

## Inside this issue:

Notes on Sunday  
Gospel readings 1

Faith Foundations 1

Book and Film  
Recommendations 2

Adult Faith For-  
mation Opportu-  
nities 2

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions For This Month

#### General Intention:

That the terminally ill may be supported by their faith in God and the love of their brothers and sisters.

#### Mission Intention:

That the celebration of World Mission Day may foster in the People of God a passion for evangelization with the willingness to support the missions with prayer and economic aid for the poorest Churches.

#### Contact:

Brendan Murphy  
Director of Family Life, Mar-  
riage Preparation, and Adult  
Faith Formation  
(570) 207-2213, ext. 1133  
Brendan-Murphy@dioceseof  
scranton.org



# Disciple

A monthly resource for adult Catholics of  
the Diocese of Scranton

Volume 4, Issue 10

October 2011

## Breaking Open the Word—Notes on the Sunday Gospels

### Oct. 2 (Mt. 21:33-43)

The parable of the wicked tenants is an allegory. The householder is God and the vineyard is Jerusalem. The tenants are Israel's leaders while the servants are OT prophets persecuted for warning Israel of its sins. The son is Jesus, who will be thrown out of the vineyard and crucified outside the city. Because of the wickedness of the tenants, God will put them to death when He judges Jerusalem in A.D. 70. He will entrust the New Covenant to the other tenants in the Church (16:17-19; 18:17-19).

### Oct. 9 (Mt. 22:1-14)

The parable in today's Gospel is similar to the previous week. The reference to the guest without a wedding garment is often confusing. The wedding garment "is a symbol of righteous deeds

that accompany faith (Rev. 19:7-8). These deeds are outlined in Matthew as almsgiving (6:2-4), prayer (6:5-15), fasting (6:16-18), and works of mercy (25:34-40).

### Oct. 16 (Mt. 22:15-21)

In today's Gospel Jesus is asked about paying taxes and asks for someone to show Him a coin. "The coin is a 'denarius' stamped with a profile portrait of Tiberius Caesar, the Roman Emperor (A.D. 14-37). This tax was especially offensive to the Jews, who knew that God forbade the fashioning of graven images in the likeness of any created thing (Ex. 20:4)."

### Oct. 23 (Mt. 22:34-40)

In today's Gospel Jesus condenses the 613 commands of the Mosaic Law into two: Love of God (Deut. 6:5) and love of neighbor (Lev. 19:18). This

summarizes the entire message of the Law and Prophets of the OT. In addition, St. Paul writes that love is the greatest of the theological virtues (1 Cor. 13:13).

### Oct. 30 (Mt. 23:1-12)

In today's Gospel Jesus tells the crowd at one point to call no man "Father." "Jesus uses hyperbole to post a warning that no one should pridefully desire honorific titles. His words are not meant literally. The NT writers elsewhere use 'father' for natural fathers (Heb. 12:7-11) and spiritual fathers in the Church (1 Cor. 4:15; Philem. 10). The spiritual fatherhood of New Covenant priests is an extension of its application to Old Covenant priests (Judg. 17:10; 18:19)."

## Faith Foundations—Basics of Catholic Christian Belief

### Chastity

*(From the Compendium of the  
Catechism of the Catholic Church)*

The following is a brief overview of Catholic belief about chastity

#### What is chastity?

"Chastity means the positive integration of sexuality within the person. Sexuality becomes truly human when it is integrated in a correct way into the relationship of one person to another. Chastity is a moral virtue, a gift of God, a grace, and a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

#### What is involved in the virtue of chastity?

"The virtue of chastity involves an apprenticeship in self-mastery as an expression of human freedom directed towards self-giving. An integral and continuing formation, which is brought about in stages, is necessary to achieve this goal.

#### What are the means that aid the living of chastity?

"There are many means at one's disposal: the grace of God, the help of the sacraments, prayer, self-knowledge, the practice of

an asceticism adapted to various situations, the exercise of the moral virtues, especially the virtue of temperance which seeks to have the passions guided by reason.

