



BAPTIZED AND SENT

Office for Parish Life
2019-2020 Calendar

Office for Parish Life Team



Catherine Jantsch Butel

*Diocesan Secretary
for Parish Life*



Jacki Douglas

*Director for WORD and
Lifelong Faith Formation*



Shannon Kowalski

*Coordinator for Youth/
Young Adult Ministry*



David Baloga

Director for WORSHIP



Katy Windels

*Coordinator for SERVICE
and Social Justice*



Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic

*Coordinator for
Pilgrimages*



Jen Housel

*Director for COMMUNITY
and
Family Development*



Msgr. Vincent Grimalia

*Coordinator for
Ecumenical/Interfaith
Relations*



Kitty Scanlan

*Coordinator for
Lay Ministry Formation*



Ann Marie Cawley

*Coordinator for Pastoral
Council Development*



Luis Rivera, OFS

*Coordinator for Parish
Cultural Integration*



Jennifer Andres

Receptionist



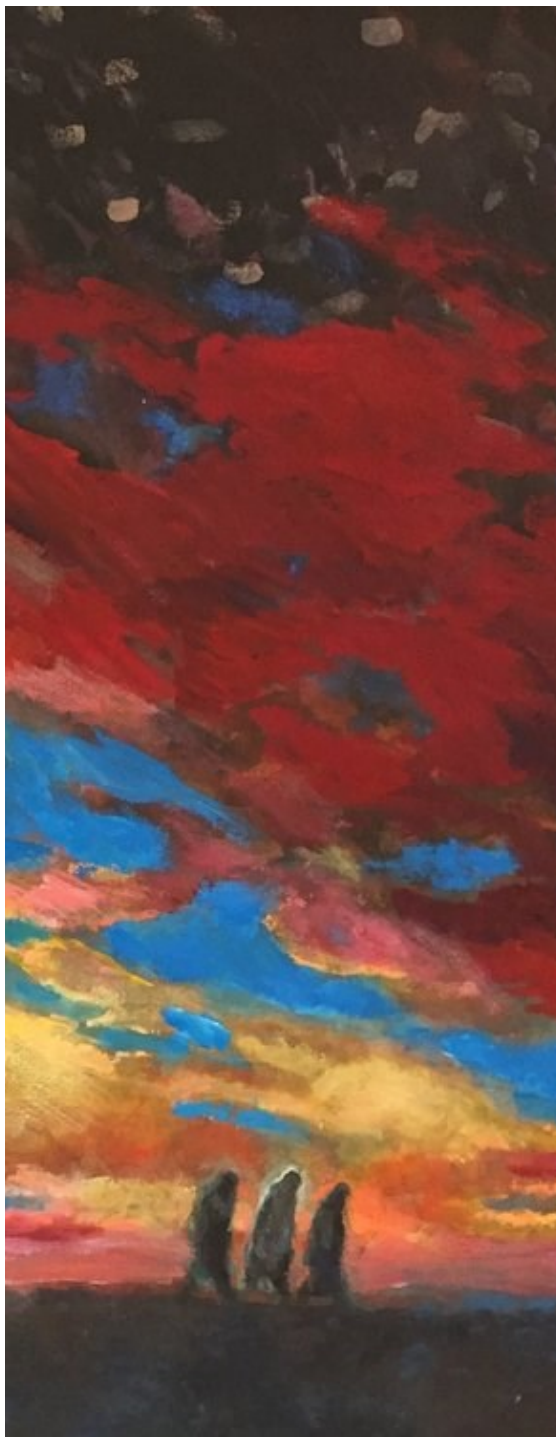
Diane Franklin

Administrative Assistant



Marge Kosmahl

Office Manager



“Baptized and Sent”

As an Office for Parish Life Team, we welcome this year as another opportunity to serve you in your parish ministries! We are blessed to be surrounded by so many faithful in the Diocese of Scranton who are dedicated to sharing their gifts and bringing Christ to others in a multitude of ways.

The theme for the 2019-2020 Office for Parish Life calendar, “Baptized and Sent” draws its inspiration from the document from Pope Francis and the Pontifical Mission Societies entitled “*Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*” which shares reflections on how the Catholic Church can observe the upcoming Extraordinary Mission Month in October of 2019.

We look forward to celebrating our mission as disciples of Christ in a special way as a local church during the month of October, while also recognizing that our call to “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15) is a continuous action, comprising of our openness to the Holy Spirit, and the invitation to nurture our faith along our journey every day, wherever we find ourselves.

It is our hope that within the pages of this calendar, you will find fruits in the prayerful reflections provided for use with a variety of gatherings with parish leaders; for sharing in your communities as a parish bulletin insert; and/or for your own spiritual nourishment. Parish groups have also benefitted from this calendar in planning their participation in diocesan events throughout the year!

Go forth!

The Office for Parish Life Team

Baptism in the Mission of the Church

"I have asked that the whole Church revive her missionary awareness and commitment as we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter Maximum Il-lud of Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919)... to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism. Our filial relationship with God is not something simply private, but always in relation to the Church. Through our communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we, together with so many of our other brothers and sisters, are born to new life." (World Mission Day Message 2019, Pope Francis)

Scripture: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Reflection:

Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Day, 2019 asked the church to remember her 'Missionary awareness and commitment', rooted in the grace of baptism. The word "mission" comes from the Latin word *mit-tere*, which means "to send." In its most general sense, a mission is an appointed responsibility or job. Our mission can be an everyday task like being sent to the grocery store, or it can be something more obvious such as being sent to reduce hunger in an impoverished area. When we refer to mission in reference to the Church and the baptized, we are speaking always about something significant, because we are speaking about being sent to achieve God's mission.

By its very nature the Church is missionary because we are charged to carry on the work of the risen Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is put best in the words of Jesus: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:19-20*).

The Church fulfills its mission through the ministry of the baptized. "The Sacrament of baptism is an effective and visible sign that really communicates the life of God in Christ and involves us in the dynamic of his mission and his passion for the life and salvation of every person." (*Baptized and Sent*, 355) Through our baptism, we are empowered for mission. We are sent out to proclaim the kingdom for Christ and to share the good news of Christ with others.

While most people believe that being called to mission means to be sent to distant lands or to hear an overwhelming call to service, on the contrary, each of us is called to witness to the person and message of Jesus in the everyday routines of our lives. "The Church needs men and women, who, by virtue of their baptism, respond generously to the call to leave behind home, family, country, language and local church, and to be sent forth to the na-

tions, to a world not yet transformed by the sacraments of Jesus Christ and his Holy Church." (Pope Francis in his message for World Mission Day June, 2019)

Reflection Questions:

~ In Baptism, the "one Spirit" makes us members of the Body of Christ and of "one another" [CCC, no. 1267]. Today, have you considered other people, including strangers or even rivals, as equal members in the Body of Christ?

