

The Cross and Resurrection

In these days of Easter celebration when we are hopefully renewed in our hope and faith in the Resurrection, we do well to ask ourselves what does all of this mean to me personally. How does it change/share my life?

I was so touched by Fr. Richard Rohr's daily meditations on "The Cross" this week. Each day he pushed more deeply on the issues of the Cross. I would like to share a few of his very challenging perspectives that have broad application Communally, Universally, and Individually.

“Leviticus 16 describes the ingenious ritual from which our word “scapegoating” originated. On the Day of Atonement, a priest laid hands on an “escaping” goat, placing all the sins of the Jewish people from the previous year onto the animal. Then the goat was beaten with reeds and thorns and driven out into the desert. And the people went home rejoicing, just as European Christians did after burning a supposed heretic at the stake, or white Americans did after the lynching of black men. Whenever the “sinner” is excluded, our ego is delighted and feels relieved and safe. It sort of works, but only for a while. Usually the illusion only deepens and becomes catatonic, blind, and repetitive—because of course, scapegoating did not really work to eliminate the evil in the first place.

Jesus became the scapegoat to reveal the universal lie of scapegoating. Note that John the Baptist said, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin [singular] of the world” (John 1:29). It seems “the sin of the world” is ignorant hatred, fear, and legitimated violence”

Another striking thought that is pretty fearful.....

“The scapegoat mechanism largely operates in the unconscious; people do not know what they are doing. Scapegoaters do not know they are scapegoating, but they think they are doing a “holy duty for God” (John 16:2). You see why inner work, shadow work, and honest self-knowledge are all essential to any healthy religion.

Millions of soldiers have given their only lives by believing the lies of Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Stalin, Pol Pot, and Hitler, to name a few. The vast majority of violence in history has been sacralized violence. Members of ISIS probably believe they are doing God’s will. The Ku Klux Klan uses the cross as their symbol!

With God on our side, our violence becomes necessary and even “redemptive violence.” But there is no such thing as redemptive violence. Violence doesn’t save; it only destroys in both short and long term. Jesus replaced the myth of redemptive violence with the truth of redemptive suffering. He showed us on the cross how to hold the pain and let it transform us, rather than pass it on to the others around us.”

The final line of Richard's reflection is so very powerful. It is clear that people like Nelson Mandela, Ghandi, Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day and many others understood that.

I have to ask myself again and again,

**"Do I understand that?"
What difference is it making in my life right now?"**

~ Fr. Gerry

Mass Intentions

Week of May 8, 2017:

7:30 am Mon.: People of the Parish
7:30 am Tues.: Eugene & John Gooch (RIP)
6:00 pm Wed.: Bill Catherwood (RIP)
7:30 am Thurs.: Joie Ruth Armstrong (RIP)
7:30 am Fri.: Emily Henry (RIP)
5:30 pm Sat.: Edna Culley (RIP)
8:00 am Sun.: Biehl Family— special intentions
10:30 am Sun.: Edna Mangialardi (RIP)

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

Prayer Intentions

Zach White, nephew of Melissa Baltz
Julie Middleton Gunter, friend of Marilyn Stefka

Pray for the Repose of the Souls

Hunter Baker, young friend of Abby Welch

Adoration This Week: Monday– Friday 8:00 am– 12:00 pm
Wednesday 6:30 pm—7:30 pm



New Announcements

*All are welcome to join the Intercessory Prayer team to pray for our parish and for the success of ChristLife. Meet in the chapel at Noon on the 2nd Wed of each month.

***Congratulations to all of our 2017 graduates.** We wish you the best of luck and will be praying for you as you embark of your new life journey!

Altar Flowers

(included with our baptismal font display)

*In loving memory of John G. Montalto Jr.
~ Barbara Montalto*

Blessed Mother Flowers

*In honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
~ Blake & Ann Wilson*

Reminders

* **Please help us keep your records up-to- date!** If you have a change of address, phone number, email address, or a new member to add to your family, please email the office.

***Following Christ Sessions will begin on Tuesday, June 6th for all who have completed a Discovering Christ Session.** Sessions will be held June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25. Retreat will be on Saturday, July 15th. **Registration is now open on our website!!**

***St. Paul is hosting the AARP SMART DRIVER class this Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 12:00-4:30 PM.** Call Parish Office to reserve your place in the class.

***Baptism prep classes** are required for all those needing a child baptized. Please call the church office in advance. Our next class is **May 21st at 2pm.**

Weekly offering for April 30, 2017- \$19,712

***Travel with Fr. Jason Johnston, Associate Pastor of St Francis of Assisi, Madison, MS on our "Shrines of Italy with Fr. Jason and Catholic Charities Jackson."**

Where: Rome, Orvieto, Assisi, Florence, Loreto, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo, Pietrelcina, Monte Cassino

Trip Dates: Oct 07-18, 2017 Cost: \$4,499.00 Airfare and ALL-Included

To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also register online at www.proximotravel.com.

***Disaster Ministry** More than 25 counties in Mississippi were affected by the storms on April 30, 2017. Major damage to homes were reported for the counties of Adams, Holmes, Montgomery, Yazoo, Tunica, Hinds and Calhoun. Assessments are still being conducted by MEMA and the County Emergency Management Agencies. Immediate volunteer help is needed for **skilled labor** to help with debris removal. Please contact Dorothy Balsler at 601-326-3785 or dorothy.balsler@ccjackson.org if you can volunteer with skilled labor. Monetary donations can be made online at <http://www.catholiccharitiesjackson.org/givetocci>

Assisi Learning Center is accepting application for a secretary at their school. Must have experience in office work and knowledge of computer programs. If interested, please call 601-856-9494 to set up for an interview.

***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. A special thank you to everyone who made donations for our Easter flowers and adding beauty to our altar for the Easter season!

***Nursery and Children's Liturgy** available at the 10:30am mass. **The Nursery** is located in the Early Learning Center (enter through the cafeteria before mass). **Children ages 2-5** will be called up during the mass for **Children's Liturgy**.

Christians in Action



Collection for the Emergency Shelter for children will be next weekend!

Items for donations may be left in the vestibule at the designated site, and will be collected after all masses on one weekend only, May 13 & 14.

Needs

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste

Hair Brushes & Combs



Backpacks



Hair Oil For Ethnic Hair

Barrettes For Girl's Hair



Lunch Boxes



Socks & Underwear



Small Luggage



Soap (Dove Or Dial)

Cleaning Supplies

Paper Plates

Towels



Toilet Paper



Ziplock Bags (Gallon Size) Laundry

Detergent

Fabric Softener



Cleaner

Lysol



Monetary Donations

Needs

This Shelter opened in 1977. They provide residential shelter for children and youth, ages birth through 17. The Shelter can house 12 children, with 40 days being the maximum length of stay per child. To date, they have housed more than 5,000 children who were referred from Youth Court, Department of Human Services, and the Jackson Police Department.

Many of the children have been burned, beaten, sexually abused and are near starvation. Some are abandoned or in need of temporary placement pending foster care. In addition meeting the children's basic needs of food, clothing and medical care, the Shelter offers a complete recreational program. Children are encouraged to participate in athletic and extracurricular school activities. Transportation to area schools and other needed services is provided.

On staff, they have the Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, 12 full & part-time direct care employees, and a licensed clinical social worker who provides therapy.

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