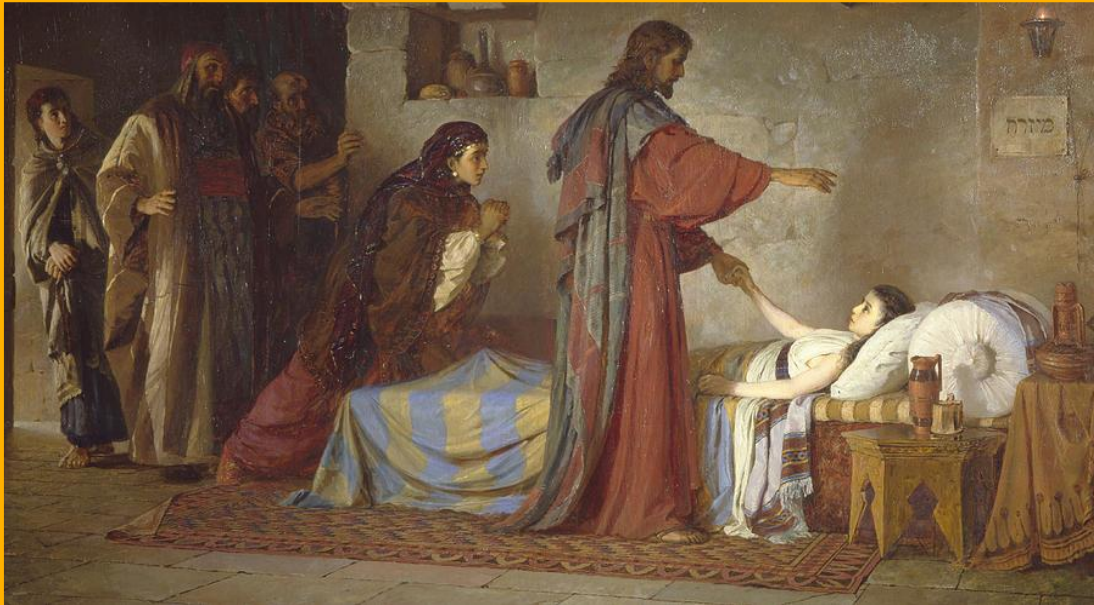


The Parishes of

Saint Mary in Bremen & Saint Bernadette in Lancaster



The Raising of Jairus' Daughter

the scene of today's reading from the Gospel according to Saint Mark 5:21-43

The Thirteenth Week of the Year

July 1, 2018

St Bernadette Parish

1343 Wheeling Road NE. (740) 654 • 1893
LANCASTER, OH 43130-8701

St Mary Parish

602 Marietta Street (740) 569 • 7738
BREMEN, OH 43107

cover picture: **The Raising of Jairus' Daughter**

Painted (1871) in oil on canvas by Vasilij Dmitrievich Polenov (1844-1927)

now in the Museum of the Russian Academy of Arts, St Petersburg

our parishes

both parishes	Fr Thomas Kessler <i>pastor</i>	(614) 634 • 0499	<i>wnthomaskessler</i>	@ icloud . com
	Stephen Karnes <i>business manager</i>	(740) 654 • 1893	<i>stbernbook</i>	@ gmail . com
	Kathy Kehnast <i>pastoral coordinator</i>	(740) 654 • 1893	<i>stbernparrish</i>	@ yahoo . com
	Julie & Chase Stalford <i>youth ministry</i>	(740) 808 • 7294	<i>maristellaspri</i>	@ gmail . com
Bremen St Mary Parish	Ben Factor <i>liturgical music</i>		<i>b_factor</i>	@ lancaster . k12.oh.us
	Sarah Borah <i>religious education</i>		<i>sbora920</i>	@ gmail . com
St Bernadette Parish	Jeff Carpenter <i>deacon</i>	(740) 681 • 9918	<i>carpenter.277</i>	@ osu . edu
	Mark Scarpitti <i>deacon</i>	(740) 438 • 3970	<i>dcn.mark</i>	@ frontier . com
	Ann Essman <i>pastoral minister</i>	(740) 653 • 9347	<i>aessman001</i>	@ att . net
	Steve Huber <i>facilities coordinator</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>shuber57</i>	@ yahoo . com
	Angie & Kent Kerns <i>religious education</i>	(740) 654 • 2588	<i>kwkerns</i>	@ gmail . com
	Liz Latorre <i>liturgical music</i>	(740) 243 • 1872	<i>lizlatorre</i>	@ gmail . com
Saint Bernadette School	Pam Eltringham <i>principal</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>peltring</i>	@ cdeducation . org
	Barb Huber <i>secretary</i>	(740) 654 • 3137	<i>bhuber</i>	@ cdeducation . org

The Bremen Parish office is at the church vestibule. Hours: 9-11 AM, Tuesdays. 602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107 (740) 569 • 7929

The St Bernadette Parish office is in the Mary Good Center, across the back parking lot from the school.

