure in this regard is a mortal sin. It is also common sense. We are teaching that Sunday Mass is central to the Faith and that learning the Faith comprehensively is not something to dabble with. We don't want to teach at cross purposes to what their families teach by example.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Anyone who works with children in our diocese must have attended a Protecting God's Children session. St John Church, Logan, will hold a session, led by Deacon Don Robers, on Saturday, Sept 26, from 9 AM-noon in their church Hall. You can register at <http://www.virtus.org>.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A Baptism Preparation Meeting for both parishes happens at 7 PM on Wednesday, Sept 16, at St Bernadette.

at St Bernadette

PSR AT ST BERNADETTE

St Bernadette PSR classes for children in *K-8th grade* begin today. They will meet from 9:30-10:45 AM each Sunday.

The 8th grade class (including those attending Catholic school) will be preparing for *Confirmation*.

For information, contact Angie Kerns at kwkerns@gmail.com or leave a message at the parish office @ (740) 654-1893.

OKTOBERFEST !

St Bernadette Parish will enjoy *the first annual Oktoberfest* on the first Friday of October. This festival will bring together parishioners, former parishioners, friends, and neighbors to enjoy each other's company, share memories, and showcase St Bernadette grounds at the beginning of the beautiful season of Fall colors. All this over some good beer and dinner while raising funds *to help our parish cover our costs for sending St Bernadette parishioner students to Fisher Catholic High, St Mary Middle, and St Bernadette Elementary School*. Put it on your calendar.

RECYCLE FOR SIGHT

Our young parishioner, McKenzie Ortiz, a junior at Fisher Catholic and St Bernadette School alumna, invites us to join her in a FCHS Junior Class service project. Please drop your used eyeglasses in the box at the school entry. Glasses will be sorted and checked by students at Ohio State College of Optometry. Then

doctors and students will transport the glasses to Lima, Peru, where needy children and adults will be fitted. They will be grateful to you for helping give the gift of sight to those in need.

JILLIAN'S DINNER WILL HELP A FAMILY IN NEED

Saturday, Oct 24, we will enjoy the 15th annual *Jillian's Dinner* at St Bernadette. This dinner raises money to assist a family from our area who has suffered catastrophic illness, the loss of a loved one, or some such major adversity. To recommend someone who might benefit from Jillian's Dinner, contact Kathy Wagner at (740) 687-0504. Nominations will be considered by a lay committee and kept confidential. A raffle is held during the dinner to generate more funds for the family. If you have items to donate, bring them to the parish office by Oct 13.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

The offertory collection for Sept 6 at *St Bernadette* was \$ 10,060.

THANK YOU

Dr and Mrs James Merk would like to extend their appreciation to everyone who remembered their 60th Wedding Anniversary. A sincere thank you to all who attended Mass, and to all who sent cards and best wishes.

FRIENDS FOREVER

Friends Forever gathers for a pot luck at noon on Thursday, Sept 17, at the Mary Good Center. Call Ann Essman at 654-1893.

SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you like to knit or crochet? The St Bernadette Shawl Ministry meets from 9-11 am on Wednesday, Sept 16, at the Mary Good Center. Call Terry Carpenter at 681-9918 for information.

at Bremen St Mary

SAINT MARY HOMECOMING OX ROAST

The parishioners of St Mary in Bremen welcome all members, past, present, and future, as well as members of other parishes and congregations who like to be with us for worship occasionally, to our *Homecoming Ox Roast*. Please join us Sunday, Sept 27, at Schmelzer's Grove for a day of good food and great family fun, starting at 1 PM with our annual Ox Roast followed by an afternoon filled with music, dancing, hay and pony rides, games and much more. Admission cost? Bring a delicious dessert or a nice smile.

NEW (PSR) YEAR AT ST MARY

St. Mary *Parish School of Religion* (PSR) classes begin today after the 8:30 Mass. They will start off with a parent meeting to explain the PSR schedule and other program information. Not registered yet? Get a move on! We need your involvement.

