

Saint Francis Xavier Parish

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 30, 2018



St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Virgin and Doctor of the Church

*"When I die, I will send down a shower of roses from the heavens,
I will spend my heaven by doing good on earth."*

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 FATHER DENNIS M. DINAN

Dear Parish Family,

In the movie *Shadowlands*, Anthony Hopkins, portrays the deep pain of C.S. Lewis losing his wife Joy to cancer. In words from Lewis' classic *The Problem of Pain*, he gives us this insight: "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

Pain and suffering have a leveling effect on us. Whatever virtue we might have thought we had at least seems to have quickly vanished. Living with pain can certainly make us experience having little or no patience; or that our charity towards others is contrived, that our anger flares up much too easily, and so forth. It exposes our pride, because pain is such a humiliation. It makes us dependent on others and a burden to them at the same time. Yet, it surely makes us value our health and encourages us to remain healthy. It causes us to appreciate what others might be experiencing in their lives. It is in times like this we can be thankful for our faith, which can carry us through hard times.

Dr. Peter Kreeft, in his essay on "Evil," tells us,

The origin of evil [therefore pain] is not the Creator but the creature's freely choosing sin and selfishness. Take away all sin and selfishness and you would have heaven on earth. Even the remaining physical evils would no longer rankle and embitter us. Saints endure and even embrace suffering and death as lovers embrace heroic challenges. But they do not embrace sin.

He also explains, "The Cross is God's part of the practical solution to evil. Our part, according to the same Gospel, is to repent, to believe, and to work with God in fighting evil by the power of love."

A great example of this is the saint we celebrate this Monday, October 1st, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. She knew much about pain and suffering. I had a Spiritual Director who suffered greatly. Eventually I had to ask how he endured all of it. He spoke of his devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Thérèse. I knew the message of Our Lady, who said to Juan Diego (concerned about his uncle's sickness), "Do not let anything afflict you, and do not be afraid of any illness or accident or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Is there anything else that you need?" But, I had to ask him about Saint Thérèse. I was not aware that she suffered greatly—to the point that would have caused many people to despair.

Her sister, the prioress Mother Agnes, said to her a week before she died, "what a terrible sickness and how much you suffered!" She replied, "Yes! What a grace it is to have faith! If I had not any faith, I would have committed suicide without an instant's hesitation." (Last Conv 22.9.6). About a month earlier she was in such pain that she spoke of nearly losing her mind (CG 22.8.97). At this time too she said to her sister:

Watch carefully, Mother, when you will have persons a prey to violent pains; don't leave near them any medicines that are poisonous. I assure you, it needs only a second when one suffers intensely to lose one's reason. Then one could easily poison oneself. (Aug 30, Green Notebook).

This was a heroic woman being tried at the depths of her being. This was the saintly young woman who tells about when she was about to enter the novitiate to begin her life as Carmelite Sister, that she had to make a General Confession, basically a review of her whole life. She admits that the priest told her that he believed that she never committed a Mortal Sin. He did not stop there. He told her the reason she didn't is that God preserved her. It was not that God took away her freedom or free will. No, he gave her sufficient grace to avoid sin (as he does us); except, she cooperated with it. This was the life the Resurrected Christ shared with her, beginning at Baptism. For the rest of her life she was conscious of the fact that she could have committed all the sins in the world, except that God showed her his Mercy. She believed that he did this because he knew how weak she was. Hence, in the midst of suffering and pain she willingly became an instrument of God's Love—where, she also knew she could have been a conduit of her own sin and personal evil with the world.

Dr. Kreeft says, "the origin of evil is not the Creator but the creature's freely choosing sin and selfishness." It all goes back to Original Sin. We should think about the enormous amount of pain and suffering this has caused. And we need not go back very far in history. In the last century or so, more of this has been recorded than in the history of the world. We witness now that even within the Church we surely find a trail of this.

In today's First Reading, God chose to share the Spirit he had given to Moses with seventy other men, but two were apart from the crowd when God did this. Obviously then, the people did not witness them receiving it, even though God bestowed it. Seeing the results, a man complained, "*But Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!'"*" (Num 11:27-30).

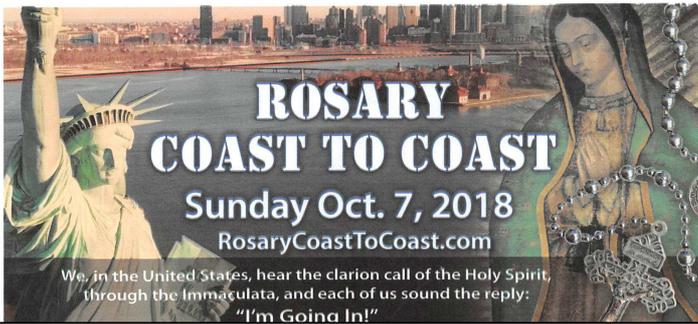
Moses understood better than anyone else that this Spirit was not his own and he was not to be the sole possessor. No! The Spirit of God is given to us so that God empowers each of us, with his own life, to minister to others. We are called upon to share it with others that they may come to know the Lord, that he may be able to bestow his Spirit upon them also. Jesus instructed his disciples, "*Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ... Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give*" (Mt 10:6-8).