Hours: 9 AM-1 PM, MWThF; 11 AM-1 PM, Tu. 1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701 (740) 654 • 1893

Saint Bernadette School is located at 1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701

sacramental life

Where First reception of Eucharist and of Penance as well as reception of Baptism, Confirmation, and Matrimony may only be **in one's own parish church**, unless with good reason the pastor deems it **necessary** to do otherwise.

Baptism To have a child baptized, parents must register and attend a class as a couple (unless attendance just isn't possible, in which case some discussion with Kathy Kehnast will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. Try to attend before the child is born. Please don't ask if you "have to go." This is an opportunity to meet with parents of children about the same age as your little one; those parents are in the same wonderful boat as you are. At least one parent and both godparents need to be practicing Catholics. If you don't **attend Sunday Mass regularly (a basic part of being a practicing Catholic!)**, there is something you can do: Start coming to Sunday Mass.

Penance The priest is available for Penance

- at St Bernadette: on Saturday at 3 PM and Thursday at 5:30 PM, and
- at St Mary Bremen: on Sunday at 8 AM.

Every Catholic priest is **available whenever there is a need**.

There are Penance opportunities for St Bernadette School children four times in the year so that they will learn the beauty of frequent confession. The Church's law requires us to receive the Penance at least once a year.

Anointing and Care of the Sick The priest gives the Anointing of the Sick to one who is dangerously ill, facing major surgery, or suffering from the ravages of old age.

- We celebrate the sacrament communally at a Sunday Mass before Advent and during the Easter season so that we can all pray with you for **"health of mind and body."**
- The priest brings Penance, Anointing, and Holy Communion to the sick or shut in. Call the parish office to let us know before a hospitalization or when it has been too long since the sacraments were last available.

Holy Matrimony

Couples wishing to marry should contact the parish office six months before a wedding. Why so long? Because **this sacrament, not just the ceremony, requires serious preparation**. And the Church needs to be involved in that preparation. Catholics who marry outside the Church have left the sacramental life and need to change that situation before receiving the other sacraments. The Church needs to **support couples through the years of married life**. That's why our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. To learn about these programs, watch the weekly bulletin.



At Prayer with the Church

How the Church Prays at Mass Today

O God,
 who through the grace of adoption
 chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray,
 that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error
 but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The Best of Intentions ... at Mass

July 2, Monday	8:20 AM	St Bernadette	Mark Dreyer
July 3, Tuesday	8:20 AM	Bremen St Mary	Frances Labrasca
July 4, Wednesday	8:20 AM	St Bernadette	Robert Berens
July 5, Thursday	6 PM	St Bernadette	Kohler-Mahon families
July 6, Friday	8:20 AM	St Bernadette	Evie Peoples
July 7, Saturday	9 AM	St Bernadette	Diana Harris

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Hear the Word of the Lord

July 1 13 th Sunday	Wis 1:13-2:24 2 Cor 8:7-15	Ps 30	Mark 5:21-43
July 2, Monday	Amos 2:6-16	Ps 50	Matthew 8:18-22
July 3, Tuesday <i>St Thomas, apostle</i>	Eph 2:19-22	Ps 117	John 20:24-29
July 4, Wednesday <i>Independence Day</i>	Amos 5:14-24	Ps 50	Matthew 8:28-34
July 5, Thursday <i>St Anthony Zaccaria; St Elizabeth of Portugal</i>	Amos 7:10-17	Ps 19	Matthew 9:1-8
July 6, Friday <i>St Maria Goretti</i>	Amos 8:4-12	Ps 119	Matthew 9:9-13
July 7, Saturday	Amos 9:11-15	Ps 85	Matthew 9:14-17
July 8 14 th Sunday	Ez 2:2-5 2 Cor 12:7-10	Ps 123	Mark 6:1-6

Pope Francis Asks Us to Pray in July

...that priests who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their

intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

Both Parishes

Habemus Pastorem !

