

# Saint Francis Xavier Parish

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 21, 2018



*“We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of our Father’s love for us”*

*St. Pope John Paul II*

*Feast Day Monday, October 22*

Dear Parish Family,

Saint Augustine told us, "I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe." I open with this primarily because of the content of the very short Second Reading given to us today that proclaims, "*We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God*" and also that "*We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin.*" This being so, we can "*confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help*" (Heb 4:14-16). I mean that we might accept this as Sacred Scripture. However, I think our faith struggles with this because of a lack of understanding. Let's admit it: How much weight or importance do we really give to Jesus being tested and/or tempted, right? He was Divine. He did not sin. He could not sin! What's the big deal? Putting what the Scriptures teach aside, we still can easily rationalize that he really cannot commiserate with us sinners. Don't the facts bear it? He was born, like his mother Mary, without sin. And so we think: He does not know what it is like to experience having a fallen human nature as we do. We therefore suppose: He does not know what it is like to be tested and tempted as we are.

Yes, it is hard to imagine Jesus experiencing some of the same thoughts, desires, and pulls that we do. Even so, the author of the *Book of Hebrews* tells us definitively that Jesus, "*had to become like [us] in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people*" (Heb 2:17). The inspired word says, "*He had to become like us.*" Jesus did not come as a distant bystander. His mission was not that of a spectator sport. He chose to come and not simply stand on the sidelines. He did not simply want to coach. He wanted to be in the thick of things with us! He came to step into the ring. He came to get more than his nose bloodied. He came to take the hits that we could not endure. He came to deal death a deathblow. This meant dealing first with the cause of death: sin!

We hear Saint Paul instructing the Romans that, "*through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all*" (Rom 5:12). Thus, freeing us from sin stood as "essential" to reverse or to remove this condemnation. Jesus, therefore, entered into this "one-of-a-kind" combat, whereby "*just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all*" (Rom 5:18). The key to the whole battle—the essence of the victory—Saint Paul sums up as springing from one source: "*Obedience!*" He says, "*For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous*" (Rom 5:19). Obedient is something we were not! So, obedience was not just a now-and-then issue Jesus had to deal with.

I know it sounds very simplistic. In one sense it is. In another sense, it is not. It is not, because obedience was the very fiber of everything that Jesus did. Obedience was the thread woven through every thought, word and action of Jesus. We are told, "*Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered*" (Heb 5:8). Saint Paul also tells us that, as if he left his divine nature behind, Jesus "*emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death*" (Phil 2:7-8). This was all suffering for a divine person! The obedience was not just in his passion and death. He became obedient from the beginning, in every circumstance, in all things.

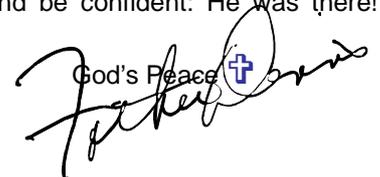
Father Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M., Cap., well-known preacher to the Papal Household, in his book, *The Mystery of*

*the Transfiguration*, spends an entire chapter on this aspect of Jesus' life: "Obedient Unto Death: A Contemplation of Christ in His Humanity." He explains why Jesus "*had to become like [us] in every way*" (Heb 2:17). Quoting Saint Gregory of Nazianzus, he declared that "whatever" Jesus "did not assume, was not saved." Therefore, he says, "If the Savior did not take on a soul, the soul is not saved." And so ... we can fill in the rest—that the Savior took on a nature that had sinned so that his own "not sinning" could only be attributed to one thing: his obedience—and that yes: He had all the things of our nature: anger, concupiscence, thoughts; you name it!—but unlike us, he was anxious to obey his Father, loving all that he loved.

So, this was the real thing! Jesus really did become like us in all things, but sin—or, we could say: "all things but disobedience." To obey his Father, he would suffer anything! To obey his Father, Jesus suffered everything! When we are tempted or tested, we impose a limit on ourselves (we are willing to put up with something for some period of time—maybe an hour, a few days—but no more). We may not think of it in this way or always be conscious of it. Yet, we are not willing to go beyond that. Therefore, we give up. We now become disobedient. We sin at that point. We do not want to suffer in any way beyond that point. It is like we are brothers and sisters of Cain, who cried out to the Lord: "*My punishment is too great to bear*" (Gen 4:13). This was not true with Jesus! He had no limits. He was willing to endure any trials, temptations or sufferings. Nothing swayed him from obedience. We speak of "going to the MAX!" This is what Jesus did—in every instance—in every way. That's why we're told, "*In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood*" (Heb 12:4). No, we give up much too soon! Jesus endured! He bore the full weight of every temptation, willing also to shed his blood—and much more! He gave all! He went to the MAX!

