



Mass Intentions

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 17, 2019

Saturday– Aug 17th –

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Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Robert Strohl

by Peggy McCarty

7:00PM – Rosa Cunningham (A)

by Bossons Family

Sunday – Aug 18th –

8:30AM – Raymond Bieak (B)

by Theresa and Dennis Bieak

10:30AM – Memorial Fund Members

by The Memorial Fund

Monday – Aug 19th – St John Eudes

8:00AM – Joanne Hudak

by Colleen McCloskey

Tuesday – Aug 20th – St Bernard

8:00AM – Bernard Cunningham, Jr. (A)

by Bossons Family

Wednesday – Aug 21st – St Pius X

6:00PM – John Milkovits (A)

by Family

Thursday – Aug 22nd –

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00AM – Helen Cassidy

by Steve and Patti Terplan

Friday – Aug 23rd – St Rose of Lima

8:00AM – Mary Delores Kocis (B)

by McCloskey Family

Saturday– Aug 24th – St Bartholomew

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Theodore Edward DeLucia (B)

by Phyllis Christoff

7:00PM – Thomas Vincent Tomasic (B)

by Wife, Diane

Sunday – Aug 25th –

8:30AM – Frank “Jive” Snyder (A)

by Nin Snyder and Family

10:30AM – Agnes and Homer Collis

by Family



Pray the Rosary Sundays

8:15AM and 10:15AM

PASTOR'S CORNER

How Does Our View of Humanity Affect Our Government?

With the blatant disregard for the law and the Constitution of the United States, going on in our society from the top down, we are left to wonder: do we even *want* to be free anymore, or would we rather have our lives run by experts and a centralized government? Bill Donohue, head of the Catholic League, writes:

If there is one subject that has delighted intellectuals throughout the ages, it is the makings of the good society. We can all agree that the rallying cry of the French Revolution – liberty, equality, fraternity – is about ends that most people want. But we don't have to look any further than to the intellectual architects of the French Revolution, Rousseau being first among them, to realize that they misapprehended how to achieve those ends.

Just as Charlton noted, when it comes to human psychology and sociopolitical affairs, the highly educated are typically in over their heads. In this case, the abstract ideas entertained by the French intellectuals, coupled with their lack of common sense, allowed them to hold a seriously flawed conception of human nature.

There is nothing more serious in intellectual affairs than getting human nature wrong: it's a slippery slope that, once stepped on, destines all policies to ruin. The geniuses who gave us Robespierre not only failed to deliver liberty, equality, and fraternity; they also succeeded in providing oppression, inequality, division, and mass murder.

The French Revolution failed because the philosophes – what the French called their intellectuals – mistakenly thought that man is basically good but was corrupted by society. All that was needed, they thought, was to put the “right persons” in charge, allowing them to make the necessary adjustments. Once we remake our social institutions, norms, and values, they thought, we will remake man, ridding him of his corrupted ways. He will then return to his benign state of nature.

By contrast, Catholicism understands original sin: we are a fallen people. With

God's grace, we are capable of great good; with Satan's influence, we are also capable of great evil. Social progress can be made, but there is no such thing as perfectibility on earth; it is a pipe dream. Worse, attempts by ruling elites to orchestrate the perfect society – such as the attempts by Hitler, Stalin, Mao, and Pol Pot – yield nothing but genocide. With good reason, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* [407] says, "Ignorance of the fact that man has a wounded nature inclined to evil gives rise to serious errors in the areas of education, politics, social action, and morals."

Those who founded America were not all practicing Christians, but they all respected Christianity. They also had a very common sense understanding of human nature. They knew that man was self-interested, capable of great good and great evil. By getting human nature right, they were able to craft institutions that directed man's self-interest to serve the best interests of society.

James Madison was a first-class intellectual who possessed common sense. He exhibited this when he questioned, "But what is government itself but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary." He and the writers who influenced the Founders were men who had their feet planted squarely on the ground; they were anything but blue-sky thinkers.

Americans enjoy freedom today largely because the Founders instituted a system of government based on man's self-interest. They allowed for three vertical levels of governance – federal, state, and local – and for three competing horizontal branches at the national level – executive, legislative, and judicial. By dividing power, they denied its monopolization, thus ensuring freedom. As Madison put it, "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition."