Father Tyron Tomson
 has been appointed pastor of our two parishes
 effective July 10.

Father Tomson was born in Zanesville and raised in Baltimore. He attended St Charles Preparatory School and then entered the seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Bishop Campbell ordained him in 2011 and he has served suburban parishes in Columbus and, most recently, rural parishes in the northeastern corner of the diocese, including teaching at Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School and celebrating Mass for Spanish-speaking parishioners.

In addition to his parents, a sister and two brothers make up his family, as well as two nieces and two nephews.

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A Thank You Note

I am very grateful for the wonderful reception last Sunday to mark my retirement from the pastorate of Bremen St Mary and Lancaster St Bernadette Parishes. It was a great event. People were very kind to me in so many ways that afternoon. Thank you.

Please keep coming together to enjoy each other's company. And please welcome the new pastor whom Bishop Campbell is sending among you. Open your hearts and open your homes to Father Tomson. God will bless you for it.

Father Kessler

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Retirement

By the way, after July 10, Father Kessler will live and help out at **St Catharine Parish in Columbus**. His address will be:

- 500 South Gould Rd, Columbus, OH 43209
- His email and cell phone will continue to be:
- [wmthomaskessler@icloud.com](mailto:wmothomaskessler@icloud.com).
- (614) 634-0499.

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Sharing His Love, Encouraging Hope Bishop's Annual Appeal: 8th Report

	families participating	pledged	average gift	paid	goal
St Bernadette	143/440	\$37,990	\$ 266	\$22,110	\$36,305
% of goal	33%	105%		61%	
St Mary	47 / 135	\$18,605	\$396	\$9,835	\$13,121
% of goal	35%	142%		75%	
St Mary		\$6,054,683			\$6,750,000
% of goal		90%			

Bremen St Mary Parish

News from Vacation Church School

It was a big success. There was too much rain, but the kids still turned out. And they had a good time while they learned a lot about the sacraments Christ gave his Church to bring his people into the life of grace. They and their teachers and volunteers were a delight to see in action. Special thanks go to Sarah Borah and her many helpers who made it all come together!

Ministry at Mass at St Mary

	Lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	sacristan / usher
13th Sunday July 1 at 8:30	Susan Foltz	Cody Fyffe, Chase Harmon	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Susan Foltz	Ralph Mohler
14th Sunday July 8 at 8:30	Paul Kunkler	Charles Schoenlaub, Jillian Wilkinson	Irene Kunkler, Leo Kunkler Sr, Angi Skinner	Angi Skinner

You Gave to St Mary in June

Bremen St Mary	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24	Totals
weekly	5,048	1,471	1,208	1,357	9,084
Total given to the parish	5,048	1,471	1,208	1,357	9,084
Catholic Home Mission	123	0	0	55	178
Peter's Pence	20	0	0	67	87
St Vincent de Paul	833	40	20	120	1,013
Total sent from the parish	976	40	20	242	1,278

Let's Keep (Square) Dancing

Summer means square dancing at Schmelzer's Grove on Sundays from 7-9:30 PM. Mark your calendars for the Sunday evenings of **July 8** and **Aug 12**. Admission is \$4 per person.

St Bernadette Parish

You Gave to St Bernadette in June

St Bernadette	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24	Total
weekly	7,092	5,548	10,846	8,014	31,500
electronic funds transfer	2,818	176	176	176	3,346
educational support	180	356	5	80	621
gifts	0	900	0	0	900
Total given to the parish	10,090	6,980	11,027	8,270	36,367
Catholic Home Mission	294	56	25	53	428
Peter's Pence	15	50	1	121	187
Total sent beyond the parish	309	106	26	174	615

Ministry at Mass at St Bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday, June 30 at 4 PM 13th Sunday Vigil Mass	Brad Rider	Mallory, Mason, & Mitchell Ortiz	Rosalie DeFillippo Pat Gins Susan Garrett Lee Guinan Kathy Kehnast Mickey Steyaert
Sunday July 1, at 11 AM 13th Sunday	Amy Woo	Caroline Messerly, Diana & Sarah Woo	Jean Robertson Larry Sanford Teresa Scarpitti Anna Sevigny David Shonk Becky Wickham
Monday, 8:20 AM	David Shonk	Brooke & Bryson Vogel	Pat Dreyer Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Kendall & Morgan Cox	Angie Christy Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Daschel & Dominic Neighbor	Lee Guinan Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 PM	Jim Merk		Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, 9 AM	Kara Tencza		Rita Merk Mary Jane Vajen
Saturday, July 7, at 4 PM 14th Sunday Vigil Mass	Bob Christy	Becca Fuller, Dominic & Emeline Neighbor	Angie Christy Marguerite Grimm Jim & Becky Kuhn Denise McGuire Kathy Wagner
Sunday July 8, at 11 AM 14th Sunday	Pat Gins	Eve Darfus, Samantha Kerns, Tori Loy	Tara Craaybeek Pat Dreyer Ben Peters Jean Robertson Larry Sanford David Shonk