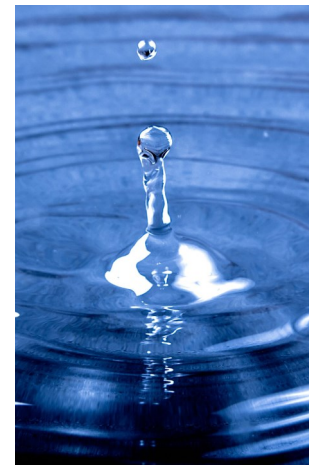
~ Pope Francis writes, "In baptism, we receive the origin of all fatherhood and true motherhood: no one can have God for a Father who does not have the Church for a mother." Hence, our mission "is rooted in the fatherhood of God and motherhood of the Church." (Pope Francis, World Mission Day 2019). Lately, what responsibilities for the Church's mission have you assumed?

~ "In view of the encounter with Christ through baptism, the Christian knows that Jesus has entered his very life, truly transforms him (conversion), and sends him." (*Baptized and Sent*, 356). The last time you made a mistake or did something you regret, did you respond in the spirit of conversion or spirit of change?

Closing Prayer:

We pray, O God, that you would inspire us and equip us to respond to your call to live out our faith in your world by defending human life and caring for the poor and vulnerable among us. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

(by Natalie Regoli)



September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 World Day of Care for Creation LaFesta Italiana Mass 10am	2	3	4 Online Orientation Mtg - Certificate in Ministry Studies 2pm & 7pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Catechetical Sunday: "Stay With Us"	16 NPM - Selecting Liturgical Music St. John Neumann, Scranton 6pm Mass of Atonement Cathedral 12:10PM	17	18	19 Mass of Holy Spirit 12:10pm Cathedral	20	21 Diocesan-Wide Day of Service
22	23 Bishop's Youth Award Mass St. Nicholas, WB 7p	24 Theology on Tap Sabatini's 7pm	25	26	27	28 Rite of Candi- dacy and Acolyte CMD Course #1
29	30 Bishop's Youth Award Mass OLV Tannersville 7pm	VLCFF Cycle 6 September 8 - October 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the spirit of keeping Pentecost alive throughout the year, set aside some time each day to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and enlightenment about your own mission. • Write a note of welcome and encouragement to one of the newly baptized members of your parish. • Volunteer to become part of a parish or local neighborhood activity where you can use your talents to serve the mission of your church or neighborhood community. 			
Up & Over Retreat					Up & Over Retreat, Camp Orchard Hill	

Solidarity

“Solidarity entails the awareness of being part of a single body, while at the same time involving a capacity on the part of each member to “sympathize” with others and with the whole. When one suffers, all suffer. For solidarity is no mere ideal; it is expressed in concrete actions and steps that draw us closer to our neighbours, in whatever situation they find themselves.” (Pope Francis, Address to the Heads of State, 2017)

Scripture: Matthew 25: 31-46

Reflection:

The teachings of the Gospels constantly remind us of the importance of both charity and social justice. Social justice is not just a secular word intended for politics. Rather, its origin is in our Catholic teachings and the writings of our popes, as far back as *Rerum Novarum*. Social justice encourages us to look not only at the problem itself, but at its roots in society.

One clear pathway to social justice in our own lives is through Catholic Social Teaching (CST), a series of principals designed to put faith in action. An important component of CST is an understanding of *solidarity*. Solidarity is a deep filial friendship between people, built around mutual understanding and love. Solidarity calls for us to walk alongside the poor and vulnerable as brothers and sisters in Christ.

In our own ministries, Solidarity calls us to look beyond ordinary service and to seek out the root causes of the challenges in our communities. Why are people in our communities struggling? How does addiction begin? How can we accompany the most vulnerable? Christ tells us that we are called to love one another as we love ourselves. He further challenges us to love others as we love God. When we examine Matthew 25, we are called to think radically about service to others. We are called to walk beside others, just as Christ walks beside us.

Reflection Questions:

~ What does it mean to love radically? How can we live in solidarity with the people we serve?

~ Where do we see Christ in the world around us today? How can we see Christ in the vulnerable members of our community?

Closing Prayer:

A Prayer for Global Solidarity

O Creator, our world is large, and yet the global community is so fragile. We glimpse the needs of our sisters and brothers, and those needs are great. We want to turn away, but you call us back. We want simple solutions, but you want us to help solve the complex problems. Through your Church, you call us to listen, to learn, to reflect and to act. Give us a deep sense of our place in this web of Creation. Give us the wisdom of mind and generosity of heart to seek your will in the world today. Inspire us to respond to the call to live in solidarity with impoverished countries of the world, so that all children of God might live in dignity and peace. Amen.

(from Education for Justice)





EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
There are many ways that we can accompany people who are going through difficult times in their life. This month, consider taking a tangible action to accompany someone to express your solidarity, such as: mentoring a child in the foster care system, taking communion to elderly and home-bound parishioners, or visiting the imprisoned. All of these are tangible ways of putting faith into action through solidarity.		1 Bishop's Youth Award Mass St. Paul 7:00pm	2	3	4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi	5 Orientation for LMF Scranton - DPC 9:30a-2:00pm
6	7 Bishop's Youth Award Mass St. Boniface 7:00pm	8	9 Extraordinary Missionary Month St. Ignatius Parish, Kingston 6-8pm	10	11 Red Mass Cathedral 12:10pm	12 PreCana Duryea
					Bold Choices Young Adult Retreat	
13 Respect Life Mass Cathedral 10am	14 Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples Day	15	16 Extraordinary Missionary Month Christ the King Archbald 6-8pm	17	18	19 Catechist Convocation 9am-3pm DPC
20 XLT@Church of St. Gregory 6pm	21	22	23 Theology on Tap 7pm TBD Extraordinary Missionary Month Resurrection, Muncy 6-8pm	24	25	26 Skills Workshop St. Jude Mt Top 9am-2:30pm
27 World Mission Sunday Mass Cathedral 12:15pm	28	29	30 Extraordinary Missionary Month Our Lady of Victory Tannersville 6-8pm	31 All Hallow's Eve	Oct 13-Nov 9 CMD Online Courses VLCFF Cycle 7 Oct 27—Nov 30	

Sacramentality and Mission

“The prayerful reading of the Word is impregnated with the sacramental dimension of the Christian event, because the one who speaks communicates himself in flesh and blood, communicates divine grace and new life in water and the Spirit. The word of God meets, in the today of history, the resurrected flesh of the Lord Jesus in the sacraments of the Church and in the witness of the baptized faithful’s faith, hope and charity.” (Baptized and Sent, p. 356)

Scripture: Luke 24: 13-35

Reflection:

Having listened to Jesus break open the Scriptures, the two disciples finally recognize him in the breaking of the bread. Realizing the encounter, the disciples can no longer stay in the village, but instead become missionaries to bring the Good News of the Resurrection to others. The passage demonstrates the connection between the sacraments and missionary discipleship. Having listened to God’s word burning in our hearts and being nourished at the Table of the Lord, we must not hoard what we have received in the Eucharist, but share the message of God’s love with every person we meet.

St. Augustine, in an ancient homily on the Eucharist, instructed the newly baptized: “Remember that bread is not made from one grain but from many. When you were being exorcised, it was as if you had been ground down. When you were baptized, it is as if you were moistened. When you accepted the fire of the Holy Spirit, it is as if you had been baked. Be what you see and accept what you are.” What we become through the sacraments is the ecclesial Body of Christ—his hands, his feet, his eyes and his mercy—caring for the needs of the poor and the marginalized in the world today.

