

DETACHMENT

We celebrated our Patronal Feast just last Wednesday, June 29th. Officially, the Church celebrates the feast of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul on that day.

It is interesting that the Church should celebrate the feast of these two outstanding men on the same day. One might think that each deserved their own separate day on the Liturgical Calendar. I guess the Church saw the richness of celebrating these two giants on the same day as a way of celebrating the unity of the Church brought about by both.

Generally, Saint Peter is regarded as the Apostle to the Christians, and Saint Paul as the Apostle to the Gentiles. Peter was one of the original Twelve, a companion of Jesus and the others during Jesus' earthly life. Paul, on the other hand, never met Jesus during His earthly life. But, the Scriptures are clear about how Jesus appeared to him and initiated his leadership role.

Our word for the month of July is **DETACHMENT**. Both Peter and Paul are great examples of **DETACHMENT**. Both were called to detach from their former identities — their careers, homes, and their very names. Being given new names by God, Himself, denoted paternity and paternal care in the great Jewish tradition.

DETACHMENT opened up a whole new life for each of these men. It provided a space for Christ, in Christ, and with Christ. The Christian virtue of **DETACHMENT** is designed to bring about the same in my life.

Saul, who would grow in faith to become Saint Paul, caused much suffering before he had a personal encounter with the Risen Christ. He followed his own agenda. He lived for himself and his own glory. Once he encountered the Risen Christ personally he declared, "I live, no longer I, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20) That is **DETACHMENT** at its best. That is life in Christ — or ChristLife!

Simon, who would grow in faith to become Saint Peter, let his emotions interfere with his relationship with Christ. Peter loved Jesus, but struggled with his trust in Him. He had a deeply personal relationship with Christ and he would follow Jesus, do His work, and say that He loved Him. But, when he was pressured by others, he would move into a selfish way of thinking and away from trusting. This led him to deny Christ three times. He was afraid. He was focused on what he had to lose, not on what he had to gain by deepening that relationship with Christ. But, Jesus loved him through it all.

Mark 10:21

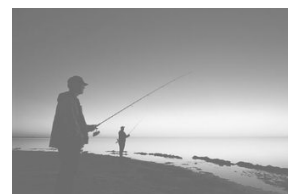
"Jesus looked at him and loved him.
'One thing you lack,' He said. "Go sell
everything you have and give to the poor."

*In what ways is God calling me to
DETACHMENT?*

--Continued on p. 2

Martin Laird captured this beautifully in his book, “Into the Silent Land.”

“God is the ground of our innermost being, yet we skim along on the surface of life. The result is that our lives are rather like that of the deep-sea fisherman who was fishing for minnows while standing on a whale.”



Each of us is invited to a deeper relationship with Jesus — a personal encounter with Him, just as Peter and Paul were invited. The Gospel last Sunday was a stark reminder of the many excuses people make for not accepting the Lord’s invitation to follow Him.

“Let me go first and bury my father.”
“Let me say farewell to my family at home.”

What Jesus was saying is that there will always be excuses in our minds and in our hearts for not following Him. Many of those excuses will have life substance and appear very powerful. But, Jesus is going back to a central Gospel theme — Put me and my Kingdom first.

“Set your hearts on His Kingdom first, and on His righteousness, and all these things will be given you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

We are all called to the virtue of **DETACHMENT** for one reason only — that we may be firmly attached to Him.

***“For everything, absolutely everything,
above and below, visible and invisible...
everything got started in Christ and finds its purpose in Him.”***
(Colossians 1:16)

—Fr. Gerry

Church Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday, 8 am - 4 pm /Friday Summer Hours 8am - 12pm (Closed Mondays)

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

July 3, 2016– Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

JULY 4– JULY 10, 2016

* **9:00 am Monday:** U.S. Armed Forces
7:30 am Tuesday: Nolen Hughes (RIP)
6:00 pm Wednesday: Bishop Houck (RIP)
7:00 am Thursday: Marie Smith (RIP)
7:00 am Friday: Bob Bansuch (RIP)
5:30 pm Saturday: Norman Nelson (RIP)
8:00 am Sunday: John Elser (RIP)
10:30 am Sunday: Phyllis Ball (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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Ronnie Bowden, cousin of Jo Bowden

REPOSE OF THE SOUL

John Hobbs, cousin of Jo Bowden
Michael McNally, friend of the Walton family

*Altar flowers and Blessed Mother flowers this week are donated by Bill & Betty Longo
in memory of the Longo and Grissom Families.
The flower arrangements around church and the vestibule
have been donated in memory of Michael Lalo.*



This Week

July 3rd — Children's Liturgy during the 10:30 mass.

— **Pick up your pre-ordered boston butt** after both Sunday masses in the back parking lot near the Family Life Center. BBQ pork sandwiches and plates will also be on sale for the support of the Lemonis family. Come by and support this family with us.

July 4th — July 4th Holiday- Morning Mass at 9am

Next Week & Upcoming Events

July 10th & 17th weekends— 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!!

July 16th— Youth Canoe Trip for grades 7th-12th (2016-2017 school year)— See flyers in the back of church. Sign up sheet is on the back table for mass on Saturday, or see Cory and sign up after Sunday masses. We need everyone to sign up or let Cory know in advance so that transportation arrangements can be scheduled.

July 16th— St Joseph Catholic School Booster Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run. To register go to: <https://raceroster.com/events/2016/9291/bruin-burn-5k>

July 30th— Altar Server Training from 9-11am. On site celebration after for those attending and current altar servers. Contact the church office **by July 15th** if you plan to attend.

Thank you

Weekly offering for June 26th: \$23,347



Have a safe and happy holiday weekend!!

Catholic Diocese Job Announcement— Facilities manager needed to oversee and handle small repairs in Chancery office building and other nearby facilities. Working with parishes needing assistance with contract service providers. Assisting Diocesan personnel with building projects and ongoing maintenance projects. Submit resume no later than July 15th. Email cathy.pendleton@jacksondioceses.org for more info.

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