Soup for the Soul Ministry

A new ministry is getting started at St Bernadette. This ministry will provide pastoral caring for **folks recently discharged from a hospital or nursing home or who**

are homebound. Members will bring a gift of homemade soup from the parish. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, call Marlene Clark at (740) 974-6561.

St Bernadette Blood Drive

The next St Bernadette blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, July 21, from 9 AM until 2 PM. It is designated in honor of a local child, Emery Twehues, who was recently diagnosed with ALL, a form of leukemia. The goal is **many of units of blood to help local patients in need.** There will be lunch and sandwiches as always, and the chance to save a life. Make appointments at [www . redcrossblood . org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call (740) 974-5040.

St Bernadette 2018 Foundation Grants

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10

St Bernadette Parish has been blessed with funding from our endowments stewarded by The Catholic Foundation. By God’s varied grace we honor the many donors, whose charitable love for our faith and others is fulfilling the mission of our ministry through The Catholic Foundation. This Spring we have received a disbursement of \$12,992 from the parish endowment. These funds are vital for cash flow in our parish. For information on ways on how you can help build our endowments, please visit [www . catholic-foundation . org](http://www.catholic-foundation.org) or call Scott Hartman at (614) 443-8893.

Around Central Ohio

A Sign of Contradiction

People of science, medical professionals, families, priests, and religious are invited to an afternoon at St Peter Church in Chillicothe to revisit Pope Paul VI’s famous encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Learn about its historical development, its prophetic message, and what it means 50 years later. Speakers for the day will be Dr Renee Mirkes, Dr Ashley Fernandes, Dr Alicia Thompson, and Fr Adam Streitenberger. The conference happens from noon to 5 PM on Saturday, July 7, at a cost of \$20 per person and \$35 per family. Pre-registration can be completed by June 25 by calling (740) 774-1407 or emailing secretary @ [stpeterchillicothe . com](mailto:stpeterchillicothe.com).

Marriage is a Sacrament!

But what does that *mean*? Learn a new way to find the Lord in your home at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The next two weekends in Central Ohio are July 13-15 and Sept 14-16. For information or to apply, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www . wmwecolumbus . org](http://www.wmwecolumbus.org)

Springs Celebrating 150 Years

This year marks the 150th anniversary of **the founding of St Mary of the Springs Academy**. A committee of Academy

graduates is searching for memorabilia, including photos, yearbooks, and diplomas, for **a permanent display at the Jubilee Museum** in Columbus. St Mary Academy was a Catholic school for girls founded by the Dominican sisters in 1830 in Somerset. When a fire destroyed the buildings, the sisters rebuilt in Columbus in 1868. To reflect the natural springs on the property, “of the Springs” was added to the name. The Academy closed in 1966. For information or donations, contact (614) 237-1379.

Middle School Coaches at St Mary

St Mary School in Lancaster seeks applicants for these school coaching positions for 2018-2019:

- **football** coach, assistant football coach,
- 7th grade **girls basketball** coach, 8th grade girls basketball coach, 7th grade **boys basketball** coach, 8th grade boys basketball coach, and
- **track** coach.

Applicants should have playing or instructing experience at college, high school, or middle school level and demonstrate appropriate knowledge for the development of fundamental techniques. Pay will be a one-time stipend at the end of the season. Send letters of interest, resumes, references, and a copy of current *pupil activity permit* to athletic directors Ria and Noah Kerns at [rnkerns18 @ yahoo . com](mailto:rnkerns18@yahoo.com)

Fisher Catholic Golf

The 4th Annual Chuck Rogers Memorial Golf Event happens Saturday, Aug 4, at 8:45 AM at the Pleasant Valley Golf Club in Lancaster. Three-person teams should send the \$150 fee to Kellie Shonk at Fisher Catholic High School. All proceeds will **benefit the Fisher Catholic Athletic Association**. Interested sponsors should contact Russell Rogers at (740) 304-7180.