#### In what way is everyone called to live chastity?

"As followers of Christ, the model of all chastity, all the baptized are called to live chastely in keeping with their particular states of life. Some profess virginity or consecrated

(continued on next page)

## Faith Foundations...Continued

celibacy which enables them to give themselves to God alone with an undivided heart in a remarkable manner. Others, if they are married live in conjugal chastity, or if unmarried practice chastity in continence.”

### **What are the principal sins against chastity?**

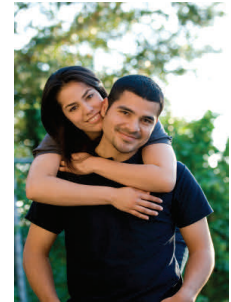
Grave sins against chastity differ according to their objects: adultery, masturbation, fornication, pornography, prostitution, rape,

and homosexual acts. These sins are expressions of the vice of lust. These kinds of acts committed against the physical and moral integrity of minors become even more grave.”

### **What is the responsibility of civil authority in regard to chastity?**

“Insofar as it is bound to promote respect for the dignity of the person, civil authority should seek to create an envi-

ronment conducive to the practice of chastity. It should also enact suitable legislation to prevent the spread of the grave offenses against chastity mentioned above, especially in order to protect minors and those who are the weakest members of society.”



“As followers of Christ, the model of all chastity, all the baptized are called to live chastely in keeping with their particular states of life.”

## Faith and Media—Reading and Viewing Recommendations

### **Book of the Month:**

#### **Confessions by St. Augustine**

A Catholic classic, Augustine's Confessions should be on everyone's list of books to read before they die. Considered by many to be the first autobiography, Confessions traces the course of Augustine's life from the womb up until the moment of his conversion at the age of 33. Augustine aims for complete honesty in describing his passions and interests as a youth and young adult, which includes wrestling with chastity

and belonging to a heretical sect. Throughout the book Augustine presents himself in a way that the modern reader can relate to. There are many versions of this book, but I would recommend the Oxford Press edition because of its helpful footnotes.

### **Film of the Month:**

#### **The Exorcism of Emily Rose**

I first recommended this film almost 3 years ago, but I thought I would dust it off because its October and people like to be spooked a bit. Let me be clear, this movie is not

for children and it has some disturbing/scary images, but it is actually a fantastic presentation of the Church's teaching on exorcism. Inspired by true events, the movie revolves around the trial of a Catholic priest charged with murder when a girl dies after undergoing an exorcism. A first rate cast adds to the quality of the film. Since I first recommended this film I have been surprised by the number of people (both ordained and lay) who have commented on how this film made them think deeper about the reality of evil.



Left: **Confessions** (Oxford University)

Right: **The Exorcism of Emily Rose** (Sony Pictures)

## Catholic Calendar—Upcoming Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation

### **Theology of the Body for Beginners**

St. Peter Church, Wellsboro Oct. 16, 30 (Sundays) 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Pope John Paul's Theology of the Body is a meditative reflection on what it means to be created male and female and how that relates to the gift of our sexuality. This mini-course will examine the basic elements of The Theology of the Body. These sessions are of particular interest to teachers, catechists, youth ministers, married couples/parents,

engaged couples or those interested in learning more about the gift John Paul II has given the Church through The Theology of the Body.

**Fee:** \$30.00, which includes a book and refreshments.

**To register:** Call 570.207.2213, Ext. 1107

### **The Liturgical Year: Celebrating the Mystery of Christ**

Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton Oct. 22 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Each day of the liturgical year is sanctified primarily by Christ's presence in it, but also by the

prayer and liturgical celebrations of the People of God, especially by the Mass and the Divine Office. The four-part series includes:  
1. Advent and Christmas, 2. Lent and the Easter Triduum, 3. The Easter Season, and 4. Ordinary Time and the Celebrations in Honor of the Saints. This first presentation will focus on, Advent and Christmas.

**Fee:** \$30 which includes lunch.

**To register:** Call 570.207.2213, ext. 1107

**“Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you...”**

**~1 Pt. 3:15**