Reflection Questions:

- ~ When have you felt the truth of God’s love burning in your heart? How did it inspire you to act?
- ~ How do the sacraments lead you from the word of God to worship, and then from worship to mission? What is one thing you can do to deepen your experience of Christ in word, worship and mission?
- ~ Recall a time when the words of Scripture really spoke to your heart. How do you learn to trust the fire of the Holy Spirit that speaks to us?

Closing Prayer:

Almighty God, out of love for the human family, you took on flesh and dwelt among us, and in the Sacraments you remain ever with us. Through water we are cleansed and renewed in your love, and through bread and wine you are truly present among us. As we share in these outward signs of your divine grace, may we be nourished and sustained on the journey of life, being formed into an ever more perfect unity with your Son who healed the sick, comforted the sorrowful, and brought new life to sinners. May we become what we receive in the Eucharist, the very presence of Jesus acting in the world today. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.



November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Christ is present to us everyday—in the face of a stranger in need, those we see suffering in the news, or in some event in our lives that moved us to compassion. This week, commit to doing one concrete act of service for Christ where you have seen him.					1 Feast of All Saints <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	2 All Souls Day Mass Cathedral 12:10pm
3 #leaveamark19 Mass 5:00pm Cathedral	4	5	6 WORD Network (South)	7	8	9 PreCana WB EMHC Training DPC Skills Workshop 9am-3pm SJN, Scranton
10 Marriage Ministry Event 3-7:30pm DPC	11	12 Theology on Tap Sabatini's 7pm NPM Effective Worship Aids HNJ W. Hazleton 6:00pm	13 World Day of the Poor DPC Prayer Service 6pm WORD Network (West)	14	15	16
17 World Day of the Poor XLT@St. Matthew E. Straudsborg 7pm	18	19	20	21	22	23
			Diocesan Delegation to National Catholic Youth Conference, Indianapolis			
24 Feast of Christ the King NCYC Returns	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30

Extraordinary Mission Begins at Home

“In a word: charity cannot be neutral, antiseptic, indifferent, lukewarm or impartial! Charity is infectious, it excites, it risks and it engages! For true charity is always unmerited, unconditional and gratuitous!” (Pope Francis, 2015).

Scripture: Matthew 6: 1-15

Reflection:

Extraordinary mission does not just mean going to a foreign country to serve others. Sometimes, the most extraordinary action we can take is within our own communities. In Northeast and North-Central Pennsylvania, we face a number of consistent economic and social issues, including addiction, underemployment, and poverty. Many of our parish service ministries respond to these needs by offering food pantry services, emergency financial assistance, and other outreach efforts.

When we focus on service as a “baptized and sent” ministry, we realize that we are called to seek an authentic encounter with our neighbor. In our parish communities, our neighbors include those who attend church and those who do not. Our neighbors come from all walks of life and all socioeconomic and racial backgrounds. Most importantly, we do not have to go far to have an encounter with someone in need. Extraordinary mission can happen right here in the Diocese of Scranton. Oftentimes, the most authentic charity begins at home.

Service trips and overseas missions are valuable experiences and often expose us to a new way of thinking about social justice. This month, however, we encourage you to seek out mission at home and to learn the names of your most vulnerable neighbors. How can we make our everyday missions of service into something “extraordinary”?

Reflection Questions:

“With regard to the pastoral problem of integrating the activities of movements into the ordinary activity of the Church, we cannot expect to solve it through ecclesiastical strategies or simple canonical and pastoral planning. Rather, it is necessary to look to the Spirit, to see what the Spirit brings about in the life of the Church, to see where the best missionary relationship be-

tween the Church and the world is manifested concretely and begins to bear fruit” (Baptized and Sent, 386).

~What does it mean to carry extraordinary mission into the “ordinary” activity of our parish communities? How can we use this idea of extraordinary mission to breathe new life into our Sunday masses and beyond?

~How can we reenergize our service to make sure that we are treating all of our neighbors as extraordinary persons deserving of God’s love?

Closing Prayer: Prayer for Generosity

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, Teach me true generosity. Teach me to serve you as you deserve. To give without counting the cost, To fight heedless of wounds, To labor without seeking rest, To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward. Save the knowledge that I have done your will. Amen.

(Attributed to St. Ignatius Loyola)



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Advent	2	3 WORD Network (North)	4 Advent Reflection and Commissioning LMF 5:30pm DPC	5	6	7 PreCana Scranton
8 Second Advent XLT@St. Jude 6pm	9 Feast of the Immaculate Conception <i>(not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)</i>	10	11 Theology on Tap Sabatini's 7pm WORD Network (East)	12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	13	14
15 Third Advent	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Fourth Advent	23 Advent Mass for Chancery Staff 12:10pm Cathedral	24	25 Feast of Christmas <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	26	27	28
29	30 Project Andrew Dinner	31	Host a reflection opportunity with your Service and Social Justice teams to talk about local issues, inviting the groups that you serve. For example, if your parish hosts a monthly soup kitchen, consider inviting families who participate in the lunches. Oftentimes, this strategy can help expand our knowledge of what services are most needed, creating further opportunity for extraordinary mission.			

Church Mission, Religious and Cultures in Dialogue

“Inter-religious dialogue is a part of the Church’s evangelizing mission. Understood as a method and means of mutual knowledge and enrichment, dialogue is not in opposition to the mission ad gentes; indeed, it has special links with that mission and is one of its expressions.”
(Saint John Paul II; Redemptoris Mission, n. 55)

Scripture: Romans 12:16-18

Reflection:

Mission and dialogue take place at the meeting point of the community of faith with all that constitutes the context in which the Christian community lives and works. The whole Christian mission is realized in the relationship between the Church and the world, and people in the world. Both the deposit of faith received from the Church and the cultures, languages, and situations in which and to which that Tradition is communicated are involved.

Four forms of dialogue are complementary to and interactive with one another:

the *dialogue of life*, where people strive to live in a spirit of openness and good neighborliness, sharing the joys and sorrows, problems and challenges of human life for better mutual understanding and respect;

the *dialogue of action*, in which Christians and other believers collaborate for integral development, religious freedom, and the liberation of neighbor;

the *dialogue of theological exchange*, where experts try to deepen their understanding of their respective religious heritages, Sacred Scriptures, and traditions to appreciate one another’s spiritual values;

the *dialogue of religious experience and prayer*, in which people rooted in their own traditions share their spiritual riches of prayer, contemplation, faith, and the mystical paths in the search for God or the Absolute.

Reflection Questions:

~ Sometimes people speak as if the Christian mission is “outside of” or even “against” the world. This theme reminds us that “the whole Christian mission is realized in the relationship between the Church and the world.” What difference does this make in terms of how you think about your own Christian discipleship? About the main purpose and mission of your parish?

~Do you currently have an opportunity to participate in any of these four forms of inter-religious dialogue? Share your experience and what it means to you.

