

AUGUST 28, 2011: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."
Mt 16:26-27

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, August 28 (Jer 20:7-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27)

8:00 am- Dennis Appelt
10:30 am- Janie, Stazie & Rudy Billimek; Otilia & Rudy Zissa
5:00 pm- Jose, Adriana & Carlos Hernandez (**Spanish Mass**)

**Monday, August 29, *The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist*
(1 Thes 4:13-18/Mk 6:17-29)**

7:00 am- Joe & Annie Stryk
10:00 am- Special Intention (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, August 30 (1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Lk 4:31-37)

7:00 am- Robert & Rosa Helmcamp

Wednesday, August 31 (Col 1:1-8/Lk 4:38-44)

7:00 am- Anton & Mathilda Tupa; Rudolph, Rosa & Janie Bujnoch

8:05 am- Keith David Matula

Thursday, September 1 (Col 1:9-14/Lk 5:1-11)

7:00 am- Grace Rother
10:00 am- John Pavliska, Jr. (Stevens)

Friday, September 2 (Col 1:15-20/Lk 5:33-39)

7:00 am- Alvin & Annie Schneider
8:05 am- Living & deceased members of Rudolph & Elizabeth Schindler Family

Saturday, September 3, *St. Gregory the Great, pope & doctor of the Church* (Col 1:21-23/Lk 6:1-5)

5:30 pm- Francis Hagendorf

Sunday, September 4 (Ez 33:7-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20)

6:30 am- For our Parish Family
8:00 am- James Grahmann
10:30 am- August & Emilia Linhart

Bulletin Sponsor: David & Mary Polasek.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In memory of Alvin & Annie Schneider by Leo & Evelyn Hoffer..

Vigil Light: In memory of Kelly Wood by Brazos, Lawrence & Marcella Wagner.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$8,118.50; Assumption-\$524; Catholic Education-\$1,923; Loose-\$1,225; Children-\$35.

Promise of Marriage: Jaime Jahn and Devin Mertz, September 10.

Anniversaries:

Albert & Rose Mary Gutierrez	35 years	Aug. 28
Harvey & Elsie Goedrich	52 years	Aug. 29
Gary & Melinda Honish	30 years	Aug. 29
Dan & Barbara Kubena	56 years	Sept. 3

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Willie Wagner, Jr.*, brother of Daniel and Pat Wagner. *May he and all the faithful rest in the peace of Christ.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

- Baptism Preparation Class, 9:00 a.m., Rectory. Please call the Rectory in advance to register for the class.
- Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Picnic, Cistern.** Polka Mass 10am. Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner 11am.
- Covered dish supper after Spanish Mass, Family Center.

MONDAY, AUGUST 29

- Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

- Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
- Altar Society meeting, 5:30 p.m. in church.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

- JCDA meeting, 3:45-5:00 p.m., Family Center.
- Divine Mercy Study/Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Rm.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in Church. The intention this month is for the *unemployed and for rain.*
- Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, 7:00 pm in church.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m. in Church.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- Serra Club Mass, 8:00 a.m., Sts. C & M Church, Shiner.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Sacred Heart Fall Picnic, KC Hall. Country Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner with homemade cornbread dressing & all the trimmings 10:30am-1:30pm. Drive thru plates to go 10:30am-1pm. Inside the air-conditioned K.C. Hall, Bingo (noon-6pm), Cake Walk, Country Store, Religious Articles Booth & Parrot Plop (sponsored by Sacred Heart Youth). On the Main Pavilion, Kovanda Czech Band (11am-1pm), Auction (begins at 1pm) & Raffle table. Also outdoors, Kiddy Rides, game booths, & Washer Pitch Tournament (5pm). Delicious hamburgers, french fries, nachos, popcorn, funnel cakes, snow cones, & cold beverages all afternoon! Free dance on the the Polka Pavilion-Biergarten by the Dujka Brothers & the Red Ravens 1pm-9pm. ***Bring your family & friends for great food! great entertainment!& a great time for all!!!***

Among our sick: Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Helen M. Appelt, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Hubert & Mary Grahmann, Odessa, Doug & Richard Blumberg, Danielle Grady, Rose Thumann, Dr. Michael Moore, Bill Gohlke, Sterlin Ritchie, Brenda Grahmann, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Derrick Berger, Anita Bohuslav, Anita Kallus, Daniel Wick, Josephine Janak, Paul Najvar, Betty Hernandez, Gene Drozd, Irene Bordovsky, Steven DeLaRosa, Soila Sanchez, Milissa Zamora, Rhonda Janak, Larry Korenek, Alex Drozd, LaNora Konvicka, Red Kahaneck, Theresa Steffek, Donna Haas Belt, Willard Hagendorf, Bobby Pavliska, nursing home residents & homebound.

