

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 21, 2019

Today's readings remind us that contemplation and hospitality are like love and service: they go together and enrich one another. In today's readings it seems one person might be getting the brunt of the grunt work (Sarah and Martha), but when it is understood from the perspective of communion, a perspective Paul reminds us of in today's Second Reading, we know that whether we are in a moment of contemplation or hospitality, love or service, we are benefiting the whole Mystical Body of Christ.

Abraham, in today's First Reading, had a unique encounter with the Lord through three visitors.

- He'd been told to wander to new lands as a nomad with the promise of a land and children of his own.
- Sarah had been there every step of the way for years, just as she was now by preparing food for unexpected visitors.
- Now the Lord, in the three mysterious visitors, promises that Sarah will bear a son.
- Sarah receives the blessing, a blessing for her and her husband, that both had been striving for in different ways. Sarah let Abraham take the lead, but both reaped the benefits.
- Paul, in today's Second Reading, speaks of making up for what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of his Body, the Church.
- Greco-Roman philosophers spoke of society as being like a body, with its members doing things, glamorous and unglamorous, for the good of society.
- St. Paul may have been inspired, in part, by this understanding of a society as like a body, but the Body of Christ for him was something much more profound, perhaps from the moment the Lord appeared to him on the road to Damascus (when he was still Saul, the persecutor of Christians) and said "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). As Saul persecuted Christians he was persecuting Jesus himself.

- As members of the Body of Christ, we can benefit our brothers and sisters in the faith, and they can benefit us, just as our sins can adversely impact the whole Body. Our Lord took upon himself the toughest part, on the Cross, to teach us that we too can take on the hard things for the spiritual benefit of others.

- Some always have the tougher part; as believers, they can be consoled by knowing that doing their part, easy or hard, will result in blessings for them and the entire Body.

Mary, in today's Gospel, seems to have left her sister Martha in the lurch, sitting at Our Lord's feet, and Martha is not shy about bringing that up to Our Lord.

- We all are tempted from time to time of being envious of what others are doing when our part seems burdensome or unfair.
- Our Lord reminds Martha that everyone has a part to play, be it love and contemplation or hospitality and service.
- Mary may have had the "better" part, but Martha had an important part to play as well.
- In the end, both Mary and Martha would be blessed when Our Lord raises their brother Lazarus from the dead thanks to their love and faith.
- The story of Martha and Mary in today's Gospel also helps us take stock of our prayer life.
- Martha, through serving the Lord, is making her life a prayer; she's busy, but she is doing it for him. The first step in any prayer life is the desire to know and to serve the Lord.
- At the same time, Martha's prayer life is tainted with activism: focusing on doing so much that she loses sight of why she is doing it. This is proved when she comes to Our Lord to complain and judge her sister: a lack of charity is a symptom of a lack of prayer life.
- Our Lord is well aware of this, which is why he presents Martha's sister Mary as an example of contemplative prayer: Mary just sits at the Lord's feet, apparently "doing" nothing, but she is loving the Lord.
- Everyone needs this kind of prayer too: prayer not so much of reciting words or doing things as simply "sitting" in the Lord's presence and listening to whatever he has to say, or simply just being there and loving him while he loves us.

Fr. Blake Evans, Pastor.



Rest in peace

Monsignor Maurice V. O'Connell. 74, Died on July 11, 2019. Ordained on My 13, 1972. Served several parishes of the ADW. He was a member of the Archdiocesan Board of Education, as a member of the Catholic Historical Society of Washington and of Saint Mary's Historical Society. He was named a Monsignor in 2006.

"Eternal Rest Grant Unto him Oh Lord"

Mass Intentions

July 20 – 27, 2019

Sat. 7/20	8:00 am	Sick & homebound parishioners
	5:30 pm	+Ryan Heath
Sun. 7/21	8:00am	People of the Parish
	10:00am	Matthew & Zoe Tanski
	1:00pm	+Rafaela Evans
Mon. 7/22	12:00	Pope Francis
Tue. 7/23	12:00	+Msgr. Maurice V. O'Connell
Wed. 7/24	12:00	Archb. Wilton D. Gregory
Thu. 7/25	12:00	No mass
Fri. 7/26	12:00	+Morris T. Carter, Sr.
Sat. 7/27	8:00 am	Holy Souls
	5:30 pm	Nola & Miller Families

Please pray for the sick and home-bound of our Parish:

Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You. Hear us for Your sick servant (N...) for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily health, he (she) may give thanks to You in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

SAINT JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE

3900 Harewood Road NE, Washington, DC 20017

The Saint John Paul II National Shrine invites you to a half-day retreat for couples and families on July 27 from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This Domestic Church Day will be part two of a three-part series on the *Theology of the Body*. The day will include engaging catechesis for adults, teens, and children, the opportunity to pray together as a family, a heavy snack, and fun family activities. The keynote speakers for the adults will Dr. Daniel Meola and Bethany Meola, who will be speaking on *Man and Woman He Redeemed Them: The History of Our Love in the Context of Sin*.



Question of the week: Do I act differently around strangers who look important and ones who don't? Do I treat others with kindness, whether

listening or serving?

Report

7/14/19

Attendance:	358 souls
Offerings & Tithes:	\$5,382
Spanish Mass:	\$295
Utility fund:	\$50
Maintenance fund:	\$28

For those who tithe and give regularly thank you! For those who do not, please prayerfully consider giving a sacrificial gift to keep your Nativity parish home strong and alive. Your ADW taxes help support the St. Anthony school in NE Washington and many other regional schools.

First Communion and Confirmation Certificates. Are you missing your certificate? Please come to the Sacristy (after mass) to pick it up. Unfortunately, we had problems sending them by mail. Thank you



To all who donated and volunteer their efforts for our Youth Day Camp. The participants had a safe and fun day at Nativity.



The Social Outreach Committee will be collecting school supplies (notebooks, backpacks, pencils, paper, folders etc.) for children in the Parish beginning the weekend of Sunday July 20th until Sunday August 25th, 2019 and distributing them on Sunday August 25th in the Church Lounge after the 10:00 am mass until 1:00 pm. Those in need of school supplies should fill out one of the supply request forms in today's bulletin which also can be found on the table in the church vestibule as you enter the church and drop the bottom part in the collection basket at Mass before August 25th 2019. **You keep the top part of the form.** You do not need to put your name on the form.