HAPPY HEARTS

The Happy Hearts Group of Bremen St Mary have a new meeting day and place for their gatherings this year. They will be meeting at noon on the last Wednesday of each month at the Bremen Café. Their September meeting happens on Wednesday, Sept 30. For information, call Nancy Johnson at (740) 569-4703.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

The offertory collection for Sept 6 at *St Mary* was \$ 3,999.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Members of the Bremen St Mary Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society invite parishioners to become new members. Their next meeting is Thursday, Sept 17, at 7 PM at St Mary. Contact Angi Skinner with questions at (740) 438-0027.

in the deanery**FISHER FALL FESTIVAL**

The Fisher Catholic High School Fall Festival happens on Saturday, Sept 19, noon-11 PM. The *festival features fun* all afternoon and evening, including inflatables, children's games, concessions, K of C fish fry, adult games of skill, a beer garden, and an arts & crafts show. The annual Mattress Sale runs that day too. To reserve space for the arts & crafts show, contact Eileen Gundelfinger at (740) 277-7063.

FISHER CATHOLIC IN ADORATION

Fisher Catholic High School will open *First Friday Eucharistic Adoration* this year to our whole Catholic community. The next time will be from 7 AM to 3 PM on Friday, Oct 2, in the FCHS chapel. Make a date of it; call in to the main office (740-654-1231) and sign up for either a half hour or an hour time slot to be sure there is *someone "keeping watch" with our Lord* throughout the day. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray for the students, faculty, staff, and families — as well as alumni and future students of FCHS. It lets the whole Fisher community know that the whole Catholic community in the Lancaster area prays ... and prays for them.

ELECTION OFFICIALS NEEDED

The Fairfield County Board of Elections seeks persons willing to serve their country as precinct election officials for the Nov 3 general election. Applicants must be registered voters, at least 18 years old, and have their own transportation. Hours are from 5 AM until 8:30 PM. Pay includes \$121.68 for Election Day, plus \$10 per hour for in-house training. Paid training is scheduled between Oct 15 and 23. Call (740) 652-7000 or (614) 322-5270 for information.

PDHC FUNDRAISING BBQ

You can do something and help your friends do something too. Your local, life-affirming pregnancy center, *PDHC, directly opposes Planned Parenthood*. PDHC nurses, volunteers and supporters are saving babies, one mother at a time. They need you.

This year's Pregnancy Decision Health Center *Celebrating Life Fundraising Banquet* happens on Wednesday, Sept 23, *with a BBQ banquet and program* at Little Brook Meadows. Speaker will be *Pam Tebow*, mother of quarterback Tim Tebow. You know: He's the NFL player who, instead of doing an annoying victory dance after a big play, falls to his knee to thank God — and takes a lot of flack for it. His Mom knows a thing or two about how he learned to hold and express the Christian Faith and how that has made millions of fans take notice. She will share her amazing story of the circumstances surrounding Tim's birth. Join in ... and invite your friends. This is an especially good time to invite first timers to a PDHC event. There is no cost to host or to attend. There will be an appeal for funds. Barn doors open at 6:30, BBQ banquet and program are from 7-9 PM. It will be a "casual blue jean evening" (bowtie optional). Seating is limited, so register early at *supportpdhc.org* or call Rachel Brabb at (614) 888-8774 x 6117.

**in the diocese****A MASS FOR HEALING**

The Columbus Catholic Charismatic Community will gather for the celebration of Mass at Christ the King Church on Sunday, Sept 20, at 4 PM. They will pray the rosary at 2:30 PM and have Anointing of the Sick during Mass for Catholics who are seriously ill. Sponsorship of this event is by the Columbus Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center. Call the CCRC office at (614) 500-8115.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BISHOP

Catholic Social Services will host its annual "Breakfast with the Bishop" on Wednesday, Sept 16. Join them and the Bishop for this annual event of fellowship. You'll learn about how we can all reduce poverty, help families thrive, and keep seniors independent in our community. Purchase tickets online at *colscs.org/events* or call Laura Campise at (614) 857-1236.

A CUM CHRISTO WEEKEND

Renew your commitment to Christ by making a *Cum Christo* weekend, a 3-day workshop in Christian leadership and living. A men's weekend is scheduled for Oct 1-4; a women's weekend will be Nov 12-15. Contact Susan Eyerman at (740) 503-1939 or *susaneye@columbus.rr.com* or visit *www.cumchristo.org*.