Great Catholic families fight fair. As much as we wish family life were perfect, the reality is that all families experience conflict. We're going to fight. Not selling siblings into slavery like Joseph's brothers did is a good start, but even fighting has rules. Families that fight fair carry with them an application of the Ten Commandments, even when they are in the middle of a family crisis. Some examples: Steering clear of using the Lord's name in vain in a heated debate. Honoring mothers and fathers (and daughters and sons and sisters and brothers and so on). Telling the truth, gently, even though it may hurt.

Family members who fight for personal victory miss out on how great it feels to work through a struggle together, and win as a team. Great Catholic families check tempers, are respectful of one another's strengths and weaknesses, and always remember that obstacles make us stronger.

Faith Builder. *Create and display your family's rules for conflict: "No sulking, no lying, no grudges, etc."*

**Religious Education (CCD) ~ Office 798-3124
Angela McConnell, Coordinator**

Registration forms are DUE. At this date 38 out of 127 families have turned in their forms. The CCD school year will open with a Mass celebration on Sept. 7th at 6:15pm. Teachers will be ready to receive students in the classrooms at 5:45pm on this first day and will come as a class to Mass. Parents should plan to join our opening Mass if possible. Please plan for the celebration to run longer than usual.

Note: The CCD Office phone is temporarily out of order. You may reach Angela at 361-741-8730.

Important dates for CCD volunteers-teachers & aides-

August 28: Mandatory New Mass Prayers Training with Fr. Tommy, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Youth House.

August 31: All Volunteers Dinner/Social & Commissioning Ceremony, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Youth House.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School News
Office 798-4251**

Aug. 31: Booster Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., KC Hall.

WANTED-USED TENNIS BALLS: Please drop them off at the rectory or the school office. *Thank You!!*

First Thursday Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations – Every first Thursday, the Church commemorates Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of His Body and Blood and of the holy Priesthood which is intrinsically tied to the Eucharist. Join us this Thursday for a special Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the church from 7-8 pm for the intention of the priests and seminarians of our diocese of Victoria and to pray for more good and holy priests for the service of our diocese.

Sacred Heart Parish Fall Picnic – September 4th

Dressing: Please come to the KC Hall at 7:00 a.m. on Friday to help make the dressing.

Potato Peeling: Please come to the KC Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday to help peel potatoes.

Raffle Books: Don't forget to turn them in at the Rectory or bring them to the Raffle table on the Main Pavilion on Sunday.

Please bring to the KC Hall on Sunday morning:

Auction: You may bring auction items to the auction trailer on the Main Pavilion.

Bingo: Please bring bingo prizes to the stage in the hall.

Cake Walk: Please bring at least 2 cakes.

Country Store: Items are needed – crafts & handmade items, fresh & canned vegetables & jellies, baked goods, noodles, etc.

Pickles, Cakes & Kolaches are needed for the noon meal. Please bring these items to the kitchen.

Auction: Eddie & Catherine Kosh-Brinks steel BBQ pit with firebox; Irene Szwarc-assorted collectible Barbies; Phillip & Nanci Hadash-Hallettsville Herald Newspaper – June 13, 1895 issue; Walter & Janice Dutcher-rustic birdhouses, Blessed Mother statue, ceramic angel; Ronald Ridgeway Family- John Deere alarm clock; set of Snap, Crackle & Pop golf club covers; pig in a crate-soup tureen, canned ham, bag of 15 bean soup mix, 2 cans Vienna sausages; wooden quilt/blanket stand.