Recognizing Charity

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) **annual St Teresa Recognition of Charity, Compassion and Service** event happens on Sunday, Aug 19, at St Cecilia Church in Columbus. It will recognize lay women who reflect the ideals of St Teresa of Kolkata. Nomination forms (available on the diocesan or the DCCW website) are due by July 20. For information call the DCCW Office at (614) 228-8601.

PDHC Walk for Life

Be a leader for life. You can save and change lives by participating in this year’s walk on Saturday, July 14, from 9 AM until noon in downtown Lancaster. This year’s **walk begins at the bandstand**, then heads out to the fairgrounds and returns to the bandstand. After the walk, join **the family activities and live music**. It’s a meaningful and fun **event for the whole family**. Register to walk and **gather pledges from your family, friends and co-workers**; build a team of walkers to make an even greater impact. For every \$300 raised, you provide

comprehensive care for one woman, which affects not only her but her entire family for generations. Register online and email pledge requests at SupportPDHC.org/walk-for-life. For information contact Kathy Scanlon at (614) 888-8774 x6117 or kathys@pdhc.org.

Charity Golf Event

St Joseph Church in Sugar Grove is organizing a charity golf event, **Hope from Heaven**, to benefit St Jude Children's Research Hospital. Save the date: Saturday, Aug 18. To register, call (740) 746-8302 or email stjosephsugargrove@gmail.com with GOLF in the subject line.

Families, Become What You Are!

Join other families in Cincinnati on July 6 & 7 for Couple to Couple League's celebration of **life lived according to the principles of *Humanae Vitae***. This one-of-a-kind family conference offers programming for ages three through twelfth grade, so your kids will have a great time while you listen to inspirational speakers Janet Smith, Christopher West, Damon Owens and Fr Nathan Cromly.

For information or to register, go to <http://cclconvention.com>.

Giving Birth and Giving Life

Angels Nurture and Disciple, AND is a new pro-life ministry that aims to inspire, empower, and facilitate real improvement in the educational, career, financial, and spiritual well-being of single mothers who have chosen life for their unborn child. **AND's** programs extend to women who desire and seek change but don't have the support to make real change happen. Each woman who seeks to join **AND** is matched with a mentor who walks with her for two years, providing positive role modeling as a woman, mother, and child of God. **AND** needs volunteers and supporters. To support or volunteer, visit www.angelsand.org or call Tim Welsh at (614) 419-6985. Whether you have 1 hour @ month or 10, there is a need for you. Every mother is a gift to her baby; help **AND** show her just how much. **The poverty rate of single mothers** is twice that of single fathers. **AND** is transforming single motherhood. Will you help?



Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

On November 14, 1996, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the following guidelines on the reception of Communion. ... The guidelines, which are to be included in missalettes and other participation aids published in the United States, seek to remind all those who may attend Catholic liturgies of the discipline of the Church with regard to the sharing of Eucharistic Communion.

for Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

for our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the

Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

for those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

for non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

This Preacher Is a Priest

There is a new pastor coming. He is a preacher. But most importantly, he is a priest.

One of the things we mean when we say that we are a Catholic parish is that the preacher here is a priest. We almost never refer to him as a “preacher,” although **preaching** is an important part of his job. The priest must keep becoming familiar with the word of God, and he must speak its meaning authoritatively on behalf of the Catholic Church. In season and out of season, whether he is a gifted public speaker or not. And the Catholic community has to listen. Not listen as though our job were to rate his effectiveness or his intelligence or his faithfulness to what he has to say. But listen to a (necessarily inadequate) minister of the word of God.

But proclamation of the word is **not the defining characteristic of the priest**. That flows from something more. The priest “**do[es] this in memory of me.**” It is part of his being. And it didn’t get that way because of any great religious streak in the fellow or because of any particular virtue. He has **the being of a priest** because a bishop ordained him to that—didn’t just solemnly and publicly entrust him with a job, but **sacramentally** laid on hands and **ordained** him a priest. Who did? The bishop, himself a priest (acting on behalf of God!), who was himself ordained by another bishop, who was himself ordained by a previous bishop, who ... well it goes on and on, all the way back to the apostles, who were themselves ordained as priests and bishops at the Last Supper. Record-keeping of a pedigree is not perfect, but the continuity is reliable.