YOUR FAITH AND YOUR HEALTH CARE PROFESSION

Consider joining *the John Paul II Guild* of the *Catholic Medical Association*. The guild helps physicians, healthcare workers, medical students, and clergy grow in the spirit of Christ in their personal and professional lives so they can bring his Spirit to the science and art of medicine. Guilds work at the national and local level to provide services that benefit the entire Catholic healthcare community and the culture around us. The Guild sponsors

- an annual *White Mass* on the feast of St Luke,
- a *retreat* for healthcare workers in the Spring, and
- the *Hippocratic Oath Dinner*.

They meet 6-8 PM the first Sunday of each month. To learn more, contact Dr. Michael Parker through *jp2cmacolumbus@gmail.com* or follow them on Facebook (*https://www.facebook.com/#!/catholicmedcolumbus*). For information about the National Catholic Medical Association, go to *www.cathmed.org*.

VISIT OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION

There will be a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey on Wednesday, Oct 7. For information, call Rita Merk at (740) 654-3255.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The fourth annual *Beauty of the Feminine* Catholic Women's Conference will be held on Saturday, Oct 3, at St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Zanesville. There will be speakers, adoration, and a panel of women sharing their journeys of faith. Pre-registration is accepted until Sept 30 by calling the parish at (740) 453-3309 or by emailing *thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com*. Registration also accepted at the door. For information and updates visit *www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com*.

SEARCHING FOR HEALING AFTER ABORTION?

Bethesda Healing Ministry has confidential ministry support lines. Call (614) 309-2651 or (614) 309-0157; or (614) 309-0810 Espanol. Learn about this ministry at *www.bethesdahealing.org* or email *office@bethesdahealing.org*.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Mother Angeline McCrory Manor is seeking individuals wishing to work with the elderly and to provide loving and compassionate care to the residents. The facility has a 5 star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and is in need of both nurses and STNAs. If interested, call (614) 729-6600, fax your resume to (614) 751-8311, or submit an application online at mangelinemanor.org.

**A VISIT WITH ST MARIA GORETTI :
VIRTUE AND MERCY**

The sacred remains of St Maria Goretti, patroness of Virtue and of Mercy, will be at St Joseph Cathedral on Oct 21, from 11 AM until 11 PM, with a special Memorial Mass celebrated at 7 PM. This is a first-of-a-kind visit of her remains to the United States and is coordinated with the Holy See's Congregation for the Causes of Saints and the Treasures of the Church, and is part of a national *Pilgrimage of Mercy in preparation for the Extraordinary Year of Mercy*, which officially begins on Dec 8. All who wish to venerate her sacred remains are invited. For information about St Maria Goretti, the importance of this opportunity, and this national Pilgrimage of Mercy, visit: www.MariaGoretti.com. Note there are no "reservations" associated with this one-day opportunity – the faithful are all equally welcome to the Cathedral for prayer and veneration of the sacred remains of St Maria Goretti. It is suggested that you carpool, and make use of public parking facilities adjacent to the Cathedral; handicapped access is available via the elevator located on the courtyard side of the Cathedral.

**FIRST DOMINICAN SETTLERS OF OHIO:
A History of Service to the Soul of the People**

Father Edward Dominic Fenwick, OP was *the first priest to settle in Ohio* and later became its first bishop. Fenwick brought with him a community of men, members of a now 800 year old religious community *founded in Europe in 1216 known as the Order of Preachers or, more commonly, as the Dominicans*. Fenwick and his community provided essential, early services to the citizens of Ohio to support the growing state. The first church was a log cabin a few miles from here at Somerset, and the Dominicans settled in Cincinnati, Columbus, Somerset, and Zanesville and have served the people of Ohio in these locations since the early nineteenth century. Their history is ours, too. For years, Fenwick and the Dominicans were the only Catholic clergy in Ohio, and to this day, the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph (of which Fenwick was the founder) is one of the oldest and fastest growing men's religious communities in Ohio and in the United States of America.

Beginning in November, *the Dominicans worldwide will celebrate the 800th anniversary of their establishment*, linking Ohio to an 800-year-old institution.

