



Saint Paul Catholic Church

July 2, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Initial reflections on clericalism.

My first reflection on the term clericalism was that it meant “It (anything related to the Church) is Father’s (the priest’s) job.” In unpacking that simplistic statement I found that my initial thoughts on clericalism meant that almost everything related to Catholic worship, teaching and regulations was the purview and responsibility of the ordained. The ordinary, non-ordained, Catholic was a passive participant or recipient of the ministry and teaching from the ordained ministers. The priest was active, responsible and had the power. The laity was passive, dependent and held only that power and responsibility delegated by the ordained. The clergy ministered, the laity were ministered to. Within the ordained ministries there was also a hierarchy with deacons and priests subject to their bishops or cardinal. The local Church was subject to the Church of Rome. Clericalism was about power, who had it, how it was wielded and often how it was displayed.

As a child, I learned that the ordained priest has a vocation that was more special, privileged by grace and important than any other vocation and the higher in church rank, the more privileged the vocation. A vocation to the religious life was the second most important vocation. All other vocations were inferior. As a child, I also equated a priestly or religious vocation with holiness and again all others inferior. The ordained had access to special graces not accessible to the rest of us and this referred to graces above and beyond the ability to change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of the Christ and administer the sacraments. At that age, special meant better, more important. As a lay female, I was relegated to a much lower rung on any hierarchy of grace, holiness, or authority within the Church. I was taught to “pray, pay and obey.” My salvation would be mediated by the ordained and dependent upon passive acceptance of and compliance to (they wouldn’t use the word obedience openly) their interpretations, ministry and teachings.

The Holy Spirit refused to be limited by my experiences from the 50’s and 60’s. The Spirit led me from the teachings of my youth to a fuller understanding of my vocation as a woman in the Catholic Church. I can’t speak to what clericalism means today for others, because my focus is less on the priest’s vocation and more on my own vocation and especially my call to be a follower of Christ. I am still aware of all the differences between ordained and laity. Now, I see it as different callings by God. One is not more important or holier than the other, they are all vital to the living Body of Christ and the Catholic Church. Jesus has but one body and we are all members, but not all are called to eyes, brains, or hands. A living body needs all the seemingly insignificant and not so pretty parts, stomach acid, sinew, intestines. All the parts are necessary for life in the body and in the body of Christ. I believe the body of Christ is larger than the Catholic Church, or only all the followers of Christ, but for the sake of a discussion of clericalism and the role of the laity, I will confine my discussions to the Catholic Church.

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To Live as the Body Of Christ

Mass Intentions

Week of July 3, 2017:

7:30 am Mon: Fr. Patrick Noonan- sp. intention
9:00 am Tues.: Our Country- sp. intent
6:00 pm: Wed.: Celia Purser (RIP)
7:30 am Thurs.: Nolen Hughes (RIP)
10:00 am Fri.: Healing Mass/ Gordon & Mary Sanders (RIP)
5:30 pm Sat.: Celia Purser (RIP)
8:00 am Sun: Jane Corbitt (RIP)
10:30 am Sun.: Tommy & Kenneth Mitchell (RIP)

Prayer Intentions

Bob Bowen Blanche Stauss
Marth Catherwood
Rodney Comeaux, brother of Kathy Gieger
Theresa Fluhr, niece of Maxine Miller

Adoration This Week:

Monday- Thursday 8:00 am- 12:00 pm
Wednesday 6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 10:00 am

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

Pray for the Repose of the Souls

Norma Faye Wall, mother of David Wall
Debra Jean (DJ) Knight, cousin of Chris Nix
Leland Pousson, cousin of Monica Walton
Linda Bell Smith, mother of Chuck Smith
Jay Wagner, cousin of Mary Jo Perkins

New Announcements

* **SAVE THE DATE:** The Early Learning Center Golf Tournament will be held on September 8th.

Save the Date: Habitat for Humanity 32nd Catholic Build on Saturday, October 4 – We will be building on Greenview Drive in Jackson again; and you will be impressed with the changes on the street. The Jones family has moved into Catholic Build 2016; and the 2017 house is one of 8 Habitat homes being built on Greenview this year. Sister Therese Carmelle Jacobs, BVSM, went to The Lord earlier this year and was a longtime supporter of Catholic Build. Catholic Build 2017 will be built in memory of Sister Therese. Sign-up will start the first part of September and more information will be available then. You can contact Lonnie Graeber with any questions at l.pgraeber2@comcast.net. Our parish is always very involved with this project and we look forward to another great Catholic Build year!



* **Biking for Babies** The Southern Team will ride from New Orleans, LA to St. Louis, MO in just 4 days in support of pregnancy centers, services, and material needs. Come join PLM as they host a Meet-n-Greet BBQ Dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12th at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 238 East Center Street, Canton, MS.