So what is a priest? It is true that he has to be an organizer or executive of a parish. He does have to do some of that work. And **only a priest may be a pastor** of a parish; he must **pasture the Lord’s flock** in a specific community. But the priest is **not simply an administrator**, not elected by the people or deposed by them. He is **responsible** for his performance of this task **to the Good Shepherd and to the chief shepherd of the local church**, the **bishop**.

But we still haven’t gotten to what the fellow is. To say that a man is a ‘priest’ is to say that he is **an offerer of sacrifice**. Not just any sacrifice, but the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. In fact, both the victim (the being that is offered) and the offerer of that unique sacrifice is Jesus Christ himself. The Mass makes the one sacrifice of Christ, which happened long ago, happen yet again, be effective again, in an unbloody way. The priest acts ‘in the person of Christ the Head’ and it happens here and now.

The New Testament uses two words for what we call a priest. The first one is ‘*hieros*,’ and that is Greek for offerer of sacrifice. Usually that word pointed to the Old Testament Temple priests, who offered animal sacrifices. Only the Book of Hebrews uses ‘*hieros*’ to speak of Jesus. The author of Hebrews (under the guidance of the Holy Spirit) has the wonderful insight: Offering a sacrifice is precisely what Jesus did when he died: He offered a sacrifice—the ultimate and now the only sacrifice, which made all subsequent sacrifices useless. The word ‘*hieros*’ isn’t used in the New Testament for the ministers of the Church. The other New Testament Greek word for what we call priests is ‘*presbyteros*’, which means elder. The gradual transformation of the sound of that word gives us our English word ‘priest.’

I am a priest, but let me explain how each of those meanings actually apply to me. I am an elder of the Church. But when I became one when I was 26 years old, I realized that there were many people at my ordination who were much older (and holier!) than me—not least of all my own grandmother. How was I her elder? That’s the sort of question that is good for a priest. I am indeed an elder, but not because of my years or any accomplishment of my own. That’s how it is with the dignity of the priesthood: I am an elder of the Church (I was even when I was young) by the grace of Holy Orders. That means I was appointed to lead a little corner of the Church, and I needed to remember that it was not my doing. And I am an offerer of the sacrifice that only Christ can make happen. I am a priest of Christ and stand in the person of Christ when I stand at the altar—regardless of how little like him I may be.

But I also need to remember that I have **that grace to do the work**. And, come to think of it, you, the people of the parish, need to remember. For this is fundamental to the nature of the Church as it was founded by Christ. There are congregationalist ways of looking at the nature of the Church. They are prevalent, not only in the “Congregationalist Church” but in American Christianity more generally. We Catholics are not immune from those perspectives, for they had such an important role to play in the bringing of Christianity to our nation. We are grateful for the contributions of our separated brothers and sisters. But theirs are not our perspectives, they do not fit with our Catholic Faith: We are **sacramental Christians**. For us the priesthood has a fundamental role to play in our church life. We need to treasure that priesthood, whether or not we are fond of the priest, for he is not the issue.

Sometimes even Catholics will say that the shortage of priests would all be solved if we had leaders who would “think outside the box” and let women or married persons become priests. We need to remind them that not just any old “box” is involved; it is **a treasure chest!**

Ordaining only men goes against the grain for many modern Americans, but it is the permanent teaching of the Church, solemnly and consistently taught by popes and theologians through the ages. That teaching is based on the fundamental difference (and fundamental equality in dignity!) between the person of a man and the person of a woman. The teaching isn’t going to change; the popes and councils are not capable of changing it. Other ministries may indeed be opened to women and men. The Church teaches that the role of the priest is no more open to a woman than the role of a mother is open to a man.

Married men can be ordained in a few extraordinarily rare cases. Our parishes were blessed with the ministry of a married man for a few years, in the priesthood of Father John Reade. Such men are able to be ordained for very exceptional reasons when the pope permits it, but the law of the Church, following the teaching and example of Jesus and its development by the apostle Paul, does not ordinarily permit it in the Western Catholic rites. This discipline could be changed. But don’t expect political pressure to cause such a change.

A renewed priesthood can only happen if Catholics focus on what is possible and if they are appreciative of the gifts God gives to his Church. A new priest, a very good one like Father Ty Tomson, may bring a new freshness to the ministry of our parishes. Welcome him prayerfully into your homes and into your hearts. Pray that his ministry may be a new springtime for your own appreciation of this sacramental Faith. Oh! And pray for the old pastor who is soon to enter into a more retired priestly ministry.

—Father Kessler

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