Closing Prayer:

**God of all people,
open our hearts to understanding other faith traditions.
We are all made in your image and seek to know and follow your ways,
to praise you, and to be instruments of your Holy presence.
May we respect those who are different from us,
who follow a different faith tradition than us.
May we seek to know the truth of your Word
and find common ground among the many faith traditions
and recognize that we share a common humanity.
Help us to be people of compassion and understanding,
creating a path to a peaceful coexistence among all people. Amen.**

(from the Dominican Sisters of Peace)



January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Could your parish or family select ways to engage in inter-religious dialogue for the sake, as St. John Paul II says, of mutual knowledge and enrichment? What would this look like?</p>			<p>1 Feast of Mary, Mother of God <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i></p>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						<div>Christian Unity Week</div>
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23 Christian Unity Prayer Service Cathedral 12:10pm	24 March for Life, Washington, DC	25 PreCana Dickson City Orientation Retreat LMF 9:30am-2pm
<div>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</div>						
26	27	28	29	30	31	VLCFF Cycle 1 Jan 12-Feb 15

Mercy at the Heart of Mission

*“The most effective way to open others to an experience of the living God in Jesus is by giving a credible witness of God’s love.”
(Pope Francis; Evangelii Gaudium)*

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-15

Reflection:

Mercy is a central theme in the teachings of Pope Francis. He has repeated time and time again that God does not get tired of forgiving us, that we are the ones who get tired of asking for forgiveness. He has compared the church to a field hospital that must welcome and tend to the wounded and the dying in the daily battlefield of life. He has told us that the Church must be like the merciful father’s house in the Gospels, who gives his sons all that he has, and awaits tirelessly the return of the son who left, and runs to meet him on the road when he sees him coming home. (Mar Munoz-Visosos, “Francis, Year One: Mercy, Encounter, Mission” 2014)

This quality of mercy is the foundation of the call to missionary discipleship. There is a profound difference between a church that is a nest or a niche, in which one can find peace, tranquility and seeming stability, and a church that sees itself as missionary through and through – always going out, reaching out to the margins. Such a church necessarily does not wait for outsiders to come to it; rather, it seeks them out and goes to them. Such a church is not overly concerned with its identity nor with the past. Rather, such a church lives and breathes a “culture of encounter.”

Ministry as mission means ongoing engagement beyond the comfortable associations of our language, culture, social class, age, gender or sexual orientation. Our baptismal mandate to go into “all the world” is the same mission to which Jesus sent his very first followers. In this vast, diverse world we engage with people as we find them, and the mission is shaped by mercy. (Allan Figueroa Deck, “Pope Francis’ Focus on Mission” 2019)

Reflection Questions:

~ Recall and share an experience in which you personally experience the outpouring of God’s generous mercy.

~ To whom, in the margins of the part of the world entrusted to you, do you believe you are called to reach out in openness and genuine encounter?

~ What are the most mercifully mission-oriented activities of your parish community right now? What would it look like to increase in this way of missionary discipleship?

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, you show such mercy toward your people and toward each of us. Let us be open to this mercy and to its healing effects. Assist us as individuals and as a faith community to be the face and instrument of your mercy to others, to develop an attitude of mercy toward all with whom we are in contact. Let us be transformed into your mercy so that our eyes, our tongues, our hands, our minds and our hearts reflect and channel your mercy. Like Pope Francis, let us be able to say, “Who am I to judge?” and like Jesus, to be able to say, “Neither do I condemn you.” Let us each contribute to the kairós moment of mercy, this time of mercy. We ask this in your name. Amen.

(from the Catholic Health Association of the United States)



February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>As a family or parish, identify a local need for the kind of “field hospital” response called for by Pope Francis. Commit to making a real difference in the lives of people by extending the works of mercy.</p>					February CMD Online Course	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Advocacy Training Wkshp EMHC Training DPC, 9am-2:30pm LMF Retreat—HT Center—Dalton
9 PreCana Scranton	10	11 World Day of the Sick Anointing Mass Cathedral 12:10pm	12	13	14	15 ISLI Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
16 ISLI	17 Presidents' Day	18	19	20	21	22 Advocacy Training Wkshp
23 Mass for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Cathedral 10am	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday Cathedral 12:10pm	27	28	29

Minding the Missionary-Nourishment for the Journey

“Better is one handful with tranquility than two with toil and a chase after wind!” (Ecclesiastes 4:6)

Scripture: Exodus 33:14 and Matthew 11:28-29

Reflection:

In his letter, “For the Centenary of the Promulgation of the Apostolic Letter ‘*Maximum Illud*’ on the Activity of Missionaries in the World”, Pope Francis writes about “...a sense of duty towards the missions...” which “...is a response to Jesus’ perennial command to ‘go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature’ (Mk 16:15). He goes on to state, “Obeying this mandate of the Lord is not an option for the Church... it is her ‘essential task,’ for the Church is ‘missionary by nature.’ ...if the Church is to remain faithful to herself and to preach Jesus crucified and risen for all,...then ‘prompted by the Holy Spirit, she must walk the same path Christ walked: a path of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice.’ In this way, she will effectively proclaim the Lord, ‘model of that redeemed humanity, imbued with brotherly love, sincerity and a peaceful spirit, to which all aspire.’”

As members of the Body of Christ, the Church, our call outlined above by Pope Francis can feel like a daunting task! Where do we find the inspiration, from which wells do we draw up the nourishment we need to set forth upon this Mission? Too often we already feel overburdened, overworked, and emptied of those precious resources of time, patience, and energy required to properly answer the call. How can we connect with God’s infinite stores which can supply us with all we need to be effective Missionaries in our daily vocations? We can find rest and renewal in the Lord, and in reclaiming the Sabbath which He gave to us. “Sabbath is a way of being in time where we remember who we are, remember what we know, and taste the gifts of spirit and eternity... Sabbath is a time for sacred rest...” (Muller, *Remember the Sabbath*, pp 6-7)

Reflection Questions:

~ In his book, *The Rhythm of Life*, Matthew Kelly writes that “The problem is that our everyday lives distract us from our deepest desires. We get busy and tired, and fatigue makes cowards of us all. Once fatigue sets in, we seek instant gratification and begin to operate from our shallow wants

again.” (p. 71) Have you experienced what Matthew writes about in your own life? Do you find it difficult to reflect the face of Jesus to others – and thus carry forth the missionary call to evangelize - when you are tired or stressed? In some of his other work, Matthew teaches that we can only be ‘the best version of ourselves’ when we have taken the time to properly rest and care for ourselves physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. Do you agree or disagree, why?

~ “While many of us are terribly weary, we have come to associate tremendous guilt and shame with taking time to rest. Sabbath gives us permission; it commands us to stop.” (Muller, p 8) What are your feelings about taking time to rest and refresh in your own life? Do you believe that you have achieved a healthy balance, one that leaves you refreshed and energized for the Mission? If not, could you use this reminder that God, in His great wisdom, has commanded us to use the Sabbath as a rest from ordinary work and activities to help you to make improvements in this part of your life?

Closing Prayer: A Prayer for Rest

Jesus, I am tired. My mind is frazzled, my hands are full, and my emotions are reeling with all the things I have to do. Help me to come to you in the middle of the overwhelming. Remind me of your ever-present help in my times of need. Show me how to rest in You. Reveal to me both the beauty in the work and in the rest. Calm my anxious thoughts and encourage my heart with Your nearness. Instruct me in your ways. Bring productivity and contentment out of the peace and comfort I find. Settle me in Your truth and in Your love. Amen.