Cattle: Wink & Ida Bludau-8 mon. crossbred heifer; Marcus & Marjorie Grahmann-Angus heifer.

Cash Donations: S.R. & Gladys McMasters-\$50; Lucille Werner-\$100; Leo & Evelyn Hoffer-\$500; Bennie & Beverly Machac-\$100; Magdalene Steffek-\$100; Gilbert & Bea Butschek-\$100; Welden & Virginia Lell-\$100.

Note: *If you haven't signed up to work at the picnic, please call the Rectory. Help is always needed in the kitchen for after dinner sales & in the hamburger stand.*

New Music for Mass Settings begin Sept 4th: While the entirety of the new translations of the Roman Missal will not be implemented until the First Sunday of Advent, Bishop Fellhauer has granted permission for parishes in our Diocese to begin singing the new Mass settings beginning the first Sunday of September. This will practically only involve the newly translated *Gloria, Sanctus (Holy Holy Holy)*, and *Memorial Acclamation*. The *Alleluia* and *Lamb of God* have not changed. For your convenience, the new music will be printed on cards and placed in the hymnal holders in each pew. Please be patient as we together learn the new music for the Mass. And also let us all have an attitude of humble obedience to the guidance of Holy Mother Church during this time of transition.

Single Catholic women (high school graduates-50 who are discerning God's call) are invited to attend an "Amor Meus" (My Love) day retreat on Sept. 17, and an overnight visit at Incarnate Word Convent. If interested, go to www.iwbsvictoria.org or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com for details or to make a reservation.

Fr. Tommy's Adult Religious Formation Classes begin

Oct. 4: During the Fall semester, we will be utilizing a Bible-study program called "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass" to prepare ourselves for the upcoming implementation of the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal in English. Classes begin on Tuesday, October 4 in the Family Center and are from 7pm to 8:30pm. This is an exciting time for us in the Church in America, a time to recapture the true meaning of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass which is at the heart of who we are as Catholics. A companion textbook and workbook are highly recommended for this class in order to receive the most from the course. The textbook/workbook together will cost \$20. Please call Fr. Tommy Chen to sign up for this course and to place an order for the class material. (Deadline to place orders for the class material is Sept. 15.)

Annual Indian Open Golf Classic, Saturday, September 3, Hallettsville Municipal Golf Course. This year's format will be a 3-person scramble with ONE tee time at 9:30 a.m. We invite you to participate by registering as a golfer, sponsoring a hole, making a cash donation, donating a silent auction item, or just joining us for fun and fellowship. Silent Auction held 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Call 361-798-9908, 361-798-4251 or visit www.shschool.org for tournament details. Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart Catholic School teachers. *Thank you for your support!*

JCDA (Junior Catholic Daughter) Meeting on Wed., August 31 from 3:45 - 5:00 in the Family Center. This will be the first meeting of the new school year. JCDA is open to any Catholic girl in the 1st - 12th grade. The 2011-2012 dues are \$10. Please bring your dues with you to the meeting! If you have any questions, please contact Shanna Clark at 798-9189. Hope to see you there!

Sacred Heart High School All Alumni Reunion will be held on June 23, 2012 from 3:00-11:00 p.m. at the KC Hall in Hallettsville. Please save this date. Make your lodging reservations early. Call Irene Knebel at 361-798-4942 if you would like to assist with the planning or preparation of the reunion

Mass & Healing Prayers celebrated by Fr. Phi Nguyen, 10:00 a.m., September 3, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria. If you have been touched by Fr. Phi's ministry & would like to inform him, email iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com

The Youth ConneXion Greg & Kris Hermes: 798-0655

Church Picnic: Parrot Plop & Nacho/Lemonade Booth
(We need workers)

Sept 18th: FIREFALL & youth gathering (8th-12th Gr.)

Oct 1st: Jr. High "BACK TO SCHOOL BASH"
details coming soon

NCYC NEWS: Any high school student who wants to go to Indianapolis (Nov 17th-19th) for the National Catholic Youth Conference, must contact Kris & Greg asap. We will start meeting next week to plan this event!

