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My dear parishioners:

Ann Garrido and Sheila Heen wrote an article for America Magazine a few years back on ways to address and resolve conflicts. Their specific focus was on conflicts within parish staffs, but the wisdom they conveyed could be applied to most personal and professional relationships. I have used their main ideas in conversations I have with people to encourage them to address in a respectful and holy way the conflicts that they face in relationships (family, work, school, etc.).

Conflict is rarely intended, but it can often present itself in our relationships. When a conflict does occur, we can choose to ignore it, attack it or lament it. None of which is healthy. Or we can choose to address the conflict with the resources of our faith and strive to resolve the conflict in a way that is holy, healing and life-giving. As a people who deeply believe that Christ became incarnate to bring redemption to God's people through the forgiveness of sins, we need to live our Christian faith by intentionally choosing to seek forgiveness and reconciliation when conflict enters a relationship. Following are seven ways the Sacred Scriptures can assist us in faithfully and effectively addressing conflict.

- 1. Avoid triangulation:** "If you bring your gift to the altar and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother and then come and offer your gift." (Mt. 5:23-24) When we are frustrated or hurt by others we often feel freer to talk about them than to them. It is a temptation to talk about the person with others whom, we believe, will side with us. This is an injustice on many levels (it is unfair to the person with whom we have the difficulty, the person with whom we speak about the other may not give us honest feedback as to our culpability thus giving us a false sense of righteousness, or the person may talk about our complaints with others, thus further harming the reputation of the person with whom we have the conflict, etc.). Rather than speak about them, our Lord challenges us to speak to them. Because our conflict is with a particular person, the best dialogue to resolve the conflict is with the person him/herself.
- 2. Distinguish between facts and interpretations:** Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?...You hypocrite! Remove the beam from your own eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye." (Lk. 6:41-42) We often talk about conflicts as if they were factual disputes with clear and obvious answers (usually our answers). We believe that if we can just get the other person to "see the facts" the conflict can be resolved. Yet most conflicts are not about facts but interpretations. We can agree on the facts (a lie was told, angry words were said, a promise was not kept, etc.). The conflict arises when we take these facts and overlay them with our interpretation as to why the facts took place, and our interpretations are often based on assumptions, past experiences, personal preferences/biases and unfulfilled expectations. Hence, we ought never assume we know "all the facts", since the facts are always individually interpreted. We certainly have a partial view of the conflict, but not a total or objective view. In order to understand the full scope of the conflict we need to know the assumptions, perspectives and judgments of the other person. →

January 19, 2019 - January 27, 2019
Readings and Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 19 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf, Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17

Sunday, January 20 9:00am—Mass
 Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, January 21 4:30pm—Communion Service
 Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 22 No Mass
 Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 23 4:30pm—Communion Service
 Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday, January 24 8:30am—Communion Service
 Heb 7:25-8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12

Friday, January 25 9:30am—Communion Service
 Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/
 Mk 16:15-18


Saturday, January 26 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 [3]/Mk 3:20-21

Sunday, January 27 9:00am—Mass
 Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf, Jn 6:63c]/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations. (Ps 96)

3. Practice passionate and compassionate curiosity:
 "Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out 'Son of David, have pity on us!...Jesus stopped and called them and said, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' Moved with pity, Jesus touched their eyes and they received their sight." (Mt. 20:30-34). To be able to understand another person's perspective requires humility. We cannot just be protective of our own perspective or ego. Rather, we have to want to "see" their side of the conflict. We need to have an open mind to understand their perspective as they understand it. It is not humility to listen to their words while discrediting their perspective in your mind or planning your own verbal counter attack to be unleashed as soon as they take a breath. What is required is a "compassionate listening", a listening from the heart and to the heart. The word compassion means "to suffer another person's experience with them". A compassionate listener is one who truly desires to "see" the perspective of the other by listening from the head and heart to their words. This active listening allows one to "see" the conflict from the perspective of the other person. It is only in this "seeing" that we can find healing.

Next week we will continue by looking at the last four elements of resolving conflict with the assistance of Sacred Scripture.

Sincerely in Christ,

 Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
 Pastor


Sun. Jan 20	Mon. Jan 21	Tues. Jan 22	Wed. Jan 23	Thurs. Jan 24	Fri. Jan 25	Sat. Jan 26
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00am—Mass 10:00am-1:00pm—Blood Drive Family Center	Father Rossi on Spiritual Retreat				9:30am—Communion Service	3:45-4:15pm: Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00am—Mass Faith Formation following Mass	4:30 pm—Communion Service	6:30pm—RCIA	4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Communion Service 5:00pm—Choir Practice 6:00pm—CCE	8:30am—Communion Service 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	9:30am—Communion Service	3:45-4:15pm: Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

Blood Drive

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019
 IN THE FAMILY CENTER
 10:00AM-1:00PM

Sign up sheet in foyer of Church

Give the gift of life
Donate blood



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Bobbie Broussard, Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt; Pam Beadle, Christi Gray, Jane Selman; Darien Maxwell, Trish Young, Norton Leger, Wayne Cook, Trish Crossette, Ronnie Cloyd, Kimberly Murray, Annie Jacobs, Connie McDowell, Bobbie Broussard, Suzanne Parker, Cindy Neal Ferguson, Irene Johnson, Greg Daigle, Frances Martin

Repose of the soul: Fr. Earl Mudd, Brother Bernard Palmeri CSC, Mary Strother; Zoeway Guillory

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

Weekly Stewardship

January 13 & 14 Weekly Offering	\$ 4,109.70
Average Weekly Cost	\$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit	\$ 957.70

Thank you for your generosity.

Don't forget to register for the Called, Formed, & Sent Day

WITNESSES FOR JESUS CHRIST

Saturday – January 26, 2019
 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (including Mass at 4 pm)
 Saint Mary, Fannett

Contact Diane Sanderson, 409-489-3394, to register. There is no fee for this event and lunch is provided.

2019 Envelopes

The envelopes have still not arrived.

So that correct records may be kept, if donating by check, put your parish envelope number on the memo line. If donating by cash place your donation in an envelope with your parish envelope number on the front.

Thank you.

- Upcoming Events**
- January 26: Called Formed and Sent Day, 9:00am St. Mary, Fannett, TX
 - January 21-25: Fr. Rossi on Spiritual Retreat
 - January 26: Gumbo Dinner, 12:00-6:00pm, St. Pius X, Beaumont, TX
 - January 30: First Reconciliation for First Communion Class