(from www.sarahforgrave.com)



March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Lent Rite of Election Cathedral 2:30pm XLT@SJW 6:15pm	2 The Light is On 5:30-7:00pm	3 NPM Evening of Reflection TBD 6:00pm	4	5 WORD Network (East)	6	7
8 Second Lent XLT@St. Jude 6pm	9 The Light is On 5:30-7:00pm	10	11	12 WORD Network (North)	13	14 St. Patrick Parade Day Mass 10:00am Cathedral CMD On-Site Course #2 DPC (LMF Skills Wkshop)
	FDLC Region III Meeting					
15 Third Lent	16 The Light is On 5:30-7:00pm	17	18	19 Theology on Tap @ TBD WORD Network (South)	20	21 PreCana Montoursville Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Com- munion DPC 9am
22 Fourth Lent	23 The Light is On 5:30-7:00pm	24	25	26 WORD Network (West)	27	28
29 Fifth Lent	30 The Light is On 5:30-7:00pm	31 VLCFF Cycle 2 Mar 1—Apr 4	As a way to enter into a Sabbath period, "...choose at least one heavily used appliance or device – the telephone, television, computer, washer and dryer – and let them rest...surrender to a quality of time when you will not be disturbed, seduced, or responsive to what our technologies have to offer." (Muller, pp 27-28)			

Care for Creation-Mission of Heaven and Earth

“...the Church is not self-referential, but rather looks fundamentally outside itself. It is a Church *ad extra* and therefore is missionary by nature, no matter where it is located. Mission is essential to the Church, since the Church opens itself to all people, even to all of creation. The mission of the Church determines, through its Gospel mandate and its sacramental collaboration in the divine work, the form, in its historical and dynamic realization, of all creation.” (Baptized and Sent, p. 63)

Scripture: Romans 8:18-22

Reflection:

Considering care for all of creation as part of our Church’s Mission may be a new perspective for some. Traditionally, we may have thought of Mission only in terms of reaching out to our fellow brothers and sisters, to our kindred humanity. In *Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*, it is written, “It is a great and fascinating sense of the meaning of all creation that sees in Christ the key to understanding of its full realization. Mission is therefore indispensable if the Church intends to open to all the reality of its true meaning and so ‘as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth’ (Eph 1:10). We can therefore say that the root of that catholic (that is universal) call that we referred to above is to be found in the universal wisdom in which everything has been created, Christ.” (pp. 62-63)

This document, as evidenced by both of the quotations included above, clearly includes care all of creation – not just humanity - in our Church’s Mission. The reflection questions and action steps included below may help you in further exploring this idea.

Reflection Questions:

~ What does this phrase from Romans 8:21 mean to you, that “...creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.”? Have you ever before considered the thought that all of creation awaits redemption with us?

~A recent letter of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith states, “Faith confesses that we are saved by means of Baptism, which seals upon us the indelible mark of belonging to Christ and to the Church. The transformation of the way of living our relationships with God, with humanity, and with creation derives from Baptism (cf. Mt 28:19).” - Letter *Placuit Deo*, 13 Have you ever considered your care for creation to be part of your baptismal call and mission? If so, how have you lived out that call

and mission? If not, how might you begin to incorporate this call and mission into your life going forward?

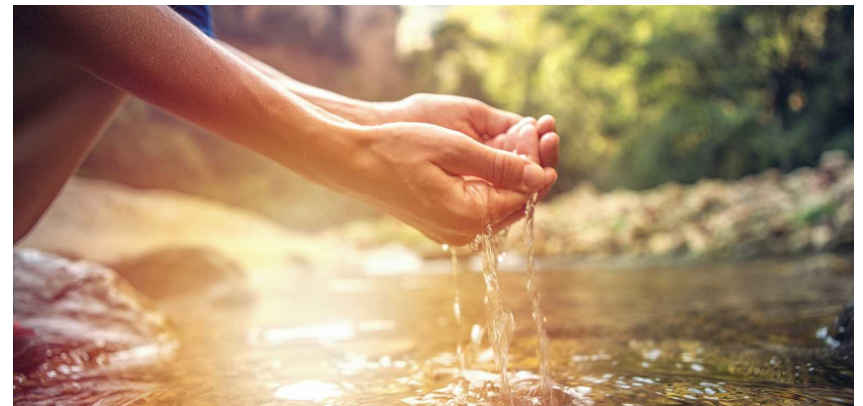
~ "Let us walk together taking care of each other and of Creation, our common home." – Pope Francis, Twitter, September 24, 2016 Pope Francis has addressed our need to care for creation on numerous occasions. If you have read and/or learned about Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si, On Care for our Common Home*, can you share something about it? If not, would you consider reading or learning about it in the future?

Closing Prayer: Prayer of Stewardship

God of all creation, at the beginning of time you placed a single mandate on humankind –to be stewards of creation, to replenish and nurture through all generations what you have made. We kneel today amid that same creation—a world that is, in many ways, more splendid than ever, but, in too many ways, scarred beyond recognition.

Turn us from our unmindfulness; help our touch be light; help us renew the world that supports us, so we many once more know creation as it was in the beginning. Amen.

(from www.crs.org/resource-center)



April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Try to reduce your plastic waste by using reusable water bottles and reusable containers to store foods.</p> <p>Turn off your engine whenever possible, rather than letting the engine idle. This action reduces both air pollution and the use of fuel resources.</p> <p>See https://catholicclimatecovenant.org for more ideas.</p>			1	2 XLT@Church of St. Gregory 6pm	3	4
5 Palm Sunday Cathedral 12:15pm	6	7 Chrism Mass Cathedral 4:00pm	8	9 Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper Cathedral 5:30pm	10 Good Friday Commemoration of Lord's Passion Cathedral 12:10pm	11 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Cathedral 8:00pm
12 Feast of Easter Cathedral 10am	13	14	15	16 Theology on Tap @TBD	17	18 PreCana WB
19 XLT@St. Matthew E. Stroudsburg 7pm	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25 Diocesan Men's Conference Holy Redeemer HS
26 Consecrated Life Mass Cathedral 12:15pm	27	28	29	30	VLCFF Cycle 3 Apr 19– May 9	

Mary: A Missionary Companion

*“Mary was an incredibly perceptive woman and she paid close attention to Jesus’ every word and action. The subtleties of His teaching were not lost on her; she progressively came to realize the unfolding mystery of her own unique motherhood.”
 (“Jesus’s First Missionary—Mary”; Pontifical Mission Societies, Archdiocese of Philadelphia)*

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 or John 2:1-12

Reflection:

“Mary is a disciple and a pilgrim in faith. A Christian, a missionary disciple, is called to follow and participate in Mary’s journey of faith.” (Baptized and Sent, 341)

St. Augustine once asserted that “Mary’s greatness does not lie in the privilege of having generated the Son of God in the flesh. Rather, she is great thanks to the faith with which she welcomed, conceived, gave birth and nourished the Son of God”...

Mary’s life as a daughter, disciple and mother demonstrates a witness to self-giving faith. At every step of her journey, she was invited to transform her earthly service to her son into service for the whole of humanity. Saying ‘yes’ to God and entering into a daily surrender can be a challenge as we face our daily responsibilities. Her example offers us a glimpse of how our own fiats can prepare us for full unity with God in glory.