Altar Server News - Parents who attended the Altar Server Parent's meeting last Sunday may come to the office beginning Monday, August 29 to pick up the answer key to the Altar Server Theology TEST to review with your server(s) before the first training session. The first part of the Altar Server training session (Part I - Theology) will be held in the church on Tuesday, Sept. 6 from 5:30pm-7:00pm with Fr. Tommy. Servers, please bring a pen or pencil with you to take the Theology Test.



PRAYER FOR RAIN

– Almighty God, we are in need of rain. We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. To think that so much water can fall out of the sky, which now is empty and clear! We place our trust in You. We are sure that You know our needs. But You want us to ask You anyway, to show You that we know we are dependent on You. Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers will sing Your praises, and the hearts of men will be made glad. Amen.



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Although Jews, Christians, and Muslims share a monotheistic faith, that is, a belief in the oneness of God, there is much that is vastly different among the three religions. A common expression used by many Arab Muslims (which has already been subsumed into English) is inshallah, a contraction of the Arabic words "in sha' Allah" meaning "if God wills it." The expression holds within itself the attitude that things will unfold because God permits them to happen. "We will see each other tomorrow, inshallah" that is, God willing. There is a kind of a sense of fate in this attitude. Human action is ultimately dependent on divine permission.

The Gospel today takes a different approach. Jesus instructs His disciples that whoever would follow after Him must "take up his cross, and follow Me." He continues, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" The disciple actively chooses the suffering that is part of human existence and seeks out the will of God in his or her life. By seeking first what is right (i.e., the will of God), the disciple finds true happiness, which eludes those who seek such happiness directly in trying to gain the whole world.

Christianity has always been an active religion. We believe that we cooperate with God's grace in performing God's will. Christians do not shrink from promoting the common good and moving forward as part of their faith. When we act in the social sphere we do so believing that God has placed us on this earth with a purpose, that each person must discern God's will in his or her own life. That gift of vocation, whatever it may be for each individual, is lived out in the community of faith for the building up of God's kingdom.

Parish Financial Report – July, 2011

Parish Income:

Sunday Collections	\$ 31,404.50
Other Donations	3,100.00
Family Center Rentals	760.00
Religious Articles	673.00
July Interest	<u>16,874.10</u>
Total Parish Income	<u>\$ 52,811.60</u>

School Income:

Tuition	\$ 250.00
Catholic Education Envelopes	2,896.00
Memorials	1,335.00
Athletics	1,000.00
Library	60.00
Knights of Columbus Donations	9,602.40
Gym Fund	1,947.72
Interest	4,605.21
Miscellaneous	500.00
Magazine Drive	<u>138.40</u>
Total School Income	<u>\$ 22,334.73</u>

Parish Expense:

Salaries	\$ 7,139.55
Utilities	1,744.94
Church Expense	1,194.05
Rectory Expense	534.03
Office Expense	1,106.80
Religious Articles	1,025.06
Vehicle Insurance	1,109.30
Family Center Expense	550.05
Medical Insurance	2,130.00
Priests Pension	1,047.00
Repairs & Maintenance	<u>443.74</u>
Total Parish Expense	<u>\$ 18,024.52</u>

School Expense:

Salaries	\$ 64,697.15
Contracted Services	1,024.67
Office & Teaching Expense	838.32
Postage	223.06
Staff Development	720.00
HSA Dues	1,110.00
Public Relations	465.32
Utilities	3,597.46
Plant Repairs	1,468.25
Bus & Car Insurance	1,563.47
Payroll Taxes	4,926.36
Medical Insurance	14,070.00
Retirement	3,200.00
Convent Expense	453.33
Acquisition of Equipment	43,590.11
Technology Supplies	287.15
Miscellaneous Expense	<u>1,245.00</u>
Total School Expense	<u>\$143,479.65</u>

Parish Income	\$ 75,146.33
Parish Expense	<u>-161,504.17</u>
Parish Deficit	<u>\$ (86,357.84)</u>

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND –

In memory of Benita Bordovsky: Franklin Billimek-\$20; Frank & Rita Zaruba-\$25; Larry & Doris Grubert-\$20; Friends of Benita Bordovsky-\$60; Billy & Frances Moore-\$25. **In memory of Cleo & Magdalen Muras:** John & Loretta Cordes, Marvin & Michael-\$100