God wishes Mercy for all, like he did for Saint Thérèse, Moses and others. We live in discord—one way or another. Saint James told why we do in last week's Second Reading (see Jas 4:1-3). To resolve this he says, "*Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*" (Jas 4:7, ff.). He's referring to the real battle present—within and out of us!

In different words, maybe Saint James is telling us, become like Saint Thérèse. Let the Mercy of God strengthen us so we can live good lives, free from sin.

God's Peace 

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER & OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHURCHES



All are warmly invited to come and pray the Rosary in unison with millions of others across the world.

**St. Francis Xavier Church
Sunday, October 7
4:00pm**

Light refreshments will be served.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000 x2949. She may be reached via email at victimsassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

SEPTEMBER 26 – NOVEMBER 4

Please prayerfully consider being a part of the *40 Days for Life* campaign, where we maintain a prayerful and peaceful presence.

NEWBURGH PLANNED PARENTHOOD

136 Lake Street, Newburgh Campaign hours: 7 AM – 7 PM
Campaign Manager: Wendy Wood 845-820-4366 or 40DaysforLife.com/Newburgh

GOSHEN PLANNED PARENTHOOD

7 Coates Drive, Goshen Campaign hours: 7 AM – 7 PM
Campaign Manager: Veronica Murphy 845-551-8560 or 40DaysforLife.com/Goshen



PLEASE JOIN OUR COMBO KICKOFF CAMPAIGN:

When: Sunday, September 23 at 3:00 PM

Where: St. Francis of Assisi Church 145 Benkard Ave. Newburgh

We will be meeting in the Cardinal O'Connor Hall, located under the church.

Mass Intentions

Saturday September 29th

4:30pm -Richard Goldstein
Requested by Pat Galligan

Sunday September 30th

8:30am -Helen Guttzeit
Requested by The Rosary Society
11:00am -Maria Myer
Requested by Betty Kelly & Family
-Josephine Kelly
Requested by Al & Linda Smith and Regina Moran

Tuesday October 2nd

8:30am -Rosamund Peters
Requested by Colin Peters

Wednesday October 3rd

8:30am -Dr. Robert Lucas
Requested by Patty Moser & Judy Stringer

Thursday October 4th

8:30am -Our Parish Family

Friday October 5th

8:30am -Our Parish Family

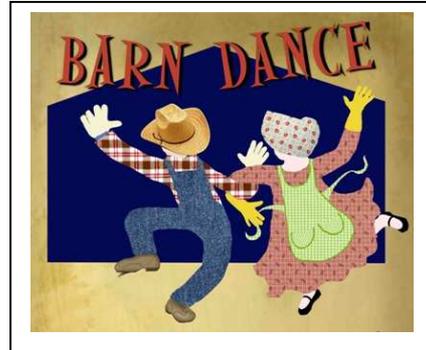
Saturday October 6th

4:30pm -Our Parish Family

Sunday October 7th

8:30am -Rosemary Barille
Requested by The Rosary Society
11:00am -Josephine Kelly
Requested by Betty Kelly & Family
-Enzo Cerrato
Requested by Wendell & Lillian Putz
-Deceased Members of the Putz & Connolly Families
Requested by Wendell & Lillian Putz

St. Anthony/St. Thomas Aquinas



When: Sunday, October 14 12-5pm

Where: St. Anthony's, Yulan

What: Family, food, and fun!

\$10/person or \$20/family

Collection

September 23, 2018

1st Collection

Our Lady of the Lake	\$367.00
St. Francis Xavier	\$1,001.00

Other (Capital Improvements)

Our Lady of the Lake	\$7.00
St. Francis Xavier	\$35.00

Total
\$1,410.00
Thank you!

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Numbers 11:25-29

James 5:1-6

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Please Pray for our Parish Family

For the Sick: Peggy Bayly Lohmann, Dennis Falk, Barbara Walter, Gloria Saures, Ed Brennan, Amy Ernano, Clayton Snow, Barnabas O'Driscoll, Sean Sweeney, Jose Mabama, Ron Burke, Charlotte Mills, Carol Mash, Mary Cauvaris, Barbara Smith, Janine Perry, Hilde Bielfeld, Rosemary Barille, Helene Indelicato, Christine Mary Faggione, Tracy Larssen, Septemberr Totten, Madeline Sheans, Peggy Lee Romano, Mary Weiden, Mary Tresh, Ida Alvarez, and all those struggling with any kind of illness and suffering.

For the Deceased: Theresa Delaney, Helen Bunis, Maria Meyer, Pat Noble, Joseph Meyer, Gloria Ackermann, Eileen Dempsey, Martin Ferrick, Jacoba "Cobi" Campfield, George Johnson, Josephine Kelly, Joanne Barnes Brennan, Dr. Robert Lucas, Daniel Kelly, Fr. William Scully, Jean Salmeri, Barbara Smith, Mary Ann Janowsky, Helen Guttzeit, and all those who have gone before us.

For those Serving in the Military: SGT Vaughn Schlott USMC (TX)