Reflection Questions:

- ~ Does Mary’s example of faith inspire or intimidate me? Why?
- ~ Who is a person (can be currently living, a saint, or a spiritual model) who I look up to as I grow deeper in discipleship?

Closing Prayer:

Lord, as we gather in your name at the foot of the Cross, we ask that we may be united with Mary our Mother in her mission of bringing you to all of our brothers and sisters. We thank you for remembering us and giving us Mary as our model for being sent to participate in your mission of serving all peoples. May you, and the Father be

glorified in all places through the Immaculate Heart of Mary by our being creative instruments of your saving mission as Mary our Mother is. And may we make her better known, loved, and served by our commitment made in union with hers. Amen.

(by Fr. Bertrand Buby, SM)



May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				VLCFF Cycle 4 May 24—June 27	1	2 Ministry Skills Wkshp "Self-Care" (TBD) EMHC Training DPC
3 World Day of Prayer for Vocations @St. Matthew E. Stroudsburg 6pm	4 NPM--Art & Architecture Cathedral, 6:00pm	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day Adoption Mass Cathedral 10am	11	12	13	14 Theology on Tap @TBD	15	16 PreCana Duryea
17	18 March for Life Harrisburg	19	20	21 Feast of Ascension <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	22 XLT Prayer Vigil @TBD	23 Transitional Diaconate Ordination Cathedral 10am
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 Feast of Pentecost	Volunteer at, or collect supplies for a local women's support organization such as St. Joseph's Mother-Baby program or a local branch of the Catherine McAuley Center. Where in my life do I need to grow in appreciation for the great things God has done for me and respond in thanksgiving?					

Trinity and Mission

“God is a perfect communion of love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At creation itself, man was called to have some share in God’s breath of life. But it is in Christ, dead and risen, and in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, given without measure, that we have become sharers of God’s inmost life.”
(Pope Benedict XVI; *Sacramentum Caritatis*, n. 8)

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21

Reflection:

“To love another person is to see the face of God.” One of the final lyrics of musical, *Les Misérables*, this line summarizes the story of the central character, Jean Valjean. After enduring nineteen years of hard labor as a prisoner and finally liberated, Valjean experiences God’s love through an act of mercy and commits himself to conversion. The musical continues to show the fruits of his conversion through his loving relationships with others, whose lives are also changed.

Often we dismiss the doctrine of the Holy Trinity as an incomprehensible mystery. The passage from the first Letter of John, however, reminds us that God is love. God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is a dynamic relation of love that is not contained, but overflows through God’s self-emptying acts of creation, redemption, and sanctification of the world. Created in God’s image and likeness then, we too are called to go beyond ourselves in mission, to bring God’s love and peace to all people. Pope Francis explains, “Mission, rather than being simply something the Church does, is an *action Dei*, a divine activity, because God, in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit, is the first missionary—God ‘goes outside of himself’ by sending and being sent.” (*Baptized and Sent*, p. 331) Having been first loved by God, we are baptized and sent into world to cooperate in the mission of love, so that we too may see the face of God.

Reflection Questions:

~ The doctrine of the Trinity is considered the core belief of Christianity. How does this teaching affect your understanding of faith and mission as a Christian?

~ Recall a time when you experienced God’s grace. How did this affect your relationship with others? How can that experience help broaden your understanding of Christian mission now?

~ Consider the fact that God loves you before you do anything to reform your life. How do you react to that kind of undeserving love?

Closing Prayer:

God, we praise you, Father all-powerful, Christ, Lord and Savior, Spirit of Love, drawing us to share in your life and your love.

One God, three Persons, be near to the people formed in your image, close to the world your love brings to life.

We ask you this, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, true and living, for ever and ever. Amen.

(from The Liturgy of the Hours)



June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 XLT Prayer Vigil @TBD	6 PreCana Drums Presbyterate Ordination 10am
					Up & Over Retreat Camp Orchard Hill	
7 Scout Mass Cathedral 10am	8	9 LMF Evening of Reflection 5:30-8:30pm DPC	10	11	12	13
Up & Over						
14 Wedding Anniversary Mass Cathedral 2:30pm	15	16	17 LMF Commissioning Catechist Awards 7:00pm Mass Cathedral	18 Priest Jubilarians Mass Cathedral 12:10pm	19	20 Diocesan Womens' Conference U of S
21 World Refugee Day	22	23	24 Light the Fire Rally CMD On-Site Course #3	25 CMD On-Site Course #4	26	27 RCIA 101 9:00-3:00PM DPC
Quo Vadis Days — Misericordia University						
28	29	30	Take some time this week to reflect on the Triune God as the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. Think of a way to praise God for the gift of creation, perhaps by participating in a park beautification project. Find a way to praise God for our redemption by helping a stranger in need of food. Praise the Holy Spirit by seeking guidance for your life through the act of prayer.			

The Essential Mission of the Church

*It is the joy of making Christ known and loved. Mission means to share with Christ his own work of evangelization:
“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)*

Scripture: Romans 10:13-15

Reflection

“Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*)

“The first Christians saw their missionary preaching as a necessity rooted in the very nature of faith: the God in whom they believed was the God of all, the one true God who revealed himself in Israel’s history and ultimately in his Son, who thus provided the response which, in their inmost being, all men and women awaited. The first Christian communities felt that their faith was not part of a particular cultural tradition, differing from one people to another, but belonged instead to the realm of truth, which concerns everyone equally. . . . In fact, the newness of Christian proclamation is that we can tell all peoples: God has shown himself. In person. And now the way to him is open. The novelty of the Christian message does not consist in an idea but in a fact: God has revealed himself.” (*Verbum Domini*, 92).

Proclaiming the Gospel under any circumstances does not mean having courage, but having faith. It means believing that the frank and constant proclamation of the Word that saves, without recoiling in the face of difficulties and failures, corresponds to the deepest needs and the most universal concerns of the human heart. The church, in her liturgy, often repeats the warning not to grow weary in this journey of faith. The word of God grows and spreads through persecutions, diasporas, rejection, or unexpected welcome (see *Is 55:10-11*). Faith is the certainty and conviction that the Gospel of Jesus is, for people of all times, the Truth that gives Life and indicates the Way for a life of eternal communion with God (see *John 14:6*). (*Baptized and Sent*, P. 354)

Reflection Questions:

~ How can we center our mission on inviting people to encounter Christ in

the Church and become intentional disciples who share and act their faith in everyday life?

~ What can we do in our local community to nurture a broader transmission of Christian values?

~ In what ways can we be of service to others in the community that will possibly open the doors to Christ more fully?