Friends of the Dominicans are invited to St Patrick Church in Columbus on Saturday, Nov 14, at 5 PM for a Votive Mass of St Dominic *to begin the Jubilee*. The apostolic nuncio-permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, Archbishop Bernardito Auza, will be principal celebrant and homilist. Following Mass at St Patrick, all are invited to a gala at the Ohio Statehouse, starting at 6:30 PM, with a special viewing of the exhibit: *Settlers of Ohio: A History of Service to the Soul of the People*, which will focus on history and service for the flourishing and the common good of all Ohioans.

**and elsewhere****CARE ABOUT FAITHFUL CATHOLIC EDUCATION ?**

College doesn't have to be the time for dropping out of the way of life in which you have been raising your children. If you are concerned to find Catholic education that is faithful and that teaches and encourages and that faithfulness is taught, *check out the Cardinal Newman Society*. They share your concern and have researched what is really out there in Catholic schools, from pre-school through PhD. Visit <http://www.cardinalnewmansociety.org>.

INTERACTIVE WEEKEND RETREAT FOR MEN

The Catholic Laymen's Retreat League sponsors this retreat with the theme *Faith, Hope, and Charity*, directed by Father John D. Corbett, OP, on Nov 6-8, at St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. A contribution of \$130 covers the cost. Contact Dave Mignerey at (614) 392-0146 for information or reservations, or visit www.St-Therese-Retreat.org.

**KEEPING COLLEGE STUDENTS
CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH**

Do you have a son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter, who has just headed off to college? Did you know that 80% of *students stop practicing their faith at some point in college*? However, college students active in campus ministry are more likely to continue their faith practice, and when they graduate they are more likely to attend Mass, volunteer in parishes, and even consider a religious vocation. Unfortunately, only 15% of students look for a campus ministry on their own. Have an impact on your own child's future faith life by encouraging him or her to log onto *Newman Connection* to *find the campus ministry available at college*. You can also find facts on Catholic campus ministries, Mass times, and scheduled activities. Take the time now to go to: www.NewmanConnection.com.

SHARE HIS MERCY BENEFIT BANQUET

The Franciscan Sisters of Steubenville (the ones who bake our altar breads) invite you to join them on Saturday, Oct 24, beginning with a vigil Mass at 4 PM. Following Mass, doors will open at the Serbian American Cultural Center in Weirton WV, for dinner, a cash bar, a silent auction, inspirational sharing by the sisters and an appeal for support. For information or to purchase tickets, visit www.franciscansisterstor.org or call (740) 544-5542 x 115.

RESPONSE 2016: HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Would you like to make a difference in your community, the country, or the world? Do you want to serve those in need and work for social justice? With more than 200 programs and thousands of opportunities, Response 2016, the most comprehensive guide of faith-based service opportunities is now available – and it's free. Volunteers serve full time for periods of one week to one year or more across the United States and in more than 100 countries worldwide. Summer and school break opportunities are also available. Volunteers are from all walks of life – from high school to senior citizens and every stage in between. Positions are available for both single and married volunteers, including those with children. Contact Catholic Volunteer Network to receive your free copy/copies of Response 2016. Call (800) 543-5046 or email info@catholicvolunteernetwork.org. You can also search Response 2016 online at www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org.

let us pray

NEW WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Pope Francis has instituted a day of prayer entitled the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*, to be celebrated on Sept 1 of each year. The Pope emphasizes the dignity of the human person as the motivation for caring for the environment. It's no accident that he uses the word "dignity" 25 times in the environmental encyclical letter *Laudato Si*. Human dignity underlines all that can be said about life on planet Earth and the responsibility shared by "every person who lives on this planet."