We also enjoy prosperity. This, too, is a direct result of the Founders' accurate conception of human nature. Their preference for a market economy was based on the premise that man's self-interest, economically speaking, is best achieved by appealing to the greatest number of

persons. To enrich ourselves, we must please others.

The assumptions about human nature that guided the Founders were quintessentially Christian. That is why they succeeded. But we have been abandoning common sense policies that yielded progress, replacing them with unworkable programs based on unrealistic assumptions about the human condition.

[*Common Sense Catholicism*, pp.13-15.]

To enjoy our freedom as children of God, we must never tire of defending it.

Fr. Eric.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection	\$3,937.00
Mission Co-Op Collection	\$1,432.00
Assumption Collection	\$1,166.00



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	J.Drummer D.Gorr	J.Strohl	M.Druckenmiller
7:00PM	L.Ruda N.Ruda	J.Englert	P.McCarty
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	E.Snyder	C.Molchany
10:30AM	D.Gair C.Gair	B.Bozzone	J.Marhefka



Flowers were placed on the altar on the weekend of August 3rd and 4th, in memory of **Roseliese and Bernard Cunningham** by the Bossons family.

C.C.D. REGISTRATIONS

Registrations have been mailed out. **The forms and tuition are due next Sunday, August 18th, or a late fee will be added.** If your child attends public school, is home-schooled, or will be starting pre-school this year, and you have not received a registration form, please call the Rectory, 610-264-1972.

Thank You

We would like to thank the members of St. John Fisher Church for your many donations for the animal shelter at Haafsville. We are truly grateful and our dogs and cats are always in need. Kind regards, The Sanctuary at Haafsville



SEPTEMBER RETREATS

The following upcoming retreats will be held at the St. Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Road in Bethlehem. For further information or to register for these events email stfranciscenter@gmail.com.

Hope Does Not Disappoint

Their annual woman's weekend retreat will be held on **Friday, September 13th to Sunday, September 15th**. The facilitator is **Fr. Keith Laskowski**, and the offering is \$175.00 per person with an \$80.00 deposit.

UN International Day of Peace

Will be held on **Saturday, September 21st, at 7:00pm**, and is a goodwill offering.

Be a Voice Not an Echo

Their Twilight Retreat will be held on **Thursday, September 26th, from 6:45pm to 9:00pm**. The facilitator is Alex Cirko, and the offering is \$25.00, with a \$15.00 deposit.



Saint John Eudes

Born in 1601, John studied with the Jesuits at Caen, France, and was ordained as a priest of the Oratory. He founded the Society of Jesus and Mary, the Eudists, to provide priests for seminary education. John taught others to entrust themselves to the hearts of Jesus and Mary. John died in 1680. ~ Magnificat, August, 2019



Saint Rose of Lima

Rose was born into an educated but impoverished family in Lima, Peru, in 1586. From her earliest childhood, Rose sought to "proclaim the beauty of divine grace" through constant prayer and mortification. She rubbed her lovely face with pepper to make herself unattractive. She worked diligently to support her family by creating delicate lacework, and tended the poor sick who came to her home. The commission of the Inquisition that investigated her concluded that her mystical experiences resulted from "the impulses of grace". At age twenty she took a vow of chastity and entered the Dominican Third Order. She died in 1617. ~ Magnificat, August, 2019



Saint Pius X

Giuseppe Sarto was born of humble origins in Riese, Italy, in 1835. As pastor, bishop, and Patriarch of Venice, he countered laxness and error with a return to essentials: catechesis and solid priestly formation. Upon his election as Pope Pius X in 1903, he devoted himself "to restore all things in Christ" (Eph 1:10). He published a question-and-answer catechism – the fruit of his pastoral experience – and promoted the theology of Saint Thomas Aquinas as a sure guide in a time of much confusion. He urged the frequent reception of Communion, and restored the place of Gregorian chant in the liturgy. Pius X died in 1914 and was canonized in 1954. ~ Magnificat, August, 2019