Closing Prayer:

**Compassionate Father,
grant us visions of truth, graces to persevere,
and integrity in purpose and action as we strive to be good stewards.
It is through us and what we do and are, that others come to know you.
Teach us to bring peace and healing to our world.
Help us to use our gifts for the building up of your church
and hasten the coming of your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(from the Diocese of Erie)



July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Learn the Catholic vision of evangelization. Recall the basics of the great story of Jesus. Reflect on how God is working in your life. Develop your 1-minute faith story. Discern when, where, and with whom to share your faith.			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NPM National Convention—Louisville, Kentucky						
12 PreCana Scranton	13	14	15	16 Mass of Remembrance Cathedral 7:00pm	17	18
ISLI Retreat — Misericordia University						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	VLCFF Cycle 5 July 12– Aug 15

Mission Rooted in Scripture

“Lectio divina becomes a gradual path of knowledge and interiorization that leads to transformation for the fullness of mission.” (Baptized and Sent, 355)

Scripture: Luke 4: 16-30

Reflection:

“Praying the Word of God reveals the encounter with this love and it is an experience of the presence of the Lord Jesus who dwells in us together with the Father, in the Spirit...the prayerful reading of Scripture, which is the living Word, makes us aware of a Presence that absorbs human time and wraps it up in the divine. Following attentive study comes meditation, allowing the Word to enter our experience and leading spontaneously to the next step of prayer as a personal dialogue with God, as an experiential way of knowledge and love, the contemplation that expands the heart into charity.” (Baptized and Sent, 355)

The wisdom of the scriptures are God-inspired, yet passed on through the words of human writers. These readings help us to know and grow deeper in our love for Jesus Christ. Rooting ourselves in the living Word opens up the conversation with God for us to hear God’s desire for our lives. Meditating on the Gospel message intimately informs our faith and spurs us into action. By making scripture an integral part of our spiritual lives we can gain new insights about the history of our faith and what we are called to do in our discipleship.

Reflection Questions:

- ~ What is your favorite passage in scripture? Why?
- ~ How does it connect you with God, your faith, and inspire you to serve others?

Closing Prayer:

Prayer for Extraordinary Missionary Month

Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations” and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zeal-

ous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world.

Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.



August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Reflect on any scripture of your choice using the practice of lectio divina: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>lectio</i> (reading) -Focus on a word or phrase • <i>meditatio</i> (reflecting)- What does this word or phrase stir in you? Do you see yourself in this scene? • <i>oratio</i> (praying) - Talk to God about what is happening in this experience • <i>contemplatio</i> (contemplating) - Rest in the Lord—Just BE Gather a group to reflect on the Weekly scriptures, using a resource such as “Exploring the Sunday Readings” (Alice Camille)						1 Catechist Camp
2 Catechist Camp	3	4	5	6	7	8 Catechist Camp
9 Catechist Camp	10	11	12	13	14	15 Assumption (not a Holy Day of Obligation this year) EMHC Training DPC 9am-2:30pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 PreCana Dickson City
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	VLCFF Cycle 6 Aug 30-Oct 3				

Intercultural Appreciation and Heritage of Faith

“By gathering with people from different cultures, different ways of living, of thinking, of feeling—you encounter one another and walk together in hope...to share the richness of their traditions, the richness of their experiences, to tear down walls and build bridges.”

(Message from Pope Francis’ for the National V Encuentro, 2018)

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-11

Reflection:

The whole Christian mission is realized in the relationship between the Church and the world, and people in the world. Both the deposit of faith received from the Church (Holy Scriptures, sacraments, and charity) and the cultures, languages, and situations in which and to which that Tradition is communicated are involved. All faith and theology are contextual; the socio-cultural horizon is an essential factor for mission. Mission takes place entirely within specific settings, and all missionary theologies must stand in an open and critical relationship with local cultures and religions...By committing ourselves to dialogue with these realities, we can understand in our time and in the different scenarios of our world the constants of God’s love for the salvation of all. (Baptized and Sent, 390)

New Hispanic communities have tended to experience forms of “ostracism” due the lack of integrated spaces in the larger community. Some cultural barriers are evident in that they may not know the English language, or they are under educated, or speak an indigenous dialect. However, the faith expressions of these communities—while inherited from the colonization of Spain and Portugal, mixed with their native traditions—bring a very unique, yet real religious identity. Religious expression or ethnic identity is also comprised of elements from other European countries as a result of being displaced from their homelands and persecuted.

Evangelization as mission with an intercultural community means having the patience and wisdom to learn the language and to understand the cultural dynamics that give meaning and identity to the person you want to share faith with in Jesus Christ. Action and commitment to justice and peace, for the poor and the marginalized and for the integrity of creation requires understanding the existential context of people: the cultural, social, and religious forms in which they live and by which they are molded or oppressed. In other words, who “they” are. St. Teresa of Kolkata stated that the proper translation of the text is; “whatever you do for these you do to me”. This is

a powerful understanding of “Imago Dei”, to understand that God is present in all of creation.

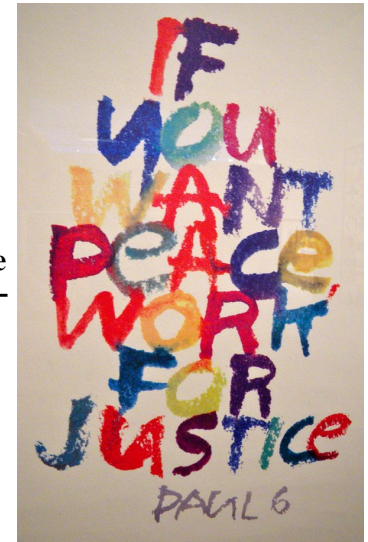
Reflection Questions:

~ Do I recognize the face of Christ reflected in all others around me whatever their race, class, age, or abilities? In what ways can our parish grow more welcoming to others of other cultural groups, or faith journeys?

Closing Prayer:

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words “division”, “hatred” and “war” be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be “brother”, and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

(Excerpt from Pope Francis, Prayer for Peace, June 4, 2014)



September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Consider attending a liturgical service celebrated in another language.		1 World Day of Care for Creation	2	3	4	5
6 La Festa Italiana Mass 10am Cathedral	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12 Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion DPC 9am-12pm
13 Marriage Summit DPC	14	15 NPM Meeting St. Jude, MtnTop 6:00pm	16 WORD Network (West)	17 Holy Spirit Mass for Chancery Staff Cathedral 12:10pm Theology on Tap @TBD	18	19 PreCana Tannersville Diocesan Day of Service
20	21 Bishop's Youth Award Mass	22	23 WORD Network (South)	24	25	26 Ministry of Lector 12:10pm Cathedral
		Camp Emmaus @Camp Orchard Hill				
27 Camp Emmaus	28 Bishop's Youth Award Mass	29 Bishop's Youth Award Mass	30 WORD Network (North)	Our view of creation should not be of the "other" but of the "us" as we see Christ in all, focusing on the humanity and inherent dignity of each person. Consider the ways that you respect the life and dignity of every human person from conception through natural death, and work to protect the dignity of others when it is being threatened.		
		FDLC National Meeting, San Diego				

Ecclesial Movements and Charisms

"Parishes and movements, in the communion of particular Churches within the universal Church, are called to collaborate, according to their own roles, in the one mission of the Church." (Baptized and Sent, 387)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-26

Reflection:

Ecclesial Movements are intricate and diverse communities with a variety of charisms, methodologies and apostolic forms and goals within the Catholic Church. Members of these movements belong to all kinds of "vocations" ranging from: the family, married couples, consecrated members, religious, priests, and a large number of young people. Each are considered "a concrete ecclesial reality with predominantly lay membership, a faith journey and Christian witness which bases its own pedagogical method on a precise charism given to the person of the founder in specific circumstances and ways." (Message of John Paul II for the World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, May 27, 1998)

Ecclesial Movements anchor us in the ever changing reality of the community of faith. Like a tree with many branches, each serves the purpose of bringing life to the whole communion of the faithful. Each branch collaborates in the process that converts the rays of the sun into energy for the rest of the tree, and in turn, the tree yields fruits to sustain life to all of creation around it. In much the same way, without forgetting our rootedness in Christ, we are called to evangelize others and be bearers of the message of salvation.