COLLECT FOR THE 24TH SUNDAY

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

PRAY WITH THE POPE DURING SEPTEMBER

- that opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people.
- that catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.



readings, feasts, and memorials for this week

Saturday, Sept 12	Sept 12	24 th Sunday	Isaiah 50:5-9	James 2:14-18	Psalm 116	Mark 8:27-35
Sunday, Sept 13	Sept 13					
Monday, Sept 14	Sept 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Numbers 21:4-9	Philippians 2:6-11	Psalm 78	John 3:13-17
Tuesday, Sept 15	Sept 15	Our Lady of Sorrows	1 Timothy 3:1-13		Psalm 101	John 19:25-27
Wednesday, Sept 16	Sept 16	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	1 Timothy 3:14-16		Psalm 111	Luke 7:31-35
Thursday, Sept 17	Sept 17	St Robert Bellarmine	1 Timothy 4:12-16		Psalm 111	Luke 7:36-50
Friday, Sept 18	Sept 18		1 Timothy 6:2-12		Psalm 49	Luke 8:1-3
Saturday, Sept 19	Sept 19	St Januarius	1 Timothy 6:13-16		Psalm 100	Luke 8:4-15
Sunday, Sept 20	Sept 20	25 th Sunday	Wisdom 2:12-20	James 3:16-4:3	Psalm 54	Mark 9:30-37

Mass intentions and ministers this week at St Mary

	intention	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sunday, Sept 13	8:30 AM <i>for the people</i>	Karen Wolfe	Reagan Conrad Brooke Holt	Leo Kunkler Sr, Jim Schmelzer, Karen Wolfe	Leo Kunkler Sr family	Jim Schmelzer
Tuesday, Sept 15	8:20 AM <i>Frank Schmelzer</i>	Jim Schmelzer				Jim Schmelzer
Sunday, Sept 20	8:30 AM <i>for the people</i>	Joseph Young	Quinn Posey Sydney Rogers	Neil Boch, Joe & Cathy Young	Joe Young family	Joe Young

Mass intentions and ministers this week at St Bernadette

	intention	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers
Saturday, Sept 12	4 PM <i>Cora Kilbarger</i>	Brad Rider	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Terry Carpenter, Kathy Kehnast, Sandy Landefeld, Shelia Taylor, Kathy Wagner, Darlene Yarmesch
Sunday, Sept 13	11 AM <i>for the people</i>	Jim Merk	Isabelle Gentile, Aaron & David Wood	Nancy Griffith, Herb Reeder, Larry Sanford, Valerie Shaw, David Shonk, Becky Wickham
Monday, Sept 14	8:20 AM <i>Rita Kilbarger</i>	Kathy Kehnast	Ava Ewing Emma McCrady	Pat Dreyer, Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, Sept 16	8:20 AM <i>Andrew Sammler</i>	Bob Christy	Emeline Neighbor Avee Solt	Mary Guinan, Kathy Kehnast
Thursday, Sept 17	6 PM <i>Jean Monaghan</i>	Herb Reeder	Addy Myers Cady Tipple	Paul Lonergan, Darlene Yarmesch
Friday, Sept 18	8:20 AM <i>John Muetzel</i>	Robin Sanders	Kendall Cox Emma McCrady	Jim & Rita Merk
Saturday, Sept 19	4 PM <i>Patricia Chamberlain</i>	Jennifer Spiegel	Gus, Olivia & Ross Spiegel	Rosalie DeFillippo, Marguerite Grimm, Denise McGuire, Brad Rider, Craig Shaw, Mary Steyaert
Sunday, Sept 20	11 AM <i>for the people</i>	John Hartig	Anna & John Hartig, Drew Solt	Patricia Dreyer, Lee Guinan, Ben Peters, Teresa Scarpitti, Mary Jane Vajen, Julia Whitehead

Thinking about Holy Communion

God's default way of communicating his grace to his people — his giving us a share in his divine life — is sacramental, through the seven sacraments. Sharing in his divine life is what we were made for. So God's way of dealing with us is a big deal for anyone who was made by God. And that is all of us. Why did he arrange things that way? I don't know; that's his call. But it seems like he is following up on *the way he made us*: spiritual and physical, social and communicative, sign-makers and sign-readers all. He invites us to share his life, but on our own level.

Does he have to follow that pattern? No. But we do. *If we know about his plan, we need to live according to his plan.* He can act outside it, giving his grace in ways that don't follow the sacramental rules. He can forgive the good thief, on the cross beside his own, without a formal confession of sin; but thieves, if they are in the position to do so, must confess their sin. He can bring the unbaptized but truly good person into the glory of heaven; but the unbaptized, if they know about baptism, must come to the watery sacrament.