• **Weekly offering for June 25, 2017: \$22, 667**
Second collection this weekend for Peter's Pence



Altar Flowers

*In memory of Conchita Gomez Uy
~ Domingo & Maria Quino and Family*

Blessed Mother Flowers

*In memory of Helen, Ellis, and Larry White, and Paul Cress
~ Melissa Baltz*

Reminders

* **The Knights of Columbus will be distributing preordered BBQ butts on July 2nd after both masses** in celebration of July 4th. BBQ sandwiches, chips, and drinks will also be sold after both masses on this day. This year, the funds raised will assist in the training of AJ Cerami's service dog.

* **The Parish office will be closed on July 3rd and 4th for our Independence Day Holiday.** Daily Mass will be at 7:30 am on July 3rd and **9:00 am on July 4th.** Please note there will be NO adoration on these days.

* **The Big Deal Geyser Fall trip** has been rescheduled for **next Saturday, July 8th.** Contact Cory Head if you are interested in going on this date!

***Sharing Christ**– Registration is open on our website for the third part of our ChristLife series. Our first class will begin on Thursday evening, September 7th. The series will run on the following dates: September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12 plus, a Saturday Retreat on October 21. **We hope to offer a day time session on Thursday mornings from 10am—12 pm on these same dates. Please call the church office if you would like to be added to that list.**

***Food Pantry:** Please consider that some families require greater food assistance during the summer months when children are not getting meals at school. The Food Pantry welcomes all nonperishable food in unbreakable containers. During the summer months, donations of quick-preparation foods are especially welcome. Food items can be left in the basket in the vestibule.

***If you would like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special event, altar flowers and Blessed Mother flowers can be reserved through our website.** You can find it under to *Registration Forms* tab. (Sign up will close at the beginning of each month)

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Years ago, I had a very painful episode of being “excommunicated” from my family based on false information they had about me and the subsequent judgements they made based on that information. They took the lies as truth, without ever talking to me and seeking my side of the story. Divine grace kept a bad situation from becoming a tragic one and for that I am grateful. I left the Church at that point and returned about 6 years later. Thankfully God never left me. When I returned to the Church it was after Vatican II, and things were a lot different. One thing I learned from that experience was that no one had the power to “excommunicate” me from the Church. I am not talking about formal excommunication for grave matters, but judgmental exclusion for not being a Catholic the way some priests thought I should behave. It was in this period that I began to develop a relationship with God, primarily with Jesus through Mary. I knew that no one could take that from me. My desire for and need of the Eucharist began to grow. I also began to be less judgmental of clergy and to be more discerning. This was far from a straight line of growth, more one step forward and two back, until much later in life. But this fundamental experience helped me to realize how much I needed the Eucharist to sustain me, and that I needed the ordained priests in order to have the Eucharist. So, I became more forgiving of priests, took them off a holiness pedestal, respectful of their ordained powers to minister the sacraments and forgiving of their human foibles. At times, I chose to stay in the Church despite the behavior of priests and bishops because my need for the Eucharist was greater than whatever they did.

Now my challenge is to grow as a disciple of Christ, to expand my ability to live my faith openly and in every aspect of my life. The word evangelization has negative connotations for me, I prefer to be invitational and as, I think, St Francis says go out and preach the Gospel and if necessary use words.

Back to clericalism, I think we as laity have contributed to the idea of “It is Father’s job.” As we moved with our culture into the increasing myths of secularism, it was easy to separate our spiritual life from the rest of our life, to compartmentalize spirituality and faith to private prayer, devotion and one hour at Mass on Sunday. The clergy and church for whatever reasons promoted their ideas and we were very willing to let them have that realm. It was, and is, so much easier for most of us to abdicate our power and responsibility to the priest, religious and mother Church than it is to live the Gospel. For that I am sorry. We have not supported you in your vocation by letting you have it all and do it all.

Thank you, Fr. Gerry for the ways you inspire and challenge us as community and individuals to grow in our relationship with and love of Christ, and to live that relationship in all aspects of our life. We are all works in progress, pilgrims and companions on a journey. We need one another.

I am sure that as you continue your homilies, I will be inspired to reflect more on clericalism.

Cheryl Marsh

***The International Cultural Exchange Program** is looking for Catholic host families for the upcoming school year. They are in need of 3-5 families. The students will attend Northwest Rankin High School and stay for the whole school year. Anyone interested in more information can contact Allison Treadaway Singleterry. Her email address is allison.singleterry@gmail.com and her phone number is 601-942-3584

****BULLETIN:** Information must be submitted in writing by note or email to the parish office **no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesdays** for the following weekend. When sending an email, please put “**BULLETIN**” in the subject line. Thank you for your cooperation!

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