Once he endured the worst that sin, the devil and all the powers of Hell could dish out, then Jesus would stretch out a hand to help us. He could do this, not only because he has the power to do so; but also, he certainly had the perfect credentials; "*Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested*" (Heb 2:18). These facts were revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and written down for our salvation. Unfortunately, we do not always benefit from this. We tend to be too self-reliant. We do not turn to God for help, or as quickly as we should.

So, let's admit: we have had it wrong; and rather, let's side with Sacred Scripture's teaching that "*We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin*" (Heb 2:15). That Jesus could not sin: That is true! While this is true, it does not mean that he suffered less than we do during times of temptation and trials. It actually means that Jesus suffered more—actually unbelievably more—than we do. In fact, it is impossible for any of us to suffer as he did. But, since he knows how he overcame each temptation, and he has the power necessary to do so, he can assist us in our trials. He knows exactly what help and strength to give us. We need, however, to not cave in, or rely on ourselves. He will help us imitate himself, especially in his Obedience! Because whatever way we've been tempted; however difficult it seemed; we can know and be confident: He was there! He went through this first!

God's Peace   


# Veterans Mass

The Sullivan County PTA Youth Group will honor the Veterans of our Parishes at a special Veterans Mass on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at Immaculate Conception Church in Woodbourne, at 4:30pm.

Refreshments and social hour will follow.

All Veterans from our Sullivan County Parishes, and their families, are cordially invited to attend. If you are able to join us, please call 845-292-9100 to RSVP by November 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## *A Pro-Life Family Event*

**Join The Life Chain**

**Sunday, October 28, 2018**

**2 pm to 3:30 pm**

**Broadway, Monticello**

*In front of St. Peter's Church of Monticello.*

**and Be Counted with Thousands of Pro-Lifers Across America!**

You'll be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion!  
You can help make this the largest pro-life event in Sullivan County history!  
Bring your whole family!



For information, please call (845) 292-4647  
"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you ..."  
-Jeremiah 1:5

## Veteran Thank You Dinner

**Date:** November 11, 2018

**Time:** 6:00PM

**Location:** St. George's Church  
97 Schoolhouse Hill Rd,  
Jeffersonville, NY 12748

**Reservations required**



A Veteran Thank You Dinner will be held at St. George's Church for Veterans and their spouse. This is a way of thanking all Veterans for their service.

Limited seating you **must** call the Parish Office to make your reservation.

**Contact:** Maria, Mon - Thurs 9am - 2pm  
845-482-4640

**Deadline:** Nov 7, 2018

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

4:30pm -Ernest & Louise Bingel (50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)  
 Requested by The Family  
 -Pete Moran  
 Requested by Regina Moran

### Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

8:30am -Our Parish Family  
 11:00am -Fr. William Scully  
 Requested by The Catholic Daughters Court 1542

### Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:30am -Our Parish Family

### Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

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

### Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

8:30am -Our Parish Family

### Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

8:30am -Catherine Sullivan  
 Requested by Theresa Sullivan

### Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

4:30pm -Florence Hubert  
 Requested by The Family

### Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

8:30am -Our Parish Family  
 11:00am -John & Jane Callahan  
 Requested by Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation

## Fr. Dennis meeting St. Pope John Paul II

This was his last public audience before entering the hospital one week later.  
 January 23, 2005



## Collection

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### 1<sup>st</sup> Collection

<b>Our Lady of the Lake</b>	<b>\$241.00</b>
<b>St. Francis Xavier</b>	<b>\$1,105.00</b>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection

<b>Our Lady of the Lake.....</b>	<b>\$123.00</b>
<b>St. Francis Xavier.....</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>

### Other

<b>Our Lady of the Lake.....</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>St. Francis Xavier.....</b>	<b>\$122.00</b>

**Total**  
**\$1,906.00**

**Thank you!**

## 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10-11  
 Hebrews 4:14-16  
 Mark 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

## 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 Barile, Helene Indelicato, Christine Mary Faggione, Tracy Larssen, Septemberr Totten, Madeline Sheans, Peggy Lee Romano, Mary Weiden, Mary Tresh, Ida Alvarez, Mildred Meyer, 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)