We must encourage ecclesial movements to flourish and adapt themselves to the ever-changing realities or church experiences. Participation in these movements brings spiritual renewal and camaraderie, while helping each individual believer stay on task with the mission of the Church. Rooted in the experience of the Passover of Jesus, "the Spirit, who instructs and directs the Church, rejuvenates and renews it with hierarchical and charismatic gifts...leading it to perfect union with his Spouse." (*Lumen Gentium*, 4)

Reflection Questions:

~ The "Baptized and Sent" document describes parish, as well as the presence of Ecclesial movements, as a local expression of 'the nearness of

God to humanity' (pp.386-387). How do we as a parish view our faith community as a means of witnessing to God's presence on earth?

~With each given according to our own calling as disciples, in what ways do we use our unique gifts of the Holy Spirit in serving others?

Closing Prayer: Good Stewards

Loving Father, you alone are the source of every good gift. We thank you for all your gifts to us, and for your generosity. Help us to be grateful and responsible with all these gifts. You have called us to follow your son, Jesus to become his disciples. Send us your Holy Spirit to give us courage and wisdom to be faithful disciples. We commit ourselves to being good stewards. Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous, and willing to give back with increase. Help us to make stewardship a way of life. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

(from the Archdiocese of Vancouver)



October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			VLCFF Cycle 7 Oct 18– Nov 21	1 Bishop's Youth Award Mass <div>FDLC Nat'l Mtg</div>	2 Red Mass 12:10pm Cathedral	3 Orientation Retreat LMF 9:30am-2pm
4 Respect Life Mass 10am Cathedral	5 <div>Clergy Convocation</div>	6	7 WORD Network (East)	8	9	10 PreCana Montoursville
11	12 Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples Day	13	14 Ministry Skills "Pray and Proclaim" Pt 1 6-8p (location TBD)	15 Theology on Tap @TBD	16	17 Catechist Convocation 9am-3pm
18	19	20	21 Ministry Skills "Pray and Proclaim" Pt 2 6-8p (location TBD)	22	23	24
25 World Mission Sunday Mass 12:15pm Cathedral	26	27	28	29	30	31

Vocation – A Gift for Others

“The place where God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger coincide.” (Frederick Buechner)

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 1:11

Reflection:

“A vocation, while a gift, will undoubtedly also be demanding. God’s gifts are interactive; to enjoy them we have to be ready to take risks. Yet the demands they make are not an obligation imposed from without, but an incentive to let that gift grow and develop, and then become a gift for others. When the Lord awakens a vocation, he thinks not only of what you already are, but of what you will one day be, in his company and in that of others.

To discern our personal vocation, we have to realize that it is a calling from a friend, who is Jesus. When we give something to our friends, we give them the best we have. It will not necessarily be what is most expensive or hard to obtain, but what we know will make them happy,” - *Christus Vivit*

Reflection Questions

- ~ Do I know what brings joy or sorrow to my heart?
- ~ What are my strengths and weaknesses?
- ~ How can I serve people better and prove most helpful to our world and to the Church?

Closing Prayer:

Lord, I want to be happy in this life and spend eternity with you in the life to come. From the first moment of my existence, you knew my vocation. Please help me discover your plan for my life. Help me to know myself. Help me to overcome my fears. Help me to want what you want. Help me to trust you completely. Send your Holy Spirit into my mind and heart so I can see the gifts you have given me and hear your call to serve the church. Increase my desire to bring others to you and to help them reach heaven. Mary Most Holy, Mother of God, pray for me that I can discover my vocation and have the courage to respond in faith. Amen.



November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Feast of All Saints #leaveamark20 Cathedral Mass 5pm	2 All Souls Day Mass 12:10pm Cathedral	3	4	5	6	7 PreCana WB EMHC Training DPC 9am-2:30pm
8	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12	13	14
15 World Day of the Poor	16	17	18	19 Theology on Tap @TBD	20	21
22 Feast of Christ the King	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28 Permanent Diaconate Ordination 10am Cathedral
29 First Advent	30	<p>Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the priests, deacons, and religious men and women serving in the Diocese of Scranton. Make a card or send a note of encouragement to our diocesan seminarians.</p>				

"You Will Be My Disciples"

"The minute you walk outside of your church on Sunday you're in mission territory." (Bishop Robert Barron)

Scripture: John 13:12-17

Reflection:

The lay faithful "are by baptism made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world" (*Lumen Gentium*, 31).

The lay person finds his or her model in Jesus, who participated in human coexistence and sanctified his relationships, from those within the family to those within society. As Jesus lived a profound, human-divine experience in the world, so all of the baptized laity are called to do. (*Baptized and Sent*, p. 370)

Reflection Questions:

- ~ What does it mean to you personally to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? In what way do you experience a calling from Jesus?
- ~ Discipleship means to be called and then sent. In what specific ways do you feel called by Jesus to be with him and to be sent out?
- ~ Jesus charged his disciples to travel light while on their missionary journey. In what way does your Christian discipleship require you to simplify your life?

Closing Prayer:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always,

though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

(by Thomas Merton)



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Consider who has mentored you, or aided you in your discipleship. Reach out to that person and let them know what they have done for you.		1	2 Advent Evening of Reflection DPC 5:30-8:30pm	3	4	5
6 Second Advent PreCana Scranton	7	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	9	10	11	12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 Third Advent	14	15	16	17 Theology on Tap @TBD	18	19
20 Fourth Advent	21	22	23 Advent Mass for Chancery Staff Cathedral 12:10pm	24	25 Feast of Christmas <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	26
27	28	29	30	31 (Mary, Mother of God-- January 1, 2021— Holy Day of Obligation)	Consider how you could step up and help someone else become a disciple. Could your parish use a new religious education catechist or RCIA team member?	



Resources

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- Kasper, Cardinal Walter. *A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism*. USCCB, 2007
- Kelly, Matthew. *The Rhythm of Life*. Touchstone, 2004.
- Kelly, Matthew. "Becoming the Best Version of Yourself". Audio CD. Beacon Publishing, 2011.
- Grimalia, Monsignor Vincent J. "Interfaith Series"; *Catholic Light*, Diocese of Scranton, 2019.
- Letter "Placuit Deo" to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to the bishops of the Catholic Church on some aspects of Christian salvation, January 3, 2018
- Muller, Wayne. *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives*. Bantam Books, 1999.
- Pope Francis. Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si, On Care for our Common Home*
- Pope Francis. *The Name of God is Mercy*
- Pope Francis. *The Church of Mercy*
- Raab, Ronald. *The Work of Our Hands: The Art of Christian Mission*. World Library Publications, 2012