SACRED HEART CHURCH CCD FUND – In memory of Rudy Petru: James & Carolyn Arledge-\$20

SACRED HEART CHURCH MUSIC FUND – In memory of Benita Bordovsky: Bob Kubena-\$20
In memory of David Halata, Sr.: Bob Kubena-\$20; Kubena Funeral Home-\$20

SACRED HEART CHURCH CEMETERY FUND – In memory of Cleo Muras: Theodore Hoffman-\$40

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ALUMNI FUND – In memory of Benita Bordovsky: Royce & Irene Schulte-\$20

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND – In memory of John D. Henneke: Daniel Kuhn-\$20
In memory of Benita Bordovsky: Charles & Dorothy Jansky-\$20. **In honor of Brother Nick Grahmann’s 60th Anniversary:** Charles & Doloris Leopold-\$100.
In honor of Sister Colette’s 50th Anniversary: Charles & Doloris Leopold-\$100. **In memory of Louis & Mary Rother:** Frank Chovanetz-\$50

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUND – In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.: Trey & Jennifer Kraatz Family-\$20; Charles & Doloris Leopold-\$50; Frankie Klmitchek-\$50; Ron Friedel-\$30; Joe & Ana Henke-\$25; Debi & Ronnie Sevcik-\$20. **In memory of Grace Rother:** Arthur Etzler, Jr.-\$25. **In memory of Henry G. Timm & Leona Najvar:** Joe & Ana Henke-\$50. **In memory of Leona Najvar:** Leroy & Alice Janak-\$15; James & Tonie Brooks-\$10. **In honor of Sr. Colette’s 50th Anniversary & Sr. Emiliana’s 50th Anniversary:** Raymond & Virginia Steffek-\$100. **In memory of Benita Bordovsky:** Rosemary Hermes-\$15. **In honor of Brother Nick Grahmann’s 60th Anniversary:** Arthur Etzler, Jr.-\$60. **In honor of Raymond & Pat Opela’s 50th Anniversary:** Raymond & Virginia Steffek-\$20

SACRED HEART SCHOOL VOCATIONAL SHOP FUND – In memory of John D. Henneke, Joe N. Steffek, Walter Hemmi, John Pavliska, Jr. & David Halata, Sr.: Lawrence & Delores Grahmann-\$80

SACRED HEART SCHOOL CAFETERIA FUND – In memory of Henry G. Timm, Jr.: Margaret Henneke-\$20. **In memory of John D. Henneke:** Larry & Doris Grubert-\$20

JEROME HAAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND – In memory of Leona Najvar, Ora Nell Satsky, John D. Henneke, David Halata, Sr., & John Pavliska, Jr.: Georgia Haas-\$50.

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

Jeremiah 20:7–9
Romans 12:1–2
Matthew 16:21–27

MONDAY

Mark 6:17–29

“... Herod feared John, knowing that he was a . . . holy man . . .”

TUESDAY

Luke 4:31–37

“Be silent, and come out of him!”

WEDNESDAY

Luke 4:38–44

“I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God . . .”

THURSDAY

Luke 5:1–11

“... from now on you will be catching people.”

FRIDAY

Luke 5:33–39

“You cannot make wedding guests fast . . .”

SATURDAY

Luke 6:1–5

“The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

The Cross and the Culture

Today's Gospel calls us to a deeper level of spirituality. It leads us into a sense of heightened consciousness, that is, it offers us the choice to become fully awake to God's actions in our lives.

In Jesus' rebuke of Peter, he gives his disciples and us a new perspective on what it means to follow him. Imagine yourself standing among Jesus' followers and hearing these words: “Deny your very self, take up your cross, and follow me.” These words followed upon the startling revelation that Jesus was journeying to Jerusalem with the full knowledge that he would suffer greatly, be killed and be raised up. Would you, like Peter, be inclined to question whether this made any sense?

It is only in relationship with the God of unconditional love and mercy that we can begin to hear these words and accept them. This is not a message that urges us to earn God's love in order to become worthy of it. We are already loved and the Divine dwells within us. This is not a message of self-hate or masochism. After all, when we were created, God declared our innate goodness. Rather, it is a message that directs us as we travel our spiritual journey.

Paul puts it plainly “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).



The Faith of the Church

In the Apostolic Letter, *Salvifici Doloris*, Pope John Paul II deals with the human condition of suffering. Suffering yields to interior maturity and spiritual growth as a result of conversion through the grace of Christ. Christ acts at the center of human suffering through the consolation of the Spirit. The very substance of the spiritual life is transformed by Christ who made suffering the firm foundation of our salvation (SD #26).



Questions of the Week

As painful as it was, Jesus was not to be dissuaded from his call. The glory of the resurrection had to pass through the suffering and humiliation of the cross. As we pass through our own anguish, we eventually rise again and discover new truths about our divine call.

Adults

What have I discovered through my own crosses?

Children

For what difficulty or cross will I ask God's help?



Responding to God's Word . . .

Growth in holiness means denying self, taking up the crosses of life and following Jesus. But today's culture preaches the values of self-indulgence, pleasure, comfort and instant gratification. Discipleship and spiritual growth constitutes a real, and often difficult, inversion of society's values.

Trust is needed to take up our crosses. Suffering is very real in the human condition; we might be tempted to avoid it at a cost to our growth or the well-being of others. Yet, as crosses enter our life journey, we can trust that if we unite our pain to that of Jesus, we will rise above it all in the end.

Suffering might be a result of crises we encounter or the struggle with our own faults. Yet through our struggles we are transformed. We are in relationship with the One who was pierced and we are forever changed by that encounter.

Finally, the disciple is challenged to follow Jesus. To follow is to grow out of our self-centered life into a life lived for others. Jesus encountered the poor, the marginalized, and the outcasts of his culture. Can we walk this same walk? To go against the culture is to gain the whole world.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. As you look in the mirror each morning, ask yourself: *Who does God want me to become this day?*

In the workplace or in school. Take note of the times you take on a superior attitude or a self-serving stance with your coworkers or classmates.

In the community. Resolve to follow Jesus' way in your encounters with neighbors, store clerks and those who serve your needs in small unnoticed ways.



Meditation Moment

A woods surrounds a retreat house in Barrington, Illinois. Tucked away among the trees is a life-sized stone crucifix. It is especially striking at night, because it is floodlighted dramatically. It is even more striking on rainy nights, because then water trickles down the face and the body of Jesus. One rainy night a retreatant came upon the crucifix and was deeply moved. Going up to it and touching it, the retreatant prayed for a long time. Later, the retreatant said, "I touched only the cross because I wasn't worthy to touch the body of Jesus."

For reflection . . .

The retreatant's story invites me to ask: Why did Jesus die as he did?

THE CROSS IS A SIGN, AN INVITATION, AND A REVELATION: A SIGN OF JESUS' LOVE, AN INVITATION TO LOVE AS JESUS LOVED, A REVELATION THAT LOVE ENTAILS SUFFERING.

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

Sustain Me, Lord

My soul thirsts for you, living God. I long to follow the journey of Jesus and grow spiritually. Yet, I am distracted from that desire by the claims of the world that give me a false sense of who I am and why I was created. Keep me on track through your Word. Sustain me when the crosses of life seem to crush me. Guide me to live in the shadow of your wings. Teach me that seeking your will leads to unending joy and glory.
Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind . . .

Romans 12:2

Profile in Faith

Saint Peter the Apostle

mirrors our own faith and folly. His attempts to glean the favor of Jesus led to many impulsive reactions. Yet, his sincerity and trust in the Lord is evident. He grew into discipleship similar to our own ups and downs. As we try to follow Jesus, Peter is a source of consolation.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
May 23, 2011

The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur are official declarations that the material reviewed is free of doctrinal or moral error. No implication is contained therein that those granting the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions, or statements expressed.

Author: Carol A. Gura

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Front: iStockphoto

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition*, copyright 1989, 1993, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

© 2011 RCL Publishing LLC. All rights reserved.

The Faith Connection® is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and is published weekly by RCL Benziger, 206 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002.

877-275-4725

Contact us at RCLBenziger.com

