



April 8, 2018 — Second Sunday of Easter

The Church as a Hospital

Before we moved into our Lenten Season, I shared a quotation with you from an author named James Kennedy. He was a Methodist Minister and was very engaged in Forward Movement Publications, serving as its director for 13 years. In 1957, James spent a great deal of time on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. There he penned his wonderful book, "Holy Island." The book is a compilation of daily reflections for all 40 days of Lent.

I delighted in going back to the book (which is long since out of print) and following with him the 40-day Lenten journey that he presented so well. After 60 years, his daily reflections have lost none of the luster, and his reflections are as relevant today as the day he wrote them.

I would like to spend some time with you between now and Pentecost, reflecting on the following quotation from the book for the fifth Wednesday of Lent:

"The church, often described as a hospital contains too many patients who fail to get well. The church, often described as a school contains too many pupils who fail to learn. Is this the church's witness to the world? Sick and ignorant disciples who know not the Christ whom they claim as Lord?"

I would like to hear your thoughts and reflections on this quotation, and share this dialogue with you on the front of the bulletin during this great Easter Season.

Our Holy Father Francis likes to speak of the Church as a kind of "field hospital" where members need to be treated and attended to before being sent back out to mission. But, what if we have too many patients who fail to get well? Are we just going to die? Is the Church as we know it going to die?

Can we look at ourselves honestly and truthfully, and gain greater awareness of where each of us fits into this conundrum?

Three years ago, I left our priests' retreat on the Wednesday to meet my good friend, Fr. Ruane at St. Dominic Hospital to meet with the oncologist. After the preliminary introductions, the doctor asked very directly, "Do you want me to sugar-coat this, or do you want me to be very direct?" He chose the feel-good, placebo option. I reminded him, after our meeting, that he would soon have to choose the other option because that is the only way we could proceed with some semblance of effectively moving forward. He agreed that we would have to do that, but just a little later.

I feel like we all have a special affinity, or attraction, to the feel-good, placebo affect — especially when it comes to our Church. As we pray for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit between now and Pentecost, let us pray for the gift of courage for ourselves, that we may reflect deeply on the questions and issues of our Church. Let us reflect seriously on the above quotation, and share with each other our perspectives for a brighter future.

Let us examine our own community here at St. Paul — viewing ourselves as a hospital / as a school!

Who are the patients / students? Is it me, or just them — the tragically broken, the big sinners?

Do I see the school / hospital as "them" or "us"?

Do I see my own need for healing? Or, am I content with placebos of feel-good faith?

Am I here out of obligation or choice? It makes a huge difference!

If I don't want the treatment, why am I here? Guilt? Shame? Worry? Obligation?

— Is it possible for me to be healthy if these are my reasons for being here?

— Is it possible for me to grow freely if obligation is my primary connection?

— Is it possible for me to grow if I am participating mainly because I am afraid to NOT be here?

Can I earn my way into the Kingdom? Do I desire to be in His Kingdom? What signs in my life point to that?



Saint Paul
Catholic Church

Let us journey together during these 50 days, reflecting on these important questions and on the Holy Island quotation. May it stimulate us and our lives and our relationship with Him. Please share with me in this dialogue! —Fr. Gerry



Humility is not putting yourself down or denying your strength; rather, it is being honest about your weaknesses.

Mass Intentions ~ April 9-15, 2018

- Monday @ 7:30 am — Mayrene Messer (RIP)
- Tuesday @ 7:30 am — US Armed Forces (Sp Int)
- Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — People of the Parish
- Thursday @ 7:30 am — Margaret Tanner (RIP)
- Friday @ 7:30 am — Mayrene Messer (RIP)
- Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)
- Sunday @ 8:00 am — Roy McMillan (RIP)
- Sunday @ 10:30 am — James Everette Toten (RIP)

Adoration this week: Monday-Friday, 8am-12noon
Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30-5:00pm

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Linda Overman
Daniel Topik, father of Derek Topik

Rest of the Soul:

Sammie Glorioso
John Otto, brother-in-law of Christine & Ken Weikum

see full prayer list on our prayer board & website

More on our website www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Church office @ 601-992-9547



Altar Flowers this week: In Honor of John Reiss, donated by Donna Lee Reiss
Blessed Mother Flowers this week: In Honor of: All Family Birthdays, donated by Paula Young

UPCOMING EVENTS * UPCOMING EVENTS * UPCOMING EVENTS * UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 8 — Divine Mercy Chaplet @ 9:15am in the Chapel; come pray with us
— **Religious Ed Classes resume @ 9:15 am**; ages 3 years-6th grade & adults
— **First Communion Retreat** after 8:00 am Mass

Apr 14/15 — Second Collection for Education of Future Priests

Apr 22 — First Communion Mass @ 8:00 am Mass

Apr 24 — St. Dominic Ministry — sign up now to provide lunch items to families of ICU patients

May 3 — Confirmation Mass @ 6:00 pm

May 5 — Following Christ Retreat

ANNOUNCEMENTS * ANNOUNCEMENTS * ANNOUNCEMENTS * ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Food Pantry Ministry at St. Paul supports the Stewpot Food Pantry in Jackson, the Center for Violence Prevention Abuse Shelter in Pearl, and individual requests for food assistance. We welcome non-perishable food in family-size packages, checks or gift cards to purchase food. Please place your contributions in the baskets near the entrance doors.

St. Anthony Catholic School has an opening for a full-time position as the Development Director to manage marketing and fundraising activities, as well as oversee special events. To apply, please contact Lisa Harmon at 601.607.7054 or send your resume to Lisa at lharmon@stanthonyeagles.org.

Fr. Cosgrove needs more pilgrims for his 12-day tour of Salzburg, Munich, Vienna, Liechtenstein, & Lucerne, June 23-July 4. Cost is \$4,600 which includes airfare from anywhere in the U.S. The deadline to register is April 25. You may register at www.proximotravel.com; or by calling Proximo Travel at 855-542-8001; or by calling Fr. Cosgrove at 601-481-5700.