

May 21, 2017
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Clericalism continues....

I appreciate Father Gerry making us aware of “*clericalism*” and the danger the Holy Father sees in it. But it sure took some searching to get my mind around what *clericalism* is.

The query blanked my go to for all questions Catholic, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Doubleday 1995). The Catechism’s subject index records no entry for *Clericalism* where one should fall between Clairvoyance and Collectivism.

The National Catholic Reporter sites Pope Benedict XVI taking on *clericalism* in Latin America especially during a 2012 trip to Cuba. John L. Allen Jr. then framed *clericalism* as “perhaps the inevitable result of the faith being effectively a monopoly [in Latin America] until quite recently.

Typical expressions of this *clericalism* include:

- Clergy see themselves as political powerbrokers, playing a direct role in affairs of state.
- The church projects an image of power and privilege, with its preferred spiritual imagery emphasizing God as a cosmic monarch.
- The role of the laity is conceived in largely passive terms—‘pay, pray and obey.’
- Little premium is placed on evangelization or faith formation, with pastoral care understood largely in terms of administering the sacraments.”

Pope Francis decries this with even more vigor. In April 2016, according to *Crux Now*, the Holy Father “accused the Catholic hierarchy on his home continent of generating a ‘laical elite,’ formed by those who work in the ‘things of the Church,’ instead of helping ordinary baptized people live their faith in everyday situations. The clock had stopped, he said, on ‘The Hour of the Laity.’”

So, does clericalism operate in Mississippi, a state dominated by Evangelical Protestantism, a state where only 4.7% identify as Catholic, a state that in the 2004 National Surveys of Religion and Politics ranked as the least Catholic state in America? For more Catholic graphs and statistics, there is a great set retained by the *Wall Street Journal*, <http://graphics.wsj.com/catholics-us/>

As one who travels frequently for work, I enjoy the opportunity to worship in our universal church and celebrate Mass across the state and the nation. I will say, outside of St. Paul Parish, I have found myself subject to homilies containing overt political points of view and not so subtle directives. But these never lasted long, and could be prayed through.

Is this *clericalism*? It certainly thwarts our hope of being in this world but not of this world. “It’s never the shepherd who tells the laity what they have to do or say [in public life], they know it as well or even better than us,” Francis wrote in a letter to the head of the Vatican’s Congregation for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. “Our role, our joy, the joy of the shepherd is precisely in helping and stimulating, as many did before us, so that it’s the mothers, the grandmothers, the fathers who become the true protagonists of history.” This is also from Inés San Martín’s April 27, 2016 article in *Crux Now*. The Pope’s statement is clear and bold.

Still, having come this far in barely apprehending *clericalism*, and likely misapprehending it, I can only understand this well enough to instruct myself. I participate in Mass in a ministry, and even the laity can fall prey to the seduction of elitism, a glamour of pomp. The Catechism bears this clear instruction for Bishops and Priests under the heading The Sanctifying Office, but I think this may have value, too, for any servant of those shepherding a flock:

“They [the bishops and priests] sanctify her [the Church] by their example, ‘not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock.’ Thus, ‘together with the flock trusted to them, they may attain to eternal life.’”

— Steve Yates

Mass Intentions

Week of May 22, 2017:

7:30 am Mon.: Joie Ruth Armstrong (RIP)
7:30 am Tues.: Nolen Hughes (RIP)
6:00 pm Wed.: People of the Parish
7:30 am Thurs.: Maggie Daniels (RIP)
7:30 am Fri.: HE & Roselyn Pickett (RIP)
5:30 pm Sat.: Ines Perez (RIP)
8:00 am Sun.: Johnny Gauthier (RIP)
10:30 am Sun.: Edna Mangialardi (RIP)

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

Prayer Intentions

Steven Walton Jr Joyce Gray
Kevin Brown, friend of David and Winnie Browman

Pray for the Repose of the Souls

Richard Haslob, brother-in-law of Mary Haslob

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



New Announcements

***Women's Guild– Monday, May 22nd @ 11am** Spring Tea Party featuring Karen Gordon from High Biscuits Tea Room. Light lunch will be provided– Look for the flyers for more information.

***St. Paul Emergency Shelter for Children Annual Weekend** was a big success! Over \$1,050.00 in monetary donations were collected and a truck load of needed items! Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

PENTECOST WEEKEND CELEBRATION
June 3rd/4th, 2017
See p. 3 for details



WOMEN'S GUILD CRAFT FAIR:
NOV. 11TH/12TH

Reminders

***Baptism prep classes** are required for all those needing a child baptized. Our next class is **this Sunday, May 21st at 2pm**. Classes are offered approximately every 3 months

***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!! If you are interested in a daytime session, please call the office.**

Altar Flowers

(included with our baptismal font display)

*In memory of Wanda Zebrowski
~ Donna Lee Reiss*

Blessed Mother Flowers

*In memory of our son, William Christian Foster
~ Rebecca and Kelli Foster*



Weekly offering for May 14, 2017: \$25,744
2nd collection next weekend for Catholic Communications

***Saint Paul Early Learning Center** is searching for Part Time afternoon Assistant Teachers who have a love for children and learning. Please call Jennifer Henry at 601-292-2876 if you are interested.

***St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church** would like to extend an invitation to our **2017 Cajun Fest** which is held on the church grounds, 4000 W. Tidewater Lane, Madison, MS 39110 on May 21, 2017 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. **RAIN OR SHINE the event will still take place!**

***All are invited to celebrate Fr. Al Camp's 60th Anniversary** Mass and Celebration on May 25th– 11 am at St. Francis of Assisi.

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.

***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**.

We will celebrate Pentecost the weekend of June 3rd/4th

Mass schedule: The Saturday Vigil Mass will be in the church @ 5:30pm, but there will **NOT** be an 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, June 4th.



We hope you will come to our **Pentecost Celebration** which begins outdoors with Mass on Sunday @ 10:30 am and stay for food, fun, and fellowship.

(No Children's Liturgy or Nursey this weekend)

**** All food and water will be provided by the church!!**

Bring your own chairs, canopy, and cooler if you would like.

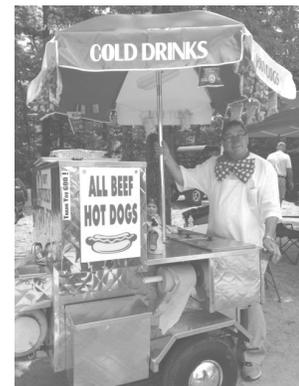


“What is the purpose of all of this celebration for Pentecost?” someone asked. The answer is: “The Purpose is that we are celebrating the official birth of the Church.”

The Church as we know it today was born on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon that fledgling group in the Upper Room. The effect of the Holy Spirit was powerful and immediate. The disciples who had been terrified at the Passion and Death of Jesus were now out there proclaiming Him boldly.

It was a really big deal and while it would be great to remember it constantly, it just doesn't happen. Accordingly, we try to make it a very special event annually so as to renew the power that Jesus so desires for us to have all of the time.

—Fr. Gerry



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