# Conundrum: BETACHMENT IS FOR EVERYBO

As I said last week, "Sadly, when it comes to DETACHMENT, the experience of "us" and "them" means we have short-changed somebody — Guess who?" In the Christian perspective, there truly is no "us" and "them."

#### Saint Paul captured it so well in his letter to the Galatians:

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:28)

#### There is also a wonderful hymn that states it well:

## "In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no South or North, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth."

It is only through the Grace of the Virtue of DETACHMENT that I could begin to grasp such a concept. The true heart of Christian Teaching and Christian Experience is that "<u>All are one in Christ</u> <u>Jesus</u>." His work and His mission in our world was to proclaim that Truth.

It seems nearly impossible for us to conceive of such! Yet, at our very core — our deepest self — I believe we all know that to be true! When we trust our deepest self, we spring into action in service of the other in need without any thought of what's in it for me.

The experience of 9/11 is a powerful example of the true goodness of human beings. Nobody was concerned with the religion, the ethnicity, the color, the orientation of the person in need. People of all denominations prayed together, worshipping in each other's sanctuaries. What an awesome sight!!!

But then, shortly after that incident, we moved right back into our own way of doing, and our own way of being. The gift or Virtue of DETACHMENT helps us to see more clearly His plan for us and for our lives. DETACHMENT is the gift of being able to step back from everything I have, everything I own, and everything that owns me, free of all those possessions or obsessions, and ask myself, "<u>What does God</u> want of me at this particular point in my life?"

That is why the experience of monasticism became so popular in the Christian Tradition. Men and women were becoming more and more aware of their need to ask and answer that fundamental question: "What does He (my creator) want of me?" Just imagine how different last Sunday's parable of the Good Samaritan would look if I were a student of DETACHMENT — if I were to view things as He does!

I think we made a great mistake when we allowed monasticism and contemplation to become the domain of the few, mainly the business of the Monks & Religious. We all need to nurture the contemplative side of ourselves. We all need to detach every now and then from all that keeps us bound and burdened. We need to know the Freedom of God in our lives, and all that He wants for us!

I believe the conundrum of "us" and "them" in the Catholic Tradition became pronounced when we settled for the Virtue of DETACHMENT as being for only the few, and not for all. The Virtue of DETACHMENT is for all Christians and for every vocation, not just the Religious! In not inviting the laity to practice the Virtue of DETACHMENT, we set very low expectations for their holiness. Consequently, many in the hierarchical Church and a great number among the laity regarded "high holiness" as the realm of those who took vows or were ordained.

Accordingly, the idea of mystical union with God was almost removed from the realm of experience which everyday Christians could hope to enjoy. Thank God for the growth and the much-needed change! Thank God for the spirituality of the laity! <u>Thank God for the Contemplatives who have witnessed the Virtue of DETACHMENT</u>!

# July 17, 2016– Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

JULY 18- JULY 24, 2016

MASS INTENTIONS

PRAYER REQUESTS

7:30 am Monday: Norman Nelson (RIP) 7:30 am Tuesday: Nolen Hughes (RIP) 6:00 pm Wednesday: Ron Barry (RIP) 7:30 am Thursday: Irma Bourdier (RIP) 7:30 am Friday: Delores Mandina (RIP) 5:30 pm Saturday: Anna Theriot (RIP) 8:00 am: Sunday: Ron Barry (RIP) 10:30 am Sunday: Deacon Frank Agosta (RIP)

#### **Adoration This Week:**

Monday-Friday: 8am-Noon

Wednesday: 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00pm or by appt.

#### SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Rosina Ready Joe Thweatt Gula Guillory Marie Lodes Fr. Tom Delaney Ron Cahill, brother-in-law of Linda Overman

#### **REPOSE OF THE SOUL**

LaFrance Borsig Billy Horton, brother-in-law of Angie Nix



Altar flowers and Blessed Mother flowers are donated by Ray & Marcia Butz in honor of their wedding this weekend. Congratulations to the new couple!

# This Week & Upcoming Events

July 17th— Children's Liturgy during the 10:30 mass.

July 18th — New opportunity to practice Lectio Divina at 7:00 pm in the Family Life Center. Contact: Fred Cerami 601-842-1492. July 29th — Deadline to order one of the Holy Family sculptures please call the office to reserve yours.