Lately I have been thinking a lot about Holy Communion. It is a profound spiritual experience ... or at least it can be. I try to prepare for it each time, but I have to admit it is not always a very deep experience. But even when my mind is in other places, I am still receiving the Lord into my life. When I recall that that is the case, I am challenged to put myself into it all the more.

Physical things, symbolic things, are involved in that spiritual event, and they can enhance it, can *draw us back to the awesomeness* of what happens when I eat that wafer of the Body of Christ and sip that tiny gulp of his Blood. The Church has some very good ways to help us approach that holy meal in a way that lets it enter our lives more profoundly. Some of the ways are in the Church's law, like the fast of at least one hour before Communion. And our devotional practices help, too, like the genuflection we make in silence as we enter the church or pass before the tabernacle. These and many more little things, superficial things (= physical and symbolic things) help us focus on the holiness of what is happening in Holy Communion. It is a mistake to leave these things on the surface.

Thinking about the elements of a code for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion got me to thinking how those *superficial things express and deepen — if we let them! — the faith experience*, the very communion, of both the minister and the receiver of this precious sacrament.

Let me tell you about a few of the superficial ways we can enhance that spiritual experience.

The Church calls the ministers "*extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion*", not "distributors." A distributor controls the flow of fuel to an engine. This is a ministry, a holy service to the Lord. The ministers are "extraordinary" because if we had enough deacons and priests we would use them. Deacons and priests are the ordinary ministers, not because they are better people (we've all seen too much evidence to the contrary) but because they have been consecrated precisely to this particular sacred ministry.

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should be *dressed up a little* for their service. We should all do that for Mass anyway, but we set an example when we are in such a special contact with the Lord ... and when we are in such an exemplary role. A nurse or physician's or police officer's uniform is fine. Just keep in mind the reason for it. The same goes for having clean hands and all that. Sometimes there is an unscheduled service for the minister, who doesn't feel properly dressed. Sometimes there isn't time to dress up as you might have. Coming forward is no disgrace, but it is a reminder to all of us to try to be dressed for the Lord. But that shouldn't keep us from the needed service of the Lord and his Church.

The practice of *calling communicants by name or imparting blessings* while distributing Communion is a product of an era that was desperate to personalize the liturgy. It had great intentions but a sad effect. We don't do it because it distracts from the all-important moment of union between God and man.

Drinking from the chalice is the usual way of receiving the Precious Blood. The communicant doesn't dip the host into the Precious Blood because of the problem of the dropping drops of the Blood of Christ. Sometimes spillage can't be helped, but we must cultivate a lively sense that it is the Lord. It enhances the symbolic value of Communion, but is not necessary to receive Holy Communion under both species. *Receive the host and you receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Receive the Precious Blood and you receive the Body and Blood of Christ.*

After Communion the ministers return the remaining consecrated hosts to the altar and remaining Precious Blood to the credence table. Only the priest or deacon approaches the tabernacle, only he consumes the excess amount of the Precious Blood. The chalice-bearing ministers approach the credence table from the side with a minimum of steps. They walk around the steps rather than going up steps and passing through the sanctuary more than is really necessary. The general principle is that *one doesn't walk through the sanctuary without a real need*. And the deacons, priest and servers who do go there are *vested for the purpose*. It is a very special place.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion take *Communion to the sick and shut-ins*, especially on Sunday. The Church permits this because of her eagerness to provide for their frequent reception of Holy Communion. To emphasize the solidarity of the sick with the Sunday celebration of the Sacred Mysteries, the best way for the ministers to receive the Lord for taking Holy Communion to them is for the priest to hand them the pyx containing the Blessed Sacrament at the altar after the purification of the sacred vessels and then to *send them publicly* to the people to whom they will minister.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are *appointed by the Bishop* for two years but can be reappointed indefinitely. They are appointed for a given parish and not elsewhere except in unusual circumstances. They are publicly commissioned at Mass after being instructed and approved by the bishop. Their job is that kind of sacred trust.

There are many more of *these superficial things* that are involved with our awareness of what is awesome about the Holy Eucharist. I hope these help you to see why it is not just a matter of "standing on ceremony." It is about the Lord!

—Father Kessler