July 30th — Altar Server Training from 9-11am. On site celebration after for those attending and current altar servers. Contact the church office if you plan to attend.

September 8th — Following Christ begins: Thursdays at 7:00 pm (Register on our website) September 13th — Following Christ Tuesday Sessions begin at 7:00 pm (Register on our website)

Weekly offering for July 10th: \$28,602



## LAST WEEKEND TO PURCHASE TICKETS!!

Women's Guild will be selling \$1 raffle tickets.

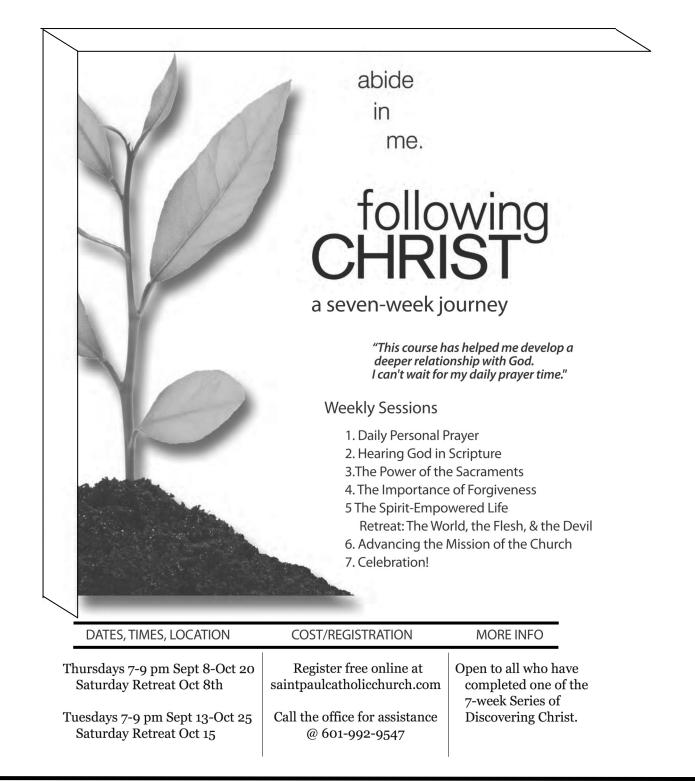
Buy a chance to win the parking space next to

Fr. Gerry for a whole year!!

Saint Joseph Catholic School will host Summer Cheer Camp, July 18-22 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The cost is \$100. To register visit the Saint Joseph website at stjoebruins.com, select Athletics and Summer Camps 2016. For more information contact Emily Toulomelis at ebechtold@stjoebruins.com.

The Food Pantry Ministry needs your contributions of non-perishable food in unbreakable family size packages. The food collections go alternately to the Stewpot Food Pantry and the South Rankin Food Resource Center. The greatest need is for high-protein foods such as meat-based stews and soups, tuna fish, peanut butter, dried beans, etc. Rice and pasta, especially in boxed meals, are also suggested, as are healthy quick-food snacks for children such as boxed fruit juice, dried fruit, fruit or pudding cups, and crackers. Checks, money orders, cash, or gift cards can be used by the two food pantries to buy perishable food.

Save-The-Date: The 30th annual St. Joseph Catholic Church GermanFest is scheduled for Sunday, September 25, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Advance meal tickets are \$6 and are available from parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Ticket information is also available by calling the parish office at 601-856-2054. Meals the day of the festival will be \$7.



Church Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday, 8 am - 4 pm /Friday Summer Hours 8am - 12pm (Closed Mondays) Pastor — Fr. Gerry Hurley — pastor@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com or office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Receptionist — Renee Borne — office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Faith Formation — Sarah O'Donnell — rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Finance/Bookkeeper — Renee Carpenter — finance@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Grounds/Maintenance — Kevin Smith — office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Learning Center — Jennifer Henry, Director — stpaullearningcenter@gmail.com Liturgy, Prayer Requests, Births, Baptisms — Monica Walton — liturgy@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Music Ministry — Ed Thomas — est5271@gmail.com R.C.I.A. — Rodney Hipp — adult.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Senior Adult Ministry — Monica Walton — sradults@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Youth Group — Cory Head — youth@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Church Office: Phone: 601-992-9547— www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com Early Learning Center: Phone: 601-992-2876—www.saintpaullearningcenter.com Follow us on Facebook: St